



Annual Review 2022



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A Message from the Chairman



Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to introduce our Annual Review for 2022. This report sums up a particularly strange year that started with the end of the COVID-19 crisis and was immediately followed by another crisis - the war in Ukraine. We hope you will find it interesting and that it contributes to a better understanding of our members' activities and the realisation of our shared values through actions and projects.

In 2022, JOIN members not only dedicated themselves to combating the devastating consequences of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, they also tirelessly provided humanitarian aid and immediate emergency relief to Ukraine and coordinated support to the refugees in the neighbouring countries. Our highly trained staff and volunteers delivered inestimable services to the population hit by the war, arranged deliveries with local partners to reach people in Ukraine itself and transported countless essential goods and supplies. Their skills, time and compassion will continue to make all the difference in 2023.

After a break of two years, due to travel restrictions and event cancellations, the Volunteer Swap has been brought to life again. Eight of our member organisations offered all St John people the chance to take part in 38 events and activities, and 68 volunteers decided to enjoy it. We hope to further increase participation in this flagship programme in the course of 2023.

While our member organisations share one single aspiration to help people in everyday life as well as in crises, the actual range of services – based on the Christian values of the Orders of St John - is extensive: ambulance services, help to the homeless, retirement homes, hospitals, first aid and first aid training, mental health first aid, youth work, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, home nursing and many other related activities.

Within this comprehensive picture, the mission of JOIN is to help its members cooperate on as many issues as possible and facilitate their access to the relevant institutions of the European Union when necessary. In 2022, the JOIN Office kept participating with Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria in the EU-funded project, MED1stMR. It aims to better prepare medical first responders for mass-casualty incidents by developing an advanced mixed-reality training solution.

The heart of JOIN's activities revolves around its working groups, where representatives of our members exchange best practices and develop JOIN projects. During the year under review, all working groups met physically again, and the physicians of our Clinical Working Group held three face-to-face meetings.

To the delight of all delegates, the Annual General Meeting 2022 took place in Larnaca, Cyprus. The meeting provided an excellent platform to discuss the activities of the JOIN Office and our members.

My very best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Broughton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mark Broughton

Selected Activities 2022

Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine

Following the invasion of Ukraine, JOIN members provided humanitarian aid and immediate emergency relief to the people of Ukraine and coordinated support to the refugees in the neighbouring countries.

In their response, our members have strengthened the network's links and solidified ways of collaboration making the immense collective efforts in solidarity with Ukraine possible.

EMERGENCY AID SUPPLIES

The efforts of our members started with immediate emergency relief. In addition, they carried out arranged deliveries with local partners to reach people in Ukraine, and transported goods and supplies to refugees in Hungary and Poland. The summary below gives an overview of their joint actions.

Destination Ukraine

The distribution of relief goods in Ukraine by Johanniter Germany started on 27th February. Together with the German-Ukrainian Forum, Johanniter distributed food and hygiene items to 2,600 families in Poltava, a city in central Ukraine, where many refugees from the Donbas region arrived. From 2nd March Johanniter organised transport of food, hygiene items and urgently needed medical supplies via Poland to Ukraine.

Johanniter could distribute parcels with food and hygiene items quickly as they were already in Ukraine before the war started as part of their annual Christmas campaign 'Weihnachtstrucker' (Christmas-trucker) in 2021. Within this campaign, our German and Austrian members organise national collections of aid parcels before Christmas and deliver them to people in need in South-Eastern

Europe. The action of 2022 mobilised massive support for all affected by the war.

Johanniter Germany organised aid transports thanks to the engagement of its regional and local associations across the country. As a result, by 15th September 2022, over 1,000 tons of relief supplies (medicines, medical supplies, hygiene items and food) were transported to Ukraine and reached refugees in Romania, Hungary and Moldova.



Many of our members worked with hospitals and doctors in Ukraine to facilitate the demand for medical supplies and strengthened their links to other major locally active aid organisations while coordinating through the JOIN network. On 7th March, our Latvian member Svētā Jāņa Palīdzība sent specifically requested medicines and medical supplies to the Kharkiv Children's Hospital. The loaded truck left Riga on 30th March and was received in Poland the following day. The cargo was then transferred to another vehicle and delivered to Lviv, from where the medical supplies were transported to Kharkiv Children's Hospital by a smaller vehicle. The transport action was made possible thanks to donations from our Cypriot, French, Italian and Maltese members.



St John Ambulance sent 12,000 tourniquets to Ukraine on 4th March, along with 15 pallets of additional essential medical supplies, which were primarily distributed to hospitals in Kharkiv. Ambulances with pain relief medicines were despatched in the first weeks of April. Our Italian member also sent an ambulance vehicle fully equipped with a lung fan, backpack, sanitary supplies and masks to the Moldovan-Ukrainian border in May. Additionally, S.O.G.IT delivered a truck with essential goods and relief supplies (medical supplies, hygiene articles, and food as well as essential items for babies) to the Republic of Moldova.



Our Polish member engaged in collection of medical material and other essential relief goods and delivered almost 15 tons of supplies such as food, hygiene items, bandages, medicines, thermal clothing and sleeping bags, lights, batteries, flashlights, travel stoves and a power generator to Kharkiv.

Our Hungarian members handed over four urgently needed ambulance cars to the Ukrainian administration through the Transcarpathian Reformed Church on 20th December, with the help of Johanniter Austria.



Since February, Johannita Segítő Szolgálat has been engaged in high-volume transports of goods and equipment involving members of our network. In August, our Hungarian member delivered several

loads of medical equipment and supplies, hospital beds and blankets, as well as over 500 kg of food from Budapest and Dunakeszi to Transcarpathia. The supplies were donated by our Austrian, German and Swiss members and transported by volunteers from our Hungarian member upon the request of the Reformed Church Community in Transcarpathia, which carried out the local distribution.

Destination Hungary

On 1st March, a relief operation by our Austrian, Hungarian and Swiss members started with a truck loaded with relief goods and mattresses heading from Switzerland to Hungary. In Vienna, the truck picked up ten more pallets with blankets, protective clothing, food, and masks. At the border, the goods were partly transported to Ukraine by local partner organisations in smaller vehicles. The other part was handed over to our Hungarian member Johannita Segítő Szolgálat to provide for incoming refugees. Johanniter Germany and the Munich Airport Association arranged another transport of disinfectants, masks, and blankets to Johanniter Hungary on 3rd March.



Destination Poland

On 2nd March, Johanniter Germany delivered five trucks with relief goods such as hygiene items, field beds, food, clothing and medical supplies to Przemyśl. At the same time, two Johanniter volunteers drove to Piaseczno on behalf of the city of Hanau with a minibus full of food to deliver supplies and pick up refugees, among others, a 12-year-old



boy travelling alone and bring him to his Ukrainian mother in Hanau.

The volunteers of St John Malta provided logistical support for a community initiative collecting relief supplies. On 7th March, an Airbus A340 aircraft flew the emergency supplies to Warsaw, where they were distributed to refugees.

On 4th April, Johanniter Austria sent a truck with 30 pallets of relief goods to Poland. At the request of our Polish member Joannici in Lidzbark Warmiński, food, clothing, bedding, hygiene products such as nappies and soap, as well as medical supplies such as resuscitation bags and gauze bandages were provided with the help of donations. The goods were urgently needed on-site to provide for the incoming refugees and were distributed by Joannici. Some of the goods were also transported into Ukraine.

Destination Moldova

In April, three vans started from Luxembourg to bring relief supplies to Palanka (Moldova). The cooperation involved the Johanniterorden's Sub-Commandery Saar/Mosel, different regional and local associations of Johanniter Germany as well as Johannita in Hungary.

Additionally, many JOIN members issued appeals for financial donations and also donated to support each other's activities for Ukrainians.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Austria

Together with the city of Vienna and partnering aid organisations, Johanniter Austria set up an arrival centre in a sports facility. People who had fled the war in Ukraine received medical and psychosocial care on-site.



On 5th March, our Austrian member opened refugee accommodation at the Hotel Senator in Vienna-Hernals. The hotel was fully booked shortly afterward with 241 arrivals accommodated.

Germany

More than 50 shelters with capacities for over 10,000 refugees were created with around 2,000 emergency workers, mostly volunteers from local disaster management units in converted warehouses, fairgrounds and sports facilities. 35 of these facilities were operated permanently by Johanniter.



Our German member also supported the establishment and operation of temporary care centers, for example at train stations, where arriving people can rest and receive food and medical care.

The loss of guaranteed medical care is particularly dangerous for seriously ill patients like those in the oncology sector. In March, 63 sick children and their families from Ukraine were accompanied to Germany and brought into special clinics with the help of Johanniter.

60 projects were established to provide needs-based support offers in the areas of childcare, psychosocial and psychological care for traumatized refugees, low-threshold counselling and support, language mediation, and volunteer coordination. For example, Johanniter in Schneeberg (Saxony) not only operated an initial reception facility for refugees but also offered support at a permanent counselling centre. In addition, an outreach service provided support to refugees in their new places of residence. In Munich, housing offers with socio-pedagogical support were created. In Nuremberg, psychosocial support was provided through counselling and meeting opportunities, and the refugees could participate in craft training and joint leisure activities.

Hungary

Johannita Segítő Szolgálat transformed its facilities to accommodate refugees in Terény and Mórahalom. With the help of Johanniter Austria, Germany and Switzerland, our Hungarian member supplied refugees in Hungary with essential goods and medical supplies. Furthermore, Johannita helped municipalities near the border with the logistic organisation of relief goods.



Towns and villages of Carpathian Ukraine that have long been facing supply problems were left with the need to provide different forms of help to all groups. The Hungarian Johanniter on the border to Ukraine participated in the provision of help in cooperation with -among others- the Sovereign Military Order of Malta as well as with the Diaconia of the Reformed Church in Ukraine. With the local and international help of the JOIN network, they were quickly able to deliver goods needed for daily life. The transport capacities to Ukraine were very limited and their small truck and minibusses turned around 2-3 times a day at the border, transporting not only self-purchased goods, but also donations from other organisations and private groups.

