



FIRST AID

A Red Cross/Red Crescent expertise: The European Reference Centre for First Aid Education



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Every year, there are approximately 100 million medical emergencies in Europe, ranging from cardiac arrests, to traffic accidents, domestic accidents and disasters. Taking immediate action and applying the appropriate techniques during the first critical minutes can make all the difference in saving lives. This is the reason why teaching first aid to the general public is a primary mission of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. This is also the purpose of the European Reference Centre for First Aid Education, whose aim is to emphasise the sharing of knowledge and experiences to optimize first aid skills.

The First Aid Education European Network



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The First Aid Education European Group.

The years of experience, the competences acquired by the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the first aid education field could not just be limited to the local level: this is why, with the objective of knowledge-sharing, a regional working group was created in 1990 by the 12 National Societies of the European Community. In 1996, this group was extended to include other European countries, today, **52 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies** are involved in the First Aid Education European Network. This European Network consists of first aid education experts who coordinate the training and who participate in the first aid practices and decision making processes within their respective National Society.

THE MAIN MISSIONS OF THE NETWORK ARE TO:

- **encourage** the dissemination of first aid,
- **support** the national training programmes,
- **favour** the harmonisation of first aid techniques.

The Network's primary aim is to **implement and ensure quality** by drawing its strength from **collective participation**.

The European Reference Centre for First Aid Education

- The Centre was created in October 1996 on the initiative of the First Aid Education European Network to establish a permanent link between the National Societies which are members of the Network.

At first, the Centre was managed by the Belgian Red Cross - Flemish community; since 2003, the French Red Cross has been in charge of this task.



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- **The main goals of the Centre are to:**

- support the Network's activities,
- make first aid information and practices available,
- assist the National Societies in their efforts to further develop training,
- facilitate exchanges and common initiatives between National Societies,
- monitor the evolution of domains linked to first aid,
- ensure contacts with other Networks and organisations...

To know more: www.firstaidinaction.net



→ A website dedicated to first aid education aiming at sharing knowledge and experience as well as making experts' opinions available.

→ A constant link between the European Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies.

→ A tool for the first aid managers, the medical advisors and the volunteers.

Annual meeting and action plan

- Every year, the members of the Network meet to debate on first aid issues, to share knowledge, practices and experiences, as well as to draw-up an action plan which includes the follow-up of current activities and new initiatives.
- This meeting allows every delegate to be exposed to the latest information with regards to first aid techniques, education and equipment. It is organised around various types of activities: plenary sessions, workshops and information corners.
- This symposium is intended to be a tool to facilitate communication, enabling every participant to pass on information to their National Society and the local branches.

Main achievements

- Creation of a website dedicated to first aid.
- Establishment of the European First Aid Certificate (EFAC).
- Organisation of international training sessions and workshops.
- Provision of technical and education recommendations and working aids.
- Establishment of working groups on Automated External Defibrillation, first aid at work, teaching methods...
- Coordination of surveys concerning practices and trends linked to first aid.
- Implementation of projects co-financed by the European Commission.
- Implementation of events of international scope such as the World First Aid Day.



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Your contacts

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