



An Introduction to
First Aid
European First Aid Guidelines
developed by Johanniter International

**johanniter
international** 



Annual Review **2019**



Table of Contents

A Message from the Chairman	3
JOIN Volunteer Swap	4
Johanniter Day 2019 in Berlin	5
Volunteers provide medical cover at the Wimbledon championships	6
Read the report of an English volunteer at the Southside Festival in Germany	7
Read the report of a German volunteer at the Espoo Rantamaraton Finland	8
Berlin Marathon: Biggest Volunteer Swap in 2019	9
Read the report of an English volunteer at the Day Care Centre in Latvia	10
Volunteer from St John Ambulance at acute care service in Vienna	10
Selected Activities 2019	11
Johanniter International launches European First Aid Guidelines	11
JOIN at the final conference of the BICAS project	12
JOIN Board members at Installation Ceremony of new Lord Prior	12
JOIN members at SJA Volunteering Forum in London	13
Johanniter International Assistance in Kenya to help people affected by heavy floods	14
World Diabetes Day 2019	14
Newsflash	15
Selected Meetings 2019	16
JOIN Annual General Meeting 2019	16
JOIN Clinical Working Group releases European First Aid Guidelines	18
JOIN Board meeting in The Hague	19
JOIN PR Marketing & Communications Group meets in The Hague	19
Very first meeting of the JOIN Fundraising Group in Brussels	20
JOIN Volunteering & Youth Group meets in London	20
JOIN Board meeting in Brussels	21
European-funded projects	22
iProcureSecurity	22
Developments in 2019 in the European Projects EUinAid and SecureHospitals.eu	23
JOIN's Work	24
The JOIN Board	24
Working Groups in 2019	24
The JOIN Secretariat in 2019	25
Perspectives on 2020	26
About JOIN	28

A Message from the Chairman



Dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is a pleasure to introduce our Annual Activity Report for 2019. This brochure sums up an eventful year and a few examples of our main achievements. We hope you will find it interesting and that it will contribute to a better understanding of the various activities of our members and their successes in our common values through actions and projects.

In 2019, JOIN made a dream come true. Thanks to the work of the Clinical Group, JOIN published the very first European-wide First Aid Guidelines. Designed to apply in every European country, they provide a solution to some cross-border health issues and will help to foster international cooperation. The JOIN Guidelines are intended for First Aiders, the general public, as well as health professionals. They are available to all users for free in fifteen languages, and can be downloaded on www.firstaidjoin.org

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

Within this very broad picture, the mission of JOIN aims 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. The JOIN Office is participating in three different EU funded projects; 'SecureHospitals.eu' and 'EUinAid', which started in 2018, and the 'iProcureSecurity' project, which started in May 2019 and aims to foster the cooperation and the response capacities of the European emergency medical service systems.

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, our working groups held several meetings, amongst others:

- Physicians of the Clinical Group met three times face-to-face to finalise the content of the JOIN European First Aid Guidelines.
- The newly created Fundraising Group came together in Brussels for its very first meeting. Fundraising activities, methods, projects and needs were on the agenda.
- Members of the Volunteering & Youth Group met in London to discuss methods of recruitment, as well as possible improvements of the Volunteer Swap program.
- Experts of the PR, Marketing & Communication Group held their traditional meeting in The Hague. Lobbying activities and campaigns at national level were the main topics discussed.

The Volunteer Swap which started in 2011 continued in 2019. It allows volunteers from JOIN members to learn about their sister organisations across Europe and experience the international nature of St John. The Board decided to continue funding 50% of the travel costs of the participants in the course of the year, in order to further develop the attractiveness of this flagship program.

The Annual General Meeting 2019 took place in Zurich, Switzerland. The meeting provided an excellent platform to discuss the activities of JOIN and explore new opportunities for cooperation. Johanniterhjælpen Denmark became an official member of our network and we warmly welcome them. The delegates elected a new Board and I have the honour to continue as the chair for the next two years.

My very best wishes to you all.



Johannes Bucher

VOLUNTEER SWAP 2019

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THIS YEAR

101 volunteers travelled and helped at 18 events throughout Austria, England, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Northern Ireland and Sweden.