In Budapest, the internationally known Pető Institute offered five rooms for a three-week cycle of care and treatment of children from Ukraine with significant special needs (physically and psychologically). The Hungarian Commandery of the Johanniterorden refurbished the empty rooms for 10 children with mothers and provided refrigerators, washing machines, microwaves, dishes, cutlery, and paid for food. They also took care of the transport of the children and parents.



In September, Johannita Hungary collected durable food, 600 kg of flour and cooking oil and aided in the collection of sweets and hygiene products for the people of Transcarpathia.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Internally displaced people

From June to September, Johanniter Germany and its Ukrainian partner ELEOS operated a project in 13 regions and cities of Ukraine, supporting mothers

with children who are on the run, ensuring that they receive meals and hygiene articles, among other things.

Relief projects in Moldova

From April to July, Johanniter Germany cared for refugees from Ukraine through its cooperation with the local relief organisation Eco-Razeni. 250 daily food rations were prepared, usually consisting of potatoes or porridge with meat and fish as well as



salad. The meals were prepared mainly by young people with disabilities to support them in their integration and vocational training. The project reached over 2,000 refugees over the course of three months in the capital Chişinău and the rural district of Ialoveni.

Translated Resources

Johanniter International provided the Ukrainian and Russian translations of the European First Aid Guidelines. They convey the principles of first aid in clearly outlined simple skills aiming to be performed in a stressful situation by those with no medical training. The documents are freely available on www.firstaidjoin.org for direct download.

St John Ambulance provided first aid guidance and support with additional translated online resources. The first aid cards with demonstrations in Ukrainian, Russian and English include the topics amputation, burns, eye injuries, gunshot wounds, hypothermia, penetrating wounds, recovery position, and tourniquet. Our English member also translated care modules into Polish.

Johanniter International Assistance and NEW DAWN help people in South-Eastern Ukraine

Odesa, Ukraine, 16th November 2022

Johanniter International Assistance and its partner NEW DAWN are working together in the Kherson region to provide the necessities of life to displaced people and those who have remained in the villages. Philipp Francke, Johanniter and founding member of NEW DAWN, has been helping people in South-Eastern Ukraine since the beginning of the war in the country. Here he describes what he experienced.

How did it come about that you became active in Ukraine?

Shortly after the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Johanniter was looking for a driver to transport relief supplies to Ukraine. I immediately volunteered and drove the first aid convoy with medicines worth 50,000 EUR to the Moldovan-Ukrainian border. Through a contact, I got to know the experienced Ukrainian aid worker Julia Pogrebnaya, who received the medicines and distributed them in the Odessa region together with other volunteers.

How did the foundation of an aid organisation in Ukraine come about?

Through contact with Julia, we had the opportunity to help in regions where hardly any aid organisations were active. As an additional partner with the same human values, the Csilla von Boeselagerstiftung Osteuropahilfe e.V. is worth mentioning, as it enables us to purchase the large quantities of relief supplies that are needed locally. This also strengthens the local economy and preserves jobs.

To be able to enter into international partnerships and cooperation, Julia and I decided very soon that there was a need for a modern and neutral NGO. NEW DAWN became one of the most powerful and far-reaching non-governmental organisations in South-Eastern Ukraine.



► Philipp Francke, founding member of NEW DAWN

What kind of help does NEW DAWN provide?

We have two mainstays, to help displaced people on the one hand and people in the villages along the frontline on the other: In Odessa, we set up a centre where people who have lost everything come to receive initial care. Refugees who have returned from Germany also arrive here. We were able to establish the second pillar thanks to financial and advisory support from Johanniter. We travel to various villages along the frontline in the regions of Odessa, Mykolaev and Kherson to provide those who have remained with the necessities of life.

NEW DAWN travels to villages that have been completely cut off from the outside world for months or have been bombed daily. What do you experience there?

The people have experienced indescribable things. These people have been living without electricity, clean water, food or hygiene items for months. Some have even had to bury the remains of their family



members in the garden. Here, a big part of our help is not just the relief supplies but the hope we bring to the people that the world has not forgotten them.

How are you processing all this?

I am grateful to be able to help. Thankful to the people who are helping and for being able to actively participate a little in alleviating the population's suffering.

We also receive a lot of support from the Ukrainian society. Volunteers who are themselves affected join us. Bakers donate baked goods, and local businesses donate a playground so the refugees' children can play. Help is coming from all sides, and now even the Ministry of Integration in Kyiv gives NEW DAWN's phone number to people in desperate need.



The Order of St John at the State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II

London, England, 19th September 2022

The death on September 8th of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Sovereign Head of the Order of St John, sent shockwaves around the world. She was mourned by Prime Ministers and Presidents, parliaments, faith leaders, and millions of people around the world whose lives were touched by her 70-year reign of selfless service. With her death, His Majesty King Charles III became the Sovereign Head of the Order of St John.



Following the sad news, Lord Prior of the Order of St John Prof Mark Compton wrote a letter to all St John people.

"Her Majesty always took a keen interest in our work of helping the sick and the poor, and she was very much invested in St John and our worldwide work. Her guidance and support shaped St John into a modern global healthcare organisation, which is deeply rooted in our history as an order of the Crown. Her passing is a great loss, not only for the Commonwealth, but especially for our St John family."

The Order was invited to take part in the ceremonial procession at the State Funeral on 19th September in Westminster Abbey. Three members of the Order were there. The Lord Prior, Prof Mark Compton, was joined by Dr Ahmad Ma'ali representing the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital and the Order's

medical work, and Nikkita Charag, an outstanding St John Ambulance youth leader and volunteer from Newcastle.

Other representatives of the Order were part of the day's events, including deputy Prelate Paul Williams who led part of the committal service at Windsor in his role as one of the late Queen's chaplains, and St John Australia volunteer and senior Australian of the year Val Dempsey who was there as part of the Australian Prime Minister's party. Two thousand St John volunteers were on duty during the period of mourning and the day of the funeral.

All were honoured to be part of the historic events, to pay their respects, and to give thanks for the Queen's lifetime of service, honouring the promise she made in 1947 that her 'life would always be dedicated to your service'. In pageantry, in music, and in silence, the funeral was a fitting conclusion to an extraordinary and inspiring life. All St John people now pledge their loyalty to His Majesty King Charles and reaffirm their willingness to serve the Order and to uphold its values in the same spirit of dedication and commitment that characterised every minute of the late Queen's life.



▶ left to right: Dr Ahmad Ma'ali, the Lord Prior Prof Mark Compton and Nikkita Charag

Johanniter Austria and Germany carry out civil protection exercise

Tulln, Austria, 30th September - 1st October 2022

As part of the EU Horizon 2020 research project 'Search and Rescue', our Austrian and German members are developing new technologies for use after major incidents or natural and environmental disasters. The pilot exercise took place from 30th September to 1st October at the Fire and Safety Centre in Tulln.

A severe thunderstorm hits while a regional train is approaching the station. Suddenly a tree falls onto the tracks and the train derails. Passengers fall, bags and other objects fly through the carriage, windows shatter. A car is hit by the train, a torn power cable sets the car on fire. One person is thrown from the car and seriously injured. As the train comes to a halt just outside the station, passengers try to escape from the train. Those who succeed take shelter in a nearby building, some remain on the train seriously injured.

Fortunately, this is only the scenario for the emergency exercise that took place in Tulln. The exercise was organised by Johanniter Austria's Research and Innovation Centre in cooperation with the disaster relief service and implemented together with local experts, voluntary civil protection organisations and Johanniter Germany.

However, this was not an ordinary emergency exercise, but a field test of new technologies. Rescue robots with an obstacle detection and avoidance system, gas sensors and smart watches were used, as well as a new digital patient guidance system.

Operations following natural disasters or major incidents, such as earthquakes or explosions, pose great challenges for emergency services. Not only the care of the injured and the search for missing persons must be coordinated. The dangers posed by collapsed buildings or subsequent power



► The incident commander coordinates the emergency forces on site.

failures or gas explosions must also be taken into account during operations. With the help of modern technologies, emergency services and relief organisations can be supported in locating hazards quickly and accurately in order to coordinate decisions and operations accordingly.

Robots help to assess the situation

The rescue robots help the emergency services to assess the danger of the situation without risking human lives. They are well-equipped to orientate themselves and move around even in poor visibility. With appropriate technology via laser beams, a three-dimensional image of their surroundings can be created within a short time providing a map of the area of operation. In addition, the robots are equipped with sensors that can detect escaping gas.



► Rescue robots help to reconnoitre the area of operation.

Smartwatches provide vital data for emergency services

Smartwatches and smartphones help to keep an overview and make decisions during an operation. The smartwatches not only help to locate the emergency forces, but also measure their pulse and provide the head of operations with important information for deciding whether additional forces need to be called in.

"Networking technologies and robotics are particularly valuable for firefighters and rescue workers alike. With the help of these technologies, we can work more efficiently without endangering the health of the emergency forces. And it also makes it much easier to plan operations," says Clemens Gibel, Head of the disaster relief service.

About 70 volunteers from Johanniter and the Tulln fire brigade took part in the large-scale exercise, which was one of 7 large-scale tests within the framework of the research project. The aim of



'Search and Rescue' is to use innovative equipment and software to increase the safety and effectiveness of search and rescue operations after major incidents as well as natural and environmental disasters.

Under the leadership of the Technical University of Athens, 28 research institutions have been working on the development of the technologies used since summer 2020. During the course of 2022, the developed components were tested under real operational conditions in 7 operational exercises in different European countries.

"These technologies are still in the early stages of field trials, but we expect them to be ready for use in about four years. Such operational exercises provide us with important results for further development," Georg Aumayr, Head of the Research and Innovation Centre, is pleased to say.

Newsflash

England: one year after the first jab was delivered

By April, St John Ambulance's volunteers had spent more than 920,000 hours delivering lifesaving inoculations, dealing with patients at more than 650 locations across the country. Millions of people feel more secure having had their first, second, or booster jabs from some of the charity's 30,000 volunteers at vaccination centres, GP surgeries, pharmacies, mobile treatment centres, care homes and even vulnerable people's homes. When the number of Omicron cases increased, our English member stepped up again – at one point, increasing vaccination activity by 200% in a single week.



