



News from the Network

Publication of the JOIN European First Aid Manual for Young People

We are proud to publish the first [European-wide First Aid Manual intended for young people](#) (age range 13 to 17 years inclusive). The manual promotes the importance of first aid and helps young people to develop their knowledge and understanding of first aid. It provides an awareness of potential risks and situations that may lead to injury or illness, and how to avoid them. Developed by the international experts of the JOIN Clinical Working Group, the manual is designed to apply in every European country. It also provides a solution to some cross-border health issues and will help to foster international cooperation. [Continue reading](#)

European First Aid

A guide for Young People

developed by Johanniter International

Update on humanitarian aid for Ukraine

Our members continuously provide immediate emergency relief, transport services, as well as accommodation and support to refugees. In preparation for the winter, Johanniter Austria and Hungary joined forces to provide heating to Ukrainians. In addition to regular donations, the joint action included the proceeds from a charitable event and a charity concert held in November, as well as support from the Netherlands. This month, Johannita Hungary delivered a donation for winter heating material for about 100 families to Transcarpathia. Read more about our network's activities for Ukraine [here](#).



JOIN Board meets in London

On 13th December, the JOIN Board met in London. On the agenda were the activities of the working groups. Moreover, the Volunteer Swap programme has already reached a record number of participants for the year 2023. Further topics of discussion were the latest lobbying activities at the European Parliament, financial information and the implementation of the MED1stMR project. [Continue reading](#)



Clinical Working Group meets in London

The JOIN Clinical Working met in London from 15th to 16th December to finalise the manuscript of a third story teaching basic first aid to children. The Clinical Working Group also started the development of first aid modules for the age range of 8 to 12 after having finalised the European First Aid Manual for Young People released on 18th December.

[Continue reading](#)



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our Chairman Mark Broughton, the entire Board and the Office of Johanniter International in Brussels wish all of you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024! Helping people is the single aspiration of our work. As a Christmas gift, we share our newly published [First Aid Manual for Young People](#) to learn vital skills that could save a life. We are grateful to all JOIN members for the continuous excellent cooperation this year. We look forward to the new year to continue our successful work together with the entire JOIN family.



News from the Members

Order of St John: Read a blog dedicated to the history of St John

The Order of St John, as well as every JOIN member, has roots in a hospice founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century. Duncan McAra CStJ, the Priory of Scotland's Librarian, contributes to their interests with blog posts linking aspects of St John history with books in the Priory's extensive collection. Discover the blog and latest posts on this [link](#).



News from Europe

Revision of the European Directive on Driving Licence

Johanniter International and its member organisations welcome the European Parliament's decision to include mandatory first aid training for driving licence applicants. On 7th December, the Transport and Tourism Committee adopted its position on the revision of European driving licence rules. With more than 20,000 lives lost on EU roads every year, Members of the European Parliaments want to make sure the new rules contribute to road safety. In the next legislative steps, Johanniter International calls the European Council and other



relevant stakeholders to confirm the inclusion of mandatory first aid training for driving licence applicants. [Continue reading](#).

Amendment of the rules for small amount of aid (de minimis regulation)

On 13th December, the European Commission has adopted two regulations amending the general rules for small amounts of aid (*de minimis* Regulation), notably for services of general economic interest, such as public transport and healthcare. The revised regulations, which exempt small aid amounts from EU State aid control since they are deemed to have no impact on competition and trade in the Single Market, will enter into force on 1st January 2024 and will apply until 31st December 2030. JOIN members who are affected are invited to read further information on this [link](#).



MED1stMR third Field Trial in Ranst

From 27th November to 1st December, the fourth Field Trial of the MED1stMR project took place at the premises of our Belgian partner, Campus Vesta. During a full week, trainers and first responders tested the Mixed Reality training system that was developed by the MED1stMR project consortium in the past two years. This Mixed Reality enables trainees to immerse themselves more strongly in the scenarios and perceive the body, limbs, and movements tactilely and visually when examining and treating patients. 53 first responders tested the prototype training solution over the week. [Continue reading](#).



European Humanitarian Forum in March 2024

The third [European Humanitarian Forum](#) will be held from Monday 18th to Tuesday 19th March 2024. The Forum, co-organised by the European Commission (DG ECHO) and Belgium in the framework of its Presidency of the Council of the EU, will take place in the context of sharply increasing global humanitarian needs, at a time of shrinking humanitarian space, increasingly complex and protracted conflicts, the politicisation of aid, and increasing vulnerabilities due to climate change. Themes of the Forum will include the funding gap and prioritisation, and forgotten crises and fragile humanitarian environments.



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