PARTICIPANTS

8 from Johanniter Austria
40 from St John Ambulance
19 from Johanniter Germany
1 from Johanniter Finland
33 from Joannici Poland

EVENTS

Races

London Marathon
Lindingeloppet, Sweden
Robin Wood half Marathon, England
Berlin Marathon
Rantamaraton, Finland

Parades

Neuss, Cologne and Düsseldorf Carnivals
Berlin Carnival of Cultures
Parades in Northern Ireland

Sports

Ski slopes in Austria
CHIO World Equestrian Festival
Johanniter Day 2019 in Berlin
Wimbledon Tennis Tournament

Others

Southside Festival in Germany
Summer camp for disabled people in Estonia
Acute care services in Vienna
Austrian National Holiday
Austrian Neustifter Kirtag
Disability support services in Latvia

INTERESTED?

Choose an event, help as a volunteer, meet others, discover new cultures and gain experience. Visit our website for the upcoming events in 2020!

Johanniter International pays 50% of your travel costs up to 250 EUR. Accommodation and food are usually provided.

www.volunteerswap.johanniter.org

JOIN Volunteer Swap

Johanniter Day 2019 in Berlin

Berlin, Germany, 24th to 26th May 2019

Around 3,000 Johanniter volunteers and professionals gathered in Berlin for the nationwide 'Tag der Johanniter' (Johanniter Day).



► The activities included a transport-parcours.

The national competition of Johanniter Germany in first aid and emergency rescue takes place every two years. Here, the best teams from the nine federal Johanniter associations meet each other to win the title of 'Best Johanniter-Rescuers of Germany'.

The competition was hosted by Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Landesverband Berlin. 53 teams from all over Germany competed against each other on the ARENA site in Berlin-Treptow in a passionate and fair competition to find Germany's best rescue and aid teams. Guest teams from Joannici Poland and St John Ambulance Northern Ireland also participated with excellent scores.

During the competition, actors staged traffic accidents, fire and fall injuries, cuts and cardiovascular diseases for the participants to treat. Depending on their level of training, the competitors had to assess the situations correctly and provide the required care for the injured. All scenarios were professionally made up and displayed realistically by specially trained helpers. 116 referees rated the achievements and selected the winning teams of the individual categories at the end.



► Emergency Rescuers simulation.

The competition for the best rescue teams encompassed six main categories: Children between six and twelve years old; first aiders between twelve and nineteen years old; medical assistants from sixteen years old on and professional paramedics. In addition to these, two new



categories were introduced this year: first aid on children for educators and the competition for the best rescue dog team.

"The special feature of this event is that the competition not only shows our capabilities as one of the largest aid organisations in Germany but also embodies our essence and values: passionate commitment, helpfulness and readiness to help others and team spirit." - emphasised Dr Frank-Jürgen Weise, President of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe.

In the centre of the event were the 'Olympics of the rescuers', accompanied by a diverse three-day supporting program: an alumni meeting and a festive event, which celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Johanniter Youth. Another part of the programme consisted of special events on care topics, education and rescue, and a panel discussion on the future of outpatient care.



▶ St John Ambulance Northern Ireland achieved top scores.

Volunteers provide medical cover at the Wimbledon championships

London, England, 1st to 14th July 2019

Our volunteers took to the famous courts of the Wimbledon Championships over the past two weeks to make sure everyone stayed happy and healthy. The oldest tennis tournament in the world has been held at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London since 1877.

Volunteers from St John Ambulance England, as well as Johanniter Austria, provided comprehensive first aid during the two-week Championships. As tennis fans celebrate a fortnight of world-class tennis at



▶ Game of Thrones: In between hectic shifts, these two volunteers grabbed a quick rest on a chair truly fit for a champion of the courts!



Wimbledon, the volunteers were ready to treat hundreds of casualties - on and off the court. They treated people during the course of the competition and carried out transports to the hospital. Since 1988, the St John Ambulance has treated well over 37,000 people at the event.

Read the report of an English volunteer at the Southside Festival in Germany

Ravensburg, Germany, 17th to 24th July 2019

Hosted by Johanniter Germany, volunteers from St John Ambulance England and Johanniter Finland provided comprehensive first aid at the Southside Festival. The two volunteers, who both participated in the Volunteer Swap for the first time, got to know not only the structure and tasks of Johanniter Germany but also experienced a wide team spirit and discovered the area around Regensburg.

Read the report by the English volunteer Matt Wilson-Boddy:

"I had the exciting opportunity to visit our colleagues from Johanniter Germany as part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap to promote international cooperation with other branches of St John worldwide, and I cannot recommend the exchange enough.