The Netherlands: Johanniter Holidays restarted

Our Dutch member organised its first holiday in April, a seven-day stay in a hotel at the countryside. Twenty-six guests who cannot spend their holidays without help or care were accompanied by 26 volunteers who ensured an enjoyable holiday week and personal attention for everyone. Johanniter Nederland has organised the Johanniter holidays for 65 years within the country. The anniversary was celebrated during the year in different ways The

highlight was a celebration with all the volunteers in September.



Johanniter Germany at the EU Civil Protection Forum in Brussels

The 7th edition of the EU Civil Protection Forum, organised by the European Commission, took place on 28th and 29th June as the first one after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. With disasters and natural hazards becoming more frequent and severe, experts and policymakers came together in Brussels to discuss and find ways to strengthen civil protection cooperation and response under the overarching theme 'towards faster, greener & smarter emergency management'. Representatives of Johanniter Germany, in their leading function of the Competence Center EU Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, participated in the plenaries, workshops and Thinking Labs of the Forum. JOIN Board member Christian Meyer-Landrut joined the team, which showed the EU MODEX at the exhibition and demonstrated the capacity of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.



St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group and Johanniter Germany ensure comprehensive eye care for refugees

'Prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment in the West Bank and East Jerusalem' is a project implemented by the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group with the support from the German government and Johanniter Germany. It



includes training doctors to provide primary eye care services in 24 facilities for Palestine Refugees in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In the third week of July, representatives of the St John Eye Hospital and Johanniter Germany visited the UNRWA AIDA Refugee Camp's Health Center, where they witnessed the project's significant impact on saving the vision of many patients.

Jerusalem: St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital celebrates 140th anniversary

On 24th June, the St John Eye Hospital celebrated the 140th anniversary of the Order of St John founding an eye clinic in Jerusalem that would later

become a hospital. The monumental anniversary was celebrated with a garden party and the launch of the book 'A Beacon of Hope: 140 years of eye



care in the Holy Land, 1882 - 2022'. Dr Ahmad Ma'ali spoke about the current workings of the St John Eye Hospital and its operations. He praised the staff for their diligent work during the pandemic and their continued positive impact on those they help.

The Alliance of the Orders of St John meets in Rome

In the second week of October, the triennial conference of the Alliance of the four Orders of St John and the Order of Malta was held in Rome. Lord Prior Prof Mark Compton, Herrenmeister Oskar



Prinz von Preussen, Commander Otto Drakenberg, Coajutor Ernst Karel Greven and Lieutenant of Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap represented the five Orders and fostered collaboration. The participants shared the upcoming project for psycho-social care with mobile support units for vulnerable people in Western Ukraine. JOIN Chairman Mark Broughton and Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson participated in the conference.

Members in focus

Insights on the work of our Italian member S.O.G.IT

Our JOIN member Soccorso dell'Ordine di San Giovanni is not only active in the North of the country but also in Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio and Sardinia. S.O.G.IT was founded in 1976 when a major earthquake in Veneto-Friuli destroyed entire villages and caused thousands of victims. A member of the Johanniterorden based in Trieste, Otto Betz Guettner, contacted Johanniter Germany, which brought immediate relief to the region.



Following this occurrence, an Italian association was established to ensure permanent ambulance and first aid services. Since then, S.O.G.IT has broadly developed its first aid and ambulance activities, currently operating with teams specialised in mountain rescue, emergency psychological aid, work with dog units and even a helicopter. The association has 41 local branches, employs 130 professionals, operates 180 rescue vehicles and ambulances, all supported by over 1,000 volunteers.

In the last few years, S.O.G.IT has played a crucial role in supporting the National Health System during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Italian member



carried out a broad range of activities, such as transporting critically unwell patients to emergency services, establishing testing centers, and delivering medications, food and basic goods to families in need. Furthermore, S.O.G.IT has recently developed a team of professional psychologists trained explicitly in emergency psychological support. This team is deployed with other emergency services to assist patients and families, as well as staff exposed to traumatic events.



The Swiss Johanniter Relief Organisation

The Relief Organisation of the Swiss Johanniter Commandery was founded in 1962 and is conducted exclusively by volunteers. Accompanying the sick to church services in hospitals and nursing homes, contributing to the reintegration of people with addiction problems and caring for homeless or disadvantaged children are the focus of their activities. With projects in Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne, Neuchâtel and Zurich, they provide practical and financial help for the sick, people with disabilities, prisoners, refugees and others in need.

The 'Villa YoYo' is a nationwide project of our Swiss member: 18 houses with playgrounds and sheltered indoor areas for children were built in neighbourhoods with a high percentage of migrants. They are co-financed by the Swiss Johanniter, who also hold some key positions in the umbrella organisation Villa YoYo Suisse. The activities focus on the integration of children from different countries into Swiss society and the prevention of violence. The children learn social skills and gain self-confidence. Johanniter volunteers in all parts of the country organise dedicated events for the children on weekends.



For more than twenty years, the Swiss Johanniter Relief Organisation has been making transports of used but intact hospital and school supplies to institutions around the world. The majority of the transports in 2022 were destined for Eastern European countries - mainly Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine - where hospitals

have expanded their premises to accommodate displaced persons, refugees and injured people from Ukraine for treatment. In cooperation with other JOIN members and in close collaboration with the Malteser Foundation Aide & Assistance, with which a joint warehouse is operated near Zurich, 13 such transports to Ukraine and its neighbouring countries could be carried out - the first of them only five days after the outbreak of the war.



► On 1st March, a relief operation by our Austrian, Hungarian and Swiss members started with a truck loaded with relief goods heading from Switzerland via Vienna to Hungary.

The Swiss Relief Organisation has also made a significant contribution to the funding of the project 'Rhodes', an initiative of Malteser International and Johanniter International Assistance to support traumatised young people in Ukraine. Since mid-November 2022, mobile teams in six vehicles specially equipped with materials for group games, creative activities as well as therapeutic games and toys have been operating in Western Ukraine to provide psychosocial support to displaced children and young people. This has been the first joint project of all five Johannine Orders.

Supporting projects in developing countries complements the commitment of the Swiss Johanniter: In Romania, they are supporting a school for underprivileged children in Bucharest and a hospice for terminally ill children in Sibiu. In Madagascar, they support our French JOIN member in providing medical and financial aid to a clinic for the treatment of diabetes patients. In Trujillo (Peru), they sponsor a music school that aims to teach social skills and self-confidence to underprivileged children. One of their former students recently won a prize at an international conducting competition in Liège (Belgium). Finally, the Swiss Johanniter are also active in the Middle East, supporting a hospital in Aleppo (Syria) and the organisation 'Arc en Ciel', which mainly helps victims of the explosion disaster in Lebanon.

Selected Meetings 2022

JOIN Annual General Meeting 2022

Larnaca, Cyprus, 20th - 22nd May 2022

The JOIN Annual General Meeting 2022 was hosted by our Cypriot member. Twenty-six delegates from St John organisations across Europe met in Larnaca to discuss a broad spectrum of topics.

The first day began with our Chairman, Mark Broughton, outlining the activities of the Board and the network over the past twelve months. He highlighted the COVID-19 response and the humanitarian aid for Ukraine provided by all JOIN members.

Our Vice-Chairman, Christian Velten-Jameson, then provided comprehensive financial information. The delegates unanimously approved the co-optation of Christian Meyer-Landrut to the JOIN Board.

This was followed by presentations of the working groups providing more detailed information about their activities which encouraged discussion and planning on several issues. The Head of the PR, Marketing & Communication Working Group (Dr Robert Brandstetter, Johanniter Austria) asked the delegates to approve the revised 'Guidelines and Basic Documents for Public Relations of Johanniter International'. Delegates welcomed the restart of the Volunteer Swap programme presented by the Volunteering & Youth Working Group (chaired by Nancy Kestler, Johanniter Germany) and committed to broadening its offers and spectrum of volunteers.

On behalf of the Clinical Working Group, Mark Broughton reported on the publication of 'First Aid for 5 to 7 years old' along with 'Guidance for teachers and instructors'. These documents are freely available to the public in a dozen languages, while the JOIN European First Aid Guidelines have been published in seventeen languages. Finally, the JOIN Office reported on the activities of the Fundraising Working Group and highlighted the cooperation and of knowledge exchanges in the field of grant management.

On the second day, the delegates gave an overview of the general activities of their respective charities over the past year. The work of the Brussels Office was outlined by Joachim Berney, our General Manager, detailing its routine activities while emphasising its focus on EU funding opportunities. Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office) presented JOIN's ongoing EU-funded research project called MED1stMR (see pages 30 - 31).

Finally, after what was perceived by all delegates to be a successful AGM, a last tour de table provided the opportunity to offer feedback and suggestions for the coming years.

The AGM 2023 will take place in Brussels from 19th to 21st May.



► From left to right : First row: Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office), Melanija Grundšteina (Latvia), Lidwien van der Reep (The Netherlands), Susan le Jeune d'Allegeershecque (Order of St John), Floor van Dedem (Johanniter Orde), Prof Graziella Kainich (Italy), Anne-Marie Clive (England), Nancy Kestler (Germany), Panos Koutourousis (Cyprus). Second row: Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Dr Ahmad Maali (Jerusalem), David Dahdal (Jerusalem), Dr Michael Frendo (Malta), Dr Ingo von Voß (Johanniterorden), Andrew Grech (St John Malta). Third row: Johannes Bucher (Austria), Frederik Ahlefelt-Laurvig (Denmark), Christian Velten-Jameson (France), Eric von Troil (Finland), László Porcsalmy (Hungary), JOIN Chairman Mark Broughton (England), Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland), Stephan Beschle (Order of St John), Panos Constantidines (Cyprus). Not in the picture: Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria).

JOIN Board meetings

Brussels, Belgium, 04th April and 25th October 2022

After two years of online meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the JOIN Board met face-to-face in April and October in Brussels.

Participants were our Chairman Mark Broughton (St John Ambulance), our Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Œuvres de Saint-Jean), Lidwien van der Reep (Johanniter Nederland) and Johannes Bucher (Johanniter Austria). Christian Meyer-Landrut, who was co-opted at the AGM 2022 (see page 15), also attended the meeting in October.

The organisation of the AGMs in Cyprus (2022) and in Brussels (2023) was a permanent topic of discussion. All meetings entailed comprehensive financial information provided by our Vice-Chairman.

The meeting continued with updates of the massive effort of all JOIN members to deliver material, medical and financial aid to Ukrainian refugees. Next to immediate emergency relief, transport services, and support to refugees, many of our members make arranged deliveries with local partners (see pages 4-7). While our members are running activities on the ground, the JOIN Office translat-

ed its European First Aid Guidelines into Ukrainian and Russian.

The JOIN Office gave feedback on the working groups' activities and the implementation of the European MED1stMR project, developing innovative mixed-reality training for medical first responders.

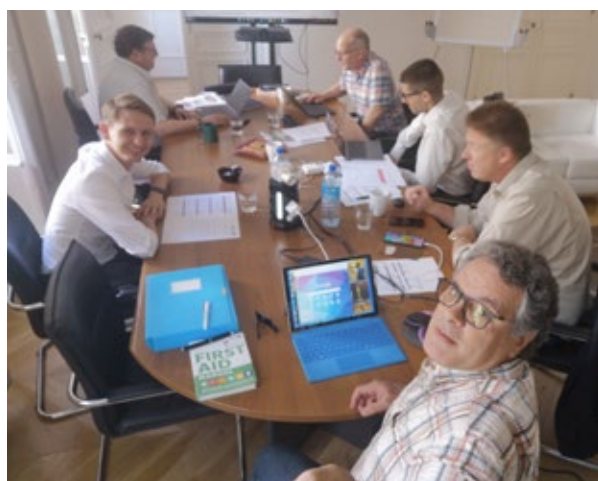


► From left to right: Johannes Bucher (Austria), Christian Meyer-Landrut (Germany), Mark Broughton (England), Christian Velten-Jameson (France), Lidwien van der Reep (The Netherlands).

JOIN Clinical Working Group meetings

4th – 6th March, 10th – 12th June, 25th – 27th November 2022

Following the decision to start drafting a First Aid Manual for Young People in October 2021, the JOIN Clinical Working Group met three times in 2022.



Delegates from Cyprus, England, Finland, Germany, Italy and the JOIN Board came together in Paris in March and in June and in London in November.

During the three-day meetings, our medical doctors finished developing the content of the manual and agreed on every sentence of each chapter.

The next meeting of the Clinical Working Group will take place in March 2023 in Berlin, where it is planned to agree on the final content of the complete manual and add professional illustrations.

► First row, and then rotating to the right: Dr Andreas Tanos (Cyprus), Richard Webber (England), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Dr Ian Greaves (Chair of the Group, England), JOIN Chairman Mark Broughton (England), Nils Schröder (Germany).

JOIN Volunteering & Youth Working Group meets in Valletta

Valletta, Malta, 08th May 2022

On 8th May, the JOIN Volunteering & Youth Working Group met in Valletta for a face-to-face meeting. Representatives from Austria, England, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the JOIN Board, and the JOIN Office were hosted by St John Malta.

The day began with a presentation of each participant on the involvement of volunteers in COVID-19 response and the humanitarian response for Ukraine.

The next topic of discussion was the Volunteer Swap programme for 2022. Following the pause of two years caused by the pandemic, JOIN volunteers are welcome to apply again.



In the second session, the latest activities of the 'Charity Cooperation Group of the Orders of St John' were presented. The working group also examined the different national regulations and policies related to the participation of young people and youth groups in Volunteer Swap activities, and the participants agreed to encourage the international exchange of youth groups.



► From left to right: Zsófia Porcsalmy (Hungary), Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria), Lucy Gardner (England), Thomas Leimer (Austria), Katinka Kersting (The Netherlands), Robin Browne (England), Reuben Attard (Malta), JOIN Chairman Mark Broughton (England), Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Nancy Kestler (Chair of the group, Germany), Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland).

JOIN PR, Marketing and Communication Working Group meets in Valletta

Valletta, Malta, 09th - 10th May 2022

From 9th to 10th May, the JOIN Working Group for PR, Marketing and Communication met in Valletta. St John Malta hosted representatives from Austria, Denmark, England, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the JOIN Board and the JOIN Office.

After a presentation of St John Malta as the newest JOIN member, participants discussed their communication on COVID-19 related activities as well as their joint efforts in support of Ukraine (see pages 4-7). St John Ambulance shared its England-wide Communication and Media Volunteers Initiative, informing the participants about the work, training, and management of St John volunteers who communicate locally. The International Office of the Order of St John introduced its Global Strategy to increase the impact of its work and understanding of the Order's global status as well as facilitate collaboration on operational levels. Following an update on the Charity Cooperation of the Five Orders of St John,

participants shared practices of political communication. The working group evaluated the individual communication activities on the first aid learning materials for children and guidance for teachers, published on World Health Day 2021, and the JOIN Office gave insights on the developments within the other working groups. Johanniter Germany presented its follow-up communication on the Anti-Gawping Campaign, which was launched in 2021 with great media resonance.





► From left to right: Andrew Grech (Malta), Claudia Hauptman (Germany), Katinka Kersting (The Netherlands), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Belinda Schneider (Austria), JOIN Chairman Mark Broughton (England), Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office), Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland), Daniela Azzopardi (Malta) Stephan Beschle (Order of St John), James Cilia (Malta) Frederik Ahlefeldt-Laurvig (Denmark), Therese Raatz (Germany). Behind the camera: Dr Robert Brandstetter (Chairman of the group, Austria).

The second day started with reports and updates of the members on individual projects, such as Johanniter Nederland's app for volunteers who accompany people on organised holiday trips. After the JOIN Office presented its websites and the Annual Review 2021, the group discussed social media strategies and the Volunteer Swap. An overview of the MED1stMR project was presented to the working group, and participants addressed communication on European level. Updates on the member's Corporate Design and the rebranding campaign by Johanniter Germany formed the closing topic of the meeting.

JOIN Fundraising Working Group meets in Larnarca

Larnaca, Cyprus, 19th - 20th May 2022

From 19th to 20th May, representatives from Austria, England, France, Jerusalem, the Netherlands, the Order of St John, Switzerland and the JOIN Board met in Larnaca. This was the first face-to-face meeting of the Fundraising Working Group since October 2019.



► Louise Bath (England) presenting St John Ambulance's community fundraising

The day began with a short report of each member organisation on one particular fundraising activity over the past year. This was followed by a presentation of door-to-door fundraising in Austria. St John Ambulance shared its experience in community fundraising, involving volunteers at local levels and building sustainable funding activities. Furthermore, Johanniter Nederland presented its fundraising with trusts and foundations. Finally, the JOIN Office reported on the fundraising appeals for Ukraine launched by the member organisations.

The relevance of the different fundraising fields and techniques discussed were assessed according to the objectives, capacities, and domestic context of each participating JOIN member.

The second day of the meeting saw participants exchanged on how to prepare research project proposals in the frame of the Horizon Europe programme. After an introduction to the concept of giving cycles in Switzerland, the participants engaged in discussing their approach and national regulations on legacy fundraising.

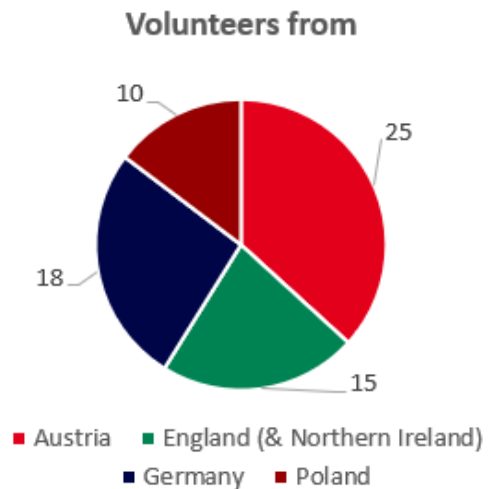
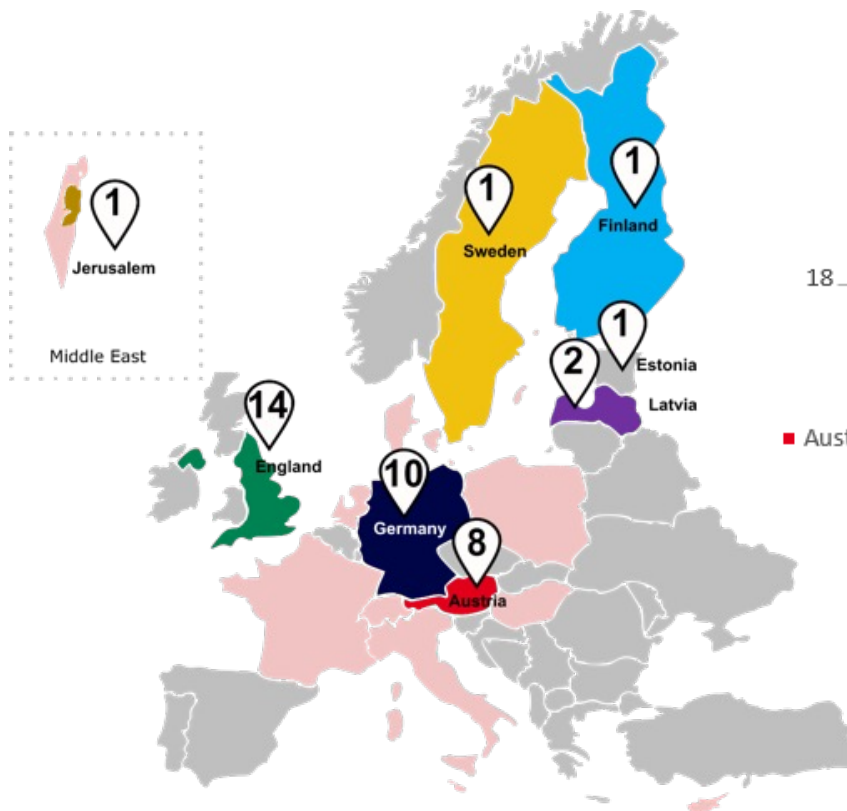
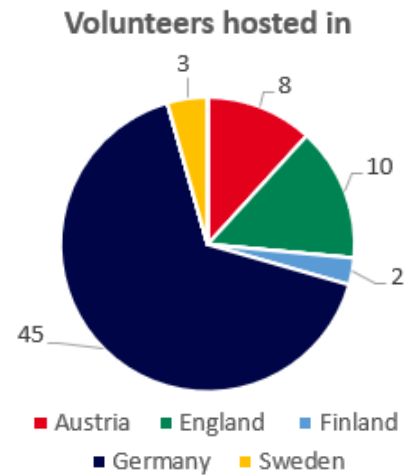


► From left to right: Stephan Beschle (Order of St John), David Dahdal (Jerusalem), Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland), Christian Velten-Jameson (JOIN Vice-Chairman, France), Georgea Enthoven (The Netherlands), Louise Barth (England), Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria)

JOIN Volunteer Swap

Volunteer Swap 2022 in numbers

In 2022, our Volunteer Swap programme offered 38 opportunities for volunteers to join their colleagues abroad and participate in events and social activities. 8 JOIN members welcomed volunteers to provide first aid at major events such as the Berlin Marathon, but also to join local teams in social care activities like assisting in Day Care Centres for mentally challenged people, in Summer Camps or homeless kitchens and shelters. 9 'Swaps' ran throughout the year, offering the volunteers more flexibility and a different way to experience the hosting organisation and its activities. The Medical Student Exchange in Jerusalem is a unique, constant and flexible 'Swap' that welcomes students for a practical short-term placement in the St John Eye Hospital. In 2022, 68 volunteers from 4 countries took the opportunity to participate in the Volunteer Swap programme.



Nine German volunteers at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in London

London, England, 2nd - 5th June 2022

In 2022 Her Majesty The Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. From 2nd to 5th June, four spectacular celebrations took place across London, attended by thousands of people from around the UK and the world. As Sovereign Head of the Order of St John, The Queen asked St John to step forward and ensure this anniversary went smoothly and safely.



► Franka (in red) with the Medical Response Team of St John Ambulance

For this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to volunteer in England, Franka and Larissa from Johanniter Germany went to London to join their English colleagues. The team of St John Ambulance was supported by 9 German volunteers who provided first aid to the public across the events and co-deployed as Cycle Responders.

Here is what Franka reports: "During the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event, we mainly provided first aid at treatment centres. I learnt a lot about St John Ambulance's structures, their way of treating patients and working together. Working with the locals, I even learned a few new things about British culture, including some English snacks I've never tried before. My highlight was when I got to shadow



► Larissa (in red) with the team of St John Ambulance at Trafalgar Square

a Medical Response Team. This team is responsible for providing rapid first aid at the scene of an accident but then quickly evacuating a patient from the crowd and taking them to a treatment centre for further treatment. It was very interesting to accompany this team of three."

Larissa adds: "It was a really extraordinary experience! I had so many interesting conversations and met so many lovely St John volunteers from all over the UK. We were also able to explore a bit of London. On Saturday, I worked at a treatment centre near the main stage. We treated about 70 patients



► Franka (left) and Larissa (right) from Johanniter Germany in London at the Queen's Jubilee festivities

throughout the afternoon and evening. On Sunday, I was able to watch the Queen's Pageant in Trafalgar Square. I really enjoyed being part of this big event and noticing the similarities and differences between the procedures of the two organisations. St John has a very friendly atmosphere, and I immediately felt part of the team. My highlight was being given a tour of different St John and NHS ambulances and learning about the different ways patients are treated here!"



"It was an unforgettable experience to work with people in an international team because we do the same work and share the same values! We will definitely volunteer with Johanniter International's Volunteer Swap again in the future!"

Three German volunteers at the Summer Open Air Music Event in Austria

Bad Kleinkirchheim, Austria, 16th - 19th June 2022

From 17th to 19th June, the Summer Open Air Music Event 'Wenn die Musi spielt' celebrated its 25th anniversary with numerous stars playing in front of the mountain scenery in Carinthia. The local branch of Johanniter Austria provided medical care for the visitors and was joined by three Johanniter colleagues from Germany. Read the report by Andreas below:

"Through a post on Johanniter Germany's intranet '4juh' by Nancy Kestler, I became aware of the Volunteer Swap programme of JOIN and contacted Nancy. She explained everything to me and even registered us with the JOIN Office in Brussels.

Early in the morning of 16th June, we 3 Johanniter (Wolfgang Grüneberg, my wife Tatjana Beckmann and I) left by private car to Patergassen in beautiful Carinthia, Austria. The destination was the rescue centre of the Johanniter in Patergassen. My relationship with the location has existed since 1999. At that time, I had sent an email with a friendship inquiry to fellow German-speaking Johanniter members in Austria we fostered exchange. So we did precisely what the JOIN Volunteer Swap embodies.



In 2001 I was invited to participate in the medical service at the event 'Wenn die Musi spielt - Sommer Open Air'. Since then, I have been going to this great event regularly and always try to take a small delegation of German volunteers with me.

At the rescue centre, we were greeted with a warm welcome by the crew on duty and saw our room for accommodation. After moving into the room, we had a dinner all together at a restaurant.

We joined the team of our Austrian colleagues for the next 2 days and were assigned to work on Friday and Saturday evenings. This allowed us to visit and get to know the region's sights during the day. After consulting with my team, we agreed to do a

panoramic road tour and a lake tour. After breakfast on Friday morning, we set off on the lake tour. We visited the Villach Alpine Road and continued to the highest vantage point overlooking three lakes and the Karwanken mountains in Slovenia.

Back in Patergassen we got ready for the first aid service at the main rehearsal of the Music Open Air. Together with the Johanniter Patergassen we were driven to the event area at the Hofer Riegel in St. Oswald. There we met the local emergency forces who were already there and took us into their team. We were all welcomed by the head of operations, David Rauter and received instructions on safety and the course of the operation. Afterwards, we were shown our positions on the grounds. Between 3,000 and 4,000 visitors had been reported by the organiser. With warm weather, the event area was filled quickly.

After the operation, we returned to the rescue centre and enjoyed the evening. There was a lot of reminiscing about the last years and laughter.

The next morning after breakfast, our team of three set off on our panorama tour. The weather was also great this day and at the event the number of visitors doubled to approximately 6000-6500 people. We took up our positions again at the busy event, which passed without major incidents.

The following day, we were bid a warm farewell by the crew on duty at the rescue centre, and we received an invitation to the Summer Open Air 2023.

Our conclusion: it was again a great and exciting mission with Johanniter and friends in beautiful Carinthia. Basically, also a short vacation in the big international Johanniter family. We can only recommend the JOIN Volunteer Swap and would happily participate again next year."



► On the right, Tatjana and Andreas with their friends from Johanniter Patergassen.

Six Cycle Responders from St John Ambulance at the Parookaville Festival in Germany

Weeze, Germany, 24th July 2022

Parookaville is a 4-day open-air music festival at Weeze airport in the West of Germany that assembles electronic dance music artists from all over the world. With 250,000 visitors, 9 stages, 4 campsites and over 40,000 overnight campers, Johanniter's impressive deployment saw volunteer teams from across Germany travel to support the event. Within the Volunteer Swap, six English volunteers from St John Ambulance London Cycle Responder Unit joined their German colleagues at the country's largest Electronic Dance Music Festival. Here is what Taylan Gungor reports:



"St John Ambulance London Cycle Response Unit (CRU) have a longstanding partnership with the Cycle Response Unit of Johanniter Berlin. Thanks to JOIN, they have organised exchanges for several years, including co-deploying at the London and Berlin marathons, Ride London, and most recently, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in London.

Cycle Responders offer an important and unique operational capability, deploying in a wide range of operational environments and are able to reach patients quickly. They often work in places, such as festivals, where dense crowds or terrain make it difficult for a vehicle to get through.



Each Cycle Responder rides a mountain bike, customised with specialist equipment, including an Automated External Defibrillator, to provide pedal-powered first aid to the patient's side. The London

and Berlin CRU teams are twinned as the units of two capital cities and are trained to, and operate at, the same high cycling standards.

In the planning and preparations for Parookaville, Johanniter requested the support from the only Cycle Response unit in Germany, the Berlin Fahrradstaffel. The task was big: 24-hour shifts over three days. To meet the significant operational requirements, the London volunteers answered a call out and travelled to bolster their numbers. Thanks to their existing close cooperation and by working in joint teams, they successfully delivered an incredible 100 hours of operational deployments over the course of the event.

At the festival, Cycle Responders played a crucial role. Working side by side with local volunteers, they also acted as the first response to medical emergencies across the vast site. Cycle Responders were often the only mobile asset reaching patients first, rapidly assessing, treating, and if required, asking for further assistance.



The event command team expressed their gratitude to the volunteers and were impressed by their positive contribution to the event cover. The significant majority of calls the cycle responders attended were resolved on scene, saving valuable resources and time for the rest of the event.

Thanks to this swap, St John Ambulance London's Cycle Responders and Johanniter's Fahrradstaffel Berlin volunteers further deepened their partnership by experiencing a new event setting, exchanging best practices, and learning from each other.

Furthermore, the unique operational capabilities of teams like the Cycle Responder Unit were able to meet the particular requirements of events across geographies and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to our shared objectives of supporting the communities we all serve."

A German volunteer at the Bristol Balloon Fiesta

Bristol, England, 11th – 14th August 2022

The annual Bristol Balloon Fiesta is one of the largest international hot-air balloon festivals in Europe, attracting around 80,000 visitors each year. Eike Hundhausen from Johanniter Germany travelled to Bristol to join the team of St John, which provided three treatment centres, foot patrols and ambulances across the four days. Here is what she reports:



“When I arrived at Bristol the evening before the event started, I tried to imagine what to expect: Dozens of hot air balloons, ascending early in the morning and glowing at night time to the rhythm of selected music compositions, attentively followed by an audience of countless thousands of people. I wasn’t wrong with this image.

Although my shifts started at noon and ended late in the evening, which did not allow me to watch the spectacular scene in the morning, I enjoyed the night glows even more.

On the shuttle bus from the hotel to the site every morning, I got to know new staff members. Volunteers from different districts in the UK appeared to assist, sometimes for only one shift, sometimes for a couple of days. People came from



► Eike (left) at the festival grounds with her colleague from St John Ambulance

Manchester, Liverpool, Dorset, London, Cardiff and Birmingham, and I often found myself in the middle of various dialects struggling to follow at least ONE of the conversations that surrounded me.

As the temperatures seemed to increase day by day, most of our patients suffered from the heat, insect bites, were exhausted or dehydrated. We did our utmost to make them feel well again.

Despite the heat outside and inside the treatment centre, I enjoyed my stay to the fullest. It has been one of the hottest weekends but a fantastic experience!

After my last shift on Sunday, John Ashworth, my foot patrol partner that day and his lovely wife Helen invited me to a sightseeing tour by car. Unfortunately, it was already getting dark, but we managed to take a quick look at many places of interest in Bristol city before I left for the airport the following morning.



Volunteer swaps are perfect occasions to learn more about the structures of Johanniter units abroad. Moreover, you make new friends and find out that the big international Johanniter family shares one fundamental idea: to help people who are in need.

Thanks to Johanniter International for this experience. Thank you, Naomi Chillingworth and Stewart Coulden-Smith, for having me on site. Thanks to all St. John’s colleagues I met during my stay. Working with you has been a pleasure, and I plan to come back for the Bristol Harbour Festival next year.

Oh, by the way: please, do not forget to practice the German words ‘Anspülspritze’ and ‘Schleifkorbtrage’! See you again!”

A German volunteer at the British Firework Championships

Plymouth, England, 17th - 18th August 2022

On 17th and 18th August, the British Firework Championships were held at Plymouth Harbour. In the competition, six leading pyrotechnic companies created 10-minute displays each over the harbour to be crowned the Champion. The amazing displays lighting up the sky created a fantastic atmosphere and attracted over 40,000 spectators. Within the Volunteer Swap programme, Susanne Kraft from Johanniter Germany's rescue dog unit, travelled from Karlsruhe to Plymouth. There she joined the team of St John Ambulance, which provided a treatment centre, foot patrols and ambulances across the two-day event. Read her report below:

"Those past four days with the St John Ambulance people in Plymouth were a special and unique experience. As a volunteer of Johanniter Germany, you might be quite used to this feeling of being part of the big Johanniter family, but I can tell you now: it is even more precious to feel the same abroad!!!

When I arrived on Tuesday afternoon, Abby, one of the volunteers of St John Ambulance (SJA) in Plymouth, picked me up at the train station and instantly made me feel welcomed. We went to the hotel, I just grabbed my rain jacket, put on my walking shoes and off we were again to explore Plymouth, this beautiful seaside town with its scenic streets, historic places, the harbour, the sea... we watched boats going in and out in the drizzling rain and all the while we were talking about everything and anything inside and out of SJA. It was lovely.

We had dinner at the hotel, and I met Ben, another volunteer with SJA Plymouth. Both Abby and Ben are advanced first aiders and emergency ambulance crew, and they had quite a few exciting things to talk about their work with SJA.

The next morning, I woke up to seagulls screeching (nothing better to remind you that you are close to the ocean!), and after breakfast, I decided to go for a nice walk up to Devil's Point and was rewarded with a beautiful sunny view down to the sea.

I met up with Abby and Ben around 4:15 pm, and they took me to The Hoe, the venue of the famous British Firework Championships. With my uniform, being bright orange between all the green and black uniforms and yellow vests of SJA, I felt a bit odd at first. Still, all those friendly people gathered at the treatment centre for the final briefing made me (almost) forget about visually standing out.

During the evening, I had the chance to meet and

talk to many different people from Plymouth, the whole southwest of the country, and beyond. I heard so many interesting stories, told my own one or two things about the work of a search and rescue dog squad, kept asking questions about how everything worked with providing first aid to the



public during events and more. As a foot team with Alyson and Ptolemy, we were assigned to provide first aid to the people along the fun rides and park. When the fireworks started at around 9:30 pm, we were presented with a wonderful view along with 40,000 other people there. Stand down was around 11:30 pm.

There was one special thing I planned to do since I knew I'd go to the Devonshire area: it was, of course, having cream tea!!! I know, it's quite a touristy thing, but scones and jam and clotted cream is such a tasty combination. Abby and Ben knew just the right little picturesque cafe at the Barbican, and again it was such a lovely Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday evening, I was assigned with Ben and Robbie to form a foot team, and together, we kept a close look at all the excited kids enjoying their carousels, rides and games in the kids' area. Again, we were able to watch three fantastic firework displays. As the evening went on, the medical backpack with all the first aid equipment got heavier by the minute (we took turns, of course), and drizzling rain kept us company again. We didn't care much about it, though, and my beloved orange uniform kept me quite dry. Stand down was around 11:30 pm again. Falling face down into the comfy hotel bed had never felt better...

I am so thankful and deeply moved by the kindness of all the people I met. And especially Abby and Ben: you are amazing, guys!!! It was a wonderful trip to the UK, to the St John Ambulance family, a precious adventure that will reverberate for a long, long while within my head and my heart."

Two English volunteers at the Rantamaraton in Finland

Espoo, Finland, 17th - 19th September 2022

From 17th to 19th September, the annual Rantamaraton took place by the seaside of Espoo City. Two volunteers from St John Ambulance in England supported our Finish member.

Jamie and Diamond from England joined Johanniter Finland and provided medical coverage and first aid to the runners and spectators. Here is what Jamie reports:

"We landed in Helsinki after a calm flight and managed to make time to see the sights of the city. It's so vibrant and welcoming, and we wished we had planned more time to explore the area. We were met that evening by Pekka and Merja, the event coordinators for the trip. They kindly collected and took us to our accommodation, where our hosts, Jukka and Marju, had prepared a delicious meal for us.

The following day, we set off to the depot in Juva to prepare all the kits and meet the rest of the marathon team. It was here that Pekka gifted Diamond and me with Johanniter T-shirts, hats, scarves, and stickers, which we were very excited to receive. We then spent the rest of the day in Otaniemi (the finish line site), setting up the medical areas. During the process, we learned of the Finnish efficiency in putting up tents - and the ingenious use of crash mats (like the ones we have at school back home) as overflow beds!

That evening we were welcomed into a great restaurant in Tapiola, where we ate with some of the lovely folks from the team of Johanniter Finland.

On the day of the marathon, we found ourselves at the treatment centre with around 20 volunteers, including medical students from the local university, paramedics, and Doctor Reijo Luoma, with whom we talked many times about his trips to the UK. The day started slow but entertaining, with us cheering on a few rounds of surprisingly competitive children's races. Then, after a short break (and some excellent

hot food) it was time for the 5K, half-marathon and full-marathon to begin.

The ambulance crew at the event allowed myself and Diamond to be passengers as they drove some of the marathon route - my turn even included a blue light response to a patient! We had lots of laughs with the medical students while stationed at the finish line.

It was exciting to see how the Finland team worked. We learned that it is possible to do a lot with far fewer resources than we are fortunate enough to have access to in St John in the UK. We also learned that Finnish runners do a much better job of clearing the finish line for those that come after them than UK runners!



► Gustav from Johanniter Finland with Diamond (left) and Jamie (right)

Sunday was a very chilled but lovely day. One team member, Gustaf (pictured), was kind enough to take myself and Diamond on a trip to Nuuksio National Park, where we went on an 8km hike around the forests and lakes. We were both blown away by the gorgeous landscapes, and our phones are full of pictures!

And now, as I sit at the airport at 5 am, waiting for our flight back to London (back in time to support the medical provision at Her Majesty's funeral in Westminster), I'm able to reflect on the kindness and hospitality of the whole team of Johanniter Finland. We learned so much about this amazing country from them.

We would like to give special thanks again to Merja and Pekka, and the rest of the Johanniter team for making us feel so welcomed on our trip. They are excited to welcome volunteers next year for an even bigger event!"



► The team of Johanniter Finland with Diamond and Jamie (in green) at the Espoo Rantamaraton.

Report by an English volunteer at the Berlin Marathon

Berlin, Germany, 24th - 25th September 2022

More than 45,000 runners were on the road on the weekend at the Berlin Marathon. With around 300 helpers from all over Germany and Europe, Johanniter ensured their safety along the course, which was precisely 42.195 km long. All participants, whether on the running course or in the spectator area, could rely on always receiving immediate help in the event of a health problem. Because the skater marathon was also organised alongside the runner marathon, the operation lasted the entire weekend.

19 Austrian and two English volunteers travelled to Berlin and jointly provided first aid to runners and visitors as part of a team at the medical points.

Jake Carpenter from St John Ambulance joined his German colleagues at one of the biggest running events in Europe. Read the report of his Volunteer Swap experience below:

"My weekend started on Friday when I landed in Berlin early to do a bit of sightseeing. My plane was packed with Marathon runners, many of whom were sporting jackets and shirts of other major events, such as Boston, New York, and London. I overheard speculation about the potential for a new World Record (possibly even under 2 hours) due to the perfect conditions and the participation of Eliud Kipchoge, who had previously managed the feat in controlled conditions and owned three out of the four fastest marathon times in history already.

I started off looking around Berlin alone before meeting up with Lukas, a Johanniter volunteer who had helped set up the exchange and whom I had met a few weeks earlier at Operation London Bridge (during the events held according to the funeral plan for Queen Elizabeth II). As well as giving me a tour of the city – and taking some photos of me for Instagram – we discussed how he had been involved in the JOIN programme for some time and how it led to the set-up of the German Cycle Response Unit (CRU).

Saturday and Sunday were event days. My colleagues were so welcoming, and I was lucky to meet so many great people over the course of the weekend. Special shout out to my new Austrian friends who had also travelled to attend the event, some of whom are pictured with me here.

I had learnt German at school and taken Duolingo lessons in the run-up to my visit. Unfortunately, no one asked me if my brother was at the library, so it didn't come to much use. Though, many of my

colleagues and patients were bilingual or English speakers, so I didn't feel language was an issue at all during my stay. My help translating was needed, though – predominantly with American runners who couldn't understand English in a German accent – and I was asked to switch patients / come and interpret on three occasions.

There are lots of similarities between the way St John Ambulance and Johanniter Germany run events, but also a few differences. Some of which I found interesting, some rather odd!

For instance, when I was looking through the equipment, I noticed there were no Paracetamol tablets, which was because medication could only be given out if agreed by a Doctor. I did, however, also notice several bags of IV Paracetamol because my German counterparts were all trained in cannulating. I declined the opportunity to learn but did watch a few get done. From discussions I had, German volunteers were far higher skilled than English volunteers, with their lowest level probably being most similar to our Emergency Ambulance Crews (EAC). In the UK, I think the equipment I use most are adhesive dressings, which were also absent from the German first aid kits. Luckily, due to my volunteering with Cadets, I have more experience than most in covering people in bandages, which came in very handy on the day of the skating marathon!

My favourite difference was the stretchers (pictured). I am not sure they were the most comfortable rides – and probably wouldn't want to use one to transport a patient with suspected spinal injuries – but they were very fun to use and weave in and out of the crowds. Much easier to manoeuvre than the ones back home, too.



I also loved the uniform. If I am ever asked to take part in a consultation about ours being redesigned,



► Jake Carpenter (in green) from St John Ambulance with his German colleagues.

I will definitely be recommending the vest and trousers, which, as well as being a very fetching colour, are apparently very comfortable, have much better pockets, and thick knee pads built in.

I loved my trip to Berlin. I would recommend that anyone who is interested gets in touch with JOIN to sign up to this or another of the opportunities across Europe, and I would love to host international members at any of our Events here in England. And yes, Eliud did set a new World Record – I was even able to witness him crossing the finish line!"

An English volunteer at the Ambulance Service in Vienna

Vienna, Austria, 14th - 21st November 2022

From 14th to 21st November, medical student Myurri Lohesan from St John Ambulance visited our Austrian member in Vienna. During her stay, she supported the teams of the Acute Care Service and Ambulance Services. Read below what Myurri reports:

"Travelling to Vienna was an experience that I will never forget. I applied to the JOIN Volunteer Swap programme to learn more about St John Ambulance's work globally. The opportunity to go to Vienna was very enticing because of the unique services that they provide to the population. I was fortunate enough to gain experience through shadowing the Acute Care Service and the Ambulance Service.

Whilst they may both sound the same, they do completely different things! The acute care service is there to help meet the needs of patients who have been recently discharged from the hospital. The crew consisted of a nurse, a driver, and a technician. Furthermore, the crews attend calls that originate from patient medical alert bracelets that are only connected to Johanniter. Overall, this is a unique service that we don't provide here in England, and it is heart-warming to see that no matter where you go in the world, St John Ambulance or Johanniter has the same vision: to help ease the burden of their national health service and provide people with the care they need at their most vulnerable times.

Whilst I don't do ambulance shifts within St John, I often do observers shifts with the London Ambulance service as part of my medical school programme. Therefore, having the opportunity to go there, observe on the ambulances and see the types of calls they attend. It was interesting to see the variation in knowledge and skills that volunteers in England have versus those in Austria.

The ambulance crews I was shadowing only attend low-priority calls and therefore, they often carried the bare minimum in terms of equipment (in comparison to England) however, they are still able to provide the best care to their patients and get them to where they need to go.

What was interesting to see was that the ambulance service is essentially the primary service Johanniter provides whereas, in England, you could argue that event first aid service is our main service. There is a large majority of people who joined Johanniter as part of their national service, and I met many of these people throughout my time there. This meant that Johanniter retained a lot of people as paid workers and some have also stayed on to volunteer whilst pursuing other education or employment.

Overall, this opportunity allowed me to meet wonderful people and regardless of where you are in the world, there is always someone in St John (or the equivalent) who is willing to welcome you with open arms. The experience develops you as an individual whilst also giving you the chance to explore new places and get a feel for a different culture and experience!."



► Myurri (second from the left) with her Austrian colleagues

Six Austrians and an English volunteer at the Ski Jump World Cup in Germany

Oberstdorf, Germany, 28th – 29th December 2022

The big Schattenberg ski jump in Oberstdorf is one of the most important Ski Jumping Hills in the world. Each year it attracts up to 38,000 visitors for the opening jumping competition of the Four Hills Tournament. Johanniter in Allgäu welcomed six volunteers from Austria and one English volunteer who joined in the provision of first aid for the Ski Jump World Cup in Oberstdorf.



Here is what Richard from Johanniter Austria reports of his time in Germany:

“Oberstdorf is situated in the most southern part of Germany and is the first station of the Four Hills Tournament. This opening sports event consisted of two consecutive days. On the first day, training jumps and qualifications took place, and on the second day, a preliminary and then final round were held.

We arrived in Kempten, which is about a 45 minutes’ drive away from Oberstdorf, the evening before the first day, after an almost seven hours car drive from Vienna. By coincidence, we stumbled across Robert, the local operations manager for Johanniter at the Four Hills Tournament, in a supermarket, and got an early first tour of the local ambulance station before checking in at our hotel.

The next morning, we met at the local station in Kempten, had a first briefing and were handed our accreditations. We also met our English colleague Samantha from St John Ambulance, who also took part in the JOIN Volunteer Swap. Shortly after, we headed to Oberstdorf in convoy and arrived at the ski jump hill and arena.

The medical service at the event was mainly split up in two areas – one to take care of all athletes, and one to look after all the spectators. There were three treatment places for the public throughout the

stadium, where paramedics, doctors and first aiders were located, and visitors could seek first aid. From those points, small teams were sent to attend sick or injured spectators in the crowd. There were also a few Ambulance cars standing ready to transport patients.

For the safety and wellbeing of the athletes, right next to the outrun of the hill, two teams consisting each of a doctor and two paramedics stood ready to intervene in case of a fall or injury. Additionally, there was a medical centre to provide treatment and an ambulance specifically designated for injured athletes.

At the arena, we were assigned to our places, as some of us assisted the local team at the outrun, and some of us looked after spectators at a treatment place. One colleague also got the opportunity to take a leading role at one of the treatment places.

On the first day, the only fall of a ski jumper during our attending happened, and he luckily remained uninjured. Also, from a spectator’s point of view, the day remained calm and got us a good opportunity to get familiar not only with the area and equipment but also with our colleagues. After the shift, we were invited to socialize and get something to eat with our German colleagues.



On the second day, the final rounds took place with up to 25,500 spectators attending this event. The treatment places had to deal with a higher amount of – luckily almost exclusively minor – interventions compared to the first day. At our last debriefing at the arena, we all concluded, that this was an invaluable experience, and we all thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt a lot from it.

Afterwards, we again spent our evening with our German colleagues and headed to our hotel well after midnight. The next morning, we started our road trip back home to Vienna, where we arrived in the evening.

We all really enjoyed our short JOIN Volunteer Swap in Germany and were very happy to get involved in this first aid and ambulance service. Our favourite part was getting to know our colleagues, many of them becoming our friends while sharing experiences, and noticing, that we have a lot more in common than we thought. We truly hope to see each other again soon – maybe at the next Four Hills Tournament, or while welcoming some of our German colleagues as part of JOIN Volunteer Swap at our Viennese Ambulance service!"

Samantha from St John Ambulance in England also reports about her experience:

"I applied for the Volunteer Swap at the Ski Jump World Cup in Germany to gain more experience in a different setting whilst also working with new people to enhance my skills further. I met the volunteers at the hub on the first morning of the event, and we had our briefing for the day. I was quite nervous as everyone knew each other but everyone made me feel very welcome. At the event, we set up the treatment centre, where we would be based before the spectators came in. We then went through the kit so I could see what their volunteers use, which was quite similar to ours at St John Ambulance. During the day, we had a couple of patients, one of which was a medical situation I hadn't had before, so this offered me an opportunity to deal with something new. While we had no patients, we also got to see some of the ski jumping, which was new to me as well. After the spectators left, we had a debrief of the day to find out what went well and what we could do differently for the next day.

The next morning, I was back with most of the volunteers from the first day and some new volunteers. I was at a different treatment centre on day two, which was by the slope and offered amazing views. We had our briefing for the day right next to the slope on the snow. Before the spectators came in, we were allowed to take the lift to the top of the ski jump ramp to take photos and see the breathtaking view across the mountains and Oberstdorf village



below. It was great to see the slope from this view and a bit scary at the same time looking down as it's higher than it looks from the ground!

We then headed back to the treatment centre, ready for patients. On this site were more patients on this day, but it was a great atmosphere. I also had the chance to look at the ambulance to see the set-up and the equipment they carry.

After our debriefing at the event, we returned to the unit with the treatment centre in luggage. When we got back to the unit, some of us went to the lounge there for a social catch-up. It was enjoyable as I got to know everyone better in this setting. We then called it a night as it had been two long working days and I had to fly home the following day.



I can honestly say taking part in the Volunteer Swap was one of the best things I have done. Doing a duty somewhere outside of your normal area is a bit nerve-wracking, but everyone was so helpful and welcoming, which offered a lot of reassurance. In this swap, I have made some great friends with whom I will keep in contact and I come home with fantastic memories of the experience. I will always be grateful for the opportunity I had and would recommend anyone looking at a Volunteer Swap to do it!"

European-funded projects

Progress of the MED1stMR project

The research project MED1stMR (Medical First Responder Training using a Mixed Reality Approach) started in June 2021 and reached its Midterm in November 2022. The JOIN Office and Johanniter Austria are participating in transforming current training practices to better prepare medical first responders for stressful and highly complex disaster situations. The multidisciplinary consortium of 18 European partners, coordinated by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), received a 7.8 million grant from Horizon 2020 to implement the three-year project. Johanniter International contributes to the communication, exploitation, and dissemination of the project's content and results.



► The MED1stMR consortium at the meeting in Thessaloniki

The 3rd MED1stMR consortium meeting took place in Thessaloniki from 14th to 15th June, hosted by the Hellenic Rescue Team. Representatives from all organisations attended and discussed the progress and next steps in the project.

During the two days, the partners discussed end user requirements and refined their needs. The project's Dissemination and Communication status were presented, and an exploitation workshop was conducted. The technology partners gave an outlook on the technical development planned, and the end user management was further structured as it forms a crucial aspect of the agile end user-centred approach. Research partners scheduled studies on the individual stages of development where input from and participation by the end users is required. All partners were invited to try the different prototypes and technologies used in the field of virtual simulation, mixed reality environment, and biosignal





measurement. The Virtual Reality (VR) Co-creation tool to collaboratively design disaster situations was tested, and biosensors to assess the trainees' stress-level were presented. The tests of the mixed reality prototype provided tangible interaction with a manikin in VR. End users got a hands-on impression of the technology and gave important qualitative feedback on usability requirements and needs to research and development partners.

In September, the scenario editor was developed by the technology partner Refense. It was designed to be used intuitively by the instructors and trainees and was provided to all project partners, focusing on the end users for initial tests. In autumn, a user interface study was

conducted to gather feedback on the usability of the scenario editor and draw recommendations for further improvements and simplifications to the interface. The scenario editor forms a central part of the agile, holistic training solution, together with the other components: live training application, debriefing, and after-action review, and a dashboard showing training performance statistics and progress.

The consortium held its 4th face-to-face meeting at the AIT headquarters in Vienna from 12th to 13th December, where partners presented the planned and executed studies and discussed the set-up of the field trials for 2023. The technical partners gave an overview of the solution progress, and the assets for the mixed reality scenario were planned. After the role of the end users within the field trials was discussed, the consortium decided on the dates and locations of the six trials starting from June 2023.



► The virtually simulated mass casualty incident training for medical first responders needs only a few tools. With hand and foot sensors, and an audio and VR headset all connected wirelessly, the training solution offers a quick and easy start.

JOIN's Work in 2022

The JOIN Board

The JOIN Board is made up of representatives from JOIN member organisations who are elected by the Annual General Meeting for a period of two years. Its main tasks include supervising the work of the JOIN Secretariat and the General Manager, dealing with strategic questions and managing JOIN's relations with the Alliance of the Orders of St John.

The current Board is composed of Chairman Mark Broughton (St John Ambulance), Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Œuvres

de Saint-Jean, France), Johannes Bucher (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria), Christian Meyer-Landrut (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany) and Lidwien van der Reep (Johanniter Nederland).

The Board meets regularly at face-to-face and online meetings and holds conference calls. In 2022, the Board held two face-to-face meetings (see page 16).

The term of the current Board ends at the Annual General Meeting in May 2023.

Working Groups in 2022

Given the aim of JOIN to derive benefits for its members from increased exchange and cooperation, the working groups are one of the essential institutions in JOIN. The working groups provide a platform where JOIN members can exchange knowledge and experience on any given issue, and also offer a space where JOIN members can set the thematic foundation for common projects. By combining resources within the network, JOIN can realise projects for which individual members might not possess the capacity.

Moreover, the working groups also guarantee a participatory and transparent structure within JOIN as participation in the working groups is not only open to all members, but also strongly encouraged.

The working groups meet on a regular basis. While a face-to-face meeting allows for a more thorough and personal exchange at least once a year, regular online conferences ensure continuous close collaboration between the working group members.

In 2022, four working groups were operative within JOIN.

Clinical Working Group

The Clinical Working Group has been chaired by Prof Ian Greaves (England) since 2017. As its name suggests, the group deals with clinical and medical cooperation at both national and international levels. It is made up of chief medical officers from JOIN members.

In 2022, the JOIN Clinical Working Group kept

translating in further languages the very first European First Aid Guidelines published in 2019. They are available to all users for free in seventeen languages on www.firstaidjoin.org. Stories for children called 'European First Aid for 5 to 7 years old' along with 'Guidance for teachers and instructors' were also further translated and are available to all users on the same link.

The members of the working group met twice in Paris and once in London in the course of 2022 to progress in drafting a First Aid Manual for Young People (see page 16).

PR, Marketing & Communication Working Group

This working group, chaired by Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria), deals with all issues concerning JOIN's press work, the website, publications, as well as corporate identity (CI) and corporate design (CD). The working group has developed the JOIN logo and helped create brochures and information material on JOIN activities. The group's primary purpose lies in sharing experiences, best practices, and know-how on related topics.

In 2022, the PR, Marketing & Communication Working Group met in Valletta (see page 17).

Volunteering & Youth Working Group

This working group, chaired by Nancy Kestler (Germany), is responsible for volunteer exchanges between JOIN members and the Volunteer Swap programme. These activities enrich the individual volunteering experience, enhance cooperation

and understanding between the members, and enable JOIN members to work together efficiently and practically. Moreover, the working group deals with all other issues regarding volunteering, such as legal guidelines and the recruitment of volunteers. It also discusses common interests in JOIN members' youth activities such as summer camps, first aid training, competitions and youth exchanges.

The Volunteering & Youth Working met in May 2022 in Valletta (see page 17).

The JOIN Secretariat in 2022

The JOIN Secretariat is located in Brussels, at the heart of decision-making in the European Union. This enables the office to observe relevant European policy developments firsthand and report these back to its members, as well as to advocate the positions and interests of JOIN and its member organisations directly to decision-makers.

The Secretariat also acts as a communication and information centre for JOIN members, e.g. by publishing the monthly newsletter JOINews, running an informative website and social media channels and replying to enquiries on European matters put forward by JOIN members. Furthermore, the JOIN Secretariat identifies relevant EU funding opportunities for its members.

The Secretariat maintains close contact with NGO partners, the Brussels offices of national and regional representations and the members of the Orders of St John who work in the European capital.

A significant influence on the work agenda of the JOIN Secretariat in 2022 was the implementation of the European project MED1stMR, as highlighted on pages 30 and 31.

The JOIN Secretariat also participated in the drafting of seven European project proposals dedicated to building disaster-resilient societies involving two JOIN members. The first project, called TeamUP, aims at establishing a unified framework of capabilities to be used in first-responder training for CBRN-E (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances and explosives) incidents. The second project, called AGAINST, aims at supplying its end users with a diverse range of CBRN-E defence technologies. The third project, called KERNNEL, is designed to ensure that research results allow practitioners and policymakers to actively engage in research

Fundraising Working Group

Motivated by positive cooperation examples in the past, this working group exchanges best practices and know-how in fundraising, grant management and other related topics, with the aim to mobilise financial resources and to strengthen fundraising capacities and cooperation among JOIN members. The working group consists of senior members of the fundraising departments of JOIN members.

Created in 2019, the Fundraising Working Group held in 2022 its second face-to-face meeting so far in Cyprus (see page 18).

and innovation. The fourth project, InsuRe-XT, addresses climate change-related threats, analysis and forecast of their implications and aims to offer related insurance solutions. The fifth project, called SIROCCO, foresees a secure decision support suite with tools to address the increasing complexity required for the management of CBRN-E events. The sixth project, called BRAVE, deals with the analysis of citizen behaviour during natural and man-made hazardous events occurring in the EU and the surrounding area and corresponding education and training. The seventh project, called PaS, proposes a decentralized, secure cross-social media-based platform combined with an early warning system for enhanced disaster communication and response.

Throughout the year, the JOIN Secretariat maintained its representative character for members in Brussels. Upon request and on behalf of several JOIN members, the JOIN Secretariat took part in various online meetings at European level, for instance, in the areas of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, civil protection, care, research and innovation.



In 2022, the JOIN Office team consisted of Joachim Berney (General Manager) and Eva Pelgen (EU Officer).

Perspectives on 2023

In 2023, the JOIN Office aims to remain the motor for cooperation among St John charities in Europe. In this light, the working groups continue to be the main priority for JOIN, and the Brussels office will support them in the best way possible.

The Volunteer Swap programme is expected to be further developed, offering attractive opportunities for all volunteers during the whole year. It is also hoped to offer the first Swap for young people involving a group from England and a group from Germany. The JOIN Office will play a central role by facilitating exchanges, attracting more volunteers and managing the reimbursements of travel costs.

Furthermore, promoting EU funding opportunities to our member organisations will stay a priority.

The JOIN Office is actively exploring options for preparing European project proposals, especially in the frame of 'Horizon Europe', the new funding programme for research and innovation for 2021 to 2027. JOIN wishes to bring its members closer to innovative, cutting-edge research in relevant service areas regarding research consortia.

The Clinical Working Group is expected to publish its First Aid Manual for Young People. The JOIN Office will also seek to further translate the 'European First Aid for 5 to 7 years old' and promote its dissemination at a high international level.

The Annual General Meeting in 2023 will take place in Brussels from 19th to 21st May.

Imprint

Published by

Johanniter International ASBL
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Photo credits

Cover

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About JOIN

Johanniter International (JOIN) is the partnership of the four protestant Orders of St John and their national charities. Our member organisations, based in Europe and the Middle East, work in close cooperation and are supported by more than 100,000 volunteers. They serve humanity with medical services and first aid, social care, international aid, disaster relief and youth work. The services of JOIN member organisations are open to everyone. Core to our values is our Christian heritage which underlines our work.

The JOIN central office in Brussels advocates the interest of the St John charities towards European and international bodies and facilitates international projects and working groups.

For further information please contact our Brussels office at join.office@johanniter.org or www.johanniter.org.