The start of the week saw myself and Antti, another exchange volunteer from Finland exploring the area around Ravensburg in Southern Germany where we were able to tour the local ambulance stations as well as enjoy leisure activities such as tree climbing in the Alps and boating on Lake Constance. We were even able to go for a trip in the great Johanniter Unimog – a large all-terrain vehicle for extracting multiple patients from difficult situations.

In the second part of the week we were a part of the team providing medical cover for Southside Festival – south Germany's biggest music festival. It was fascinating to see Johanniter Germany in action and experience where our practices overlapped and where they diverged. Working with 450 Johanniter as well as medically-trained volunteers from Germany's 4th emergency service – the



► Ambulance station heading for patrol: Matt from St John Ambulance (left) and Antti from Johanniter Finland (right).

THW – we treated 2,687 patients over just four days. Never once did we feel like spare parts – Johanniter were happy for us to get stuck in and to help us improve our German language skills, I was even able to provide them with some additional reassurance for native English-speaking casualties!

Our hosts made us feel more than welcome, going as far as to celebrate my birthday in the first aid post after I mentioned it to a colleague. I learned many things I feel will improve my practice going forward, and I was able to share information that I have gained from St John with members of the German Johanniter- I have made many friends I hope to keep in touch with, and I hope to keep learning from.

It feels fantastic to be able to say that when I refer to my colleagues in St John, I don't just refer to the dedicated volunteers we have here in the UK, but to the thousands of volunteers worldwide."



Read the report of a German volunteer at the Espoo Rantamaraton Finland

Helsinki, Finland, 20th to 22nd September 2019

Johanniter Finland was on duty at the Rantamaraton in Espoo close to Helsinki. Three German and one English volunteer joined our Finish member and provided first aid to the runners and the spectators of the race. Read the report of Eike Hundhausen from Johanniter Germany:

"When I boarded the plane from Cologne to Munich on Friday, 20th September, I was curious about what was awaiting me the following days. Months ago I decided to register for this volunteer swap to learn more about medical service in Finland.

Pekka Rekola, the representative of Johanniter Finland, had created a volunteer WhatsApp group to disclose details about the upcoming event and I learned there were four 'Swappies' in total: Janina Grothe from Lake Constance, Regine Blaschke from Stuttgart, Ben Goldsworthy from St John Ambulance Manchester, UK and I from Bonn.



By the time Antti Elolähde, the local squad leader, picked us up at Helsinki airport, Janina and I had already exchanged our ideas about the trip during the flight from Munich to Helsinki. Soon we got to know Ben, who had arrived a few hours before and joined Antti while waiting for us. Antti took us to the beautiful home of Pekka and his wife Merja where we came together every evening for next day's itinerary and lots of delicious local food. Regine had also arrived and we enjoyed the time.

Ben stayed at Pekkas house whereas our accommodation was a romantic, lovingly decorated Finnish cottage in the woods which Janina meaningfully named 'the girl's cottage'. Unfortunately, there was no time left for either enjoying the sauna inside the cottage or exploring the



► Ben Goldsworthy from St John Ambulance Janina Grothe, Eike Hundhausen and Regine Blaschke from Johanniter Germany.

outdoor jacuzzi as we returned late in the evenings and were picked up early the next morning. If I had known before, I would have planned to stay a few days longer in this stunning landscape!

During the Espoo Marathon on Saturday, 21st September, we experienced great international teamwork. Not only when setting up tents and arranging the rescue site but also while offering medical service to the patients.

Our assistance ended early in the afternoon on Sunday, 22nd September so the whole team gathered again at the Johanniter station to clear up the equipment. On our way back to Pekka's house for a barbecue party, Merja and Antti showed us several sightseeing highlights along the way. On Monday morning, after breakfast at Pekka's house, we left for Kruunuhaka, downtown Helsinki to visit the House of Nobility. Inside the impressive building, called Ritarihuone in Finnish (House of Knights) we received a guided tour through the spectacular halls. Lunch at the famous café Ursula close to the seaside concluded our stay. Pekka, Merja and Antti did their utmost to make us feel comfortable.

At the airport, we had to say good-bye and leave our new friends behind. On the plane, I realised that volunteer swaps give an important contribution to international understanding. Thank you, Antti, Pekka and Merja for your kind hospitality throughout my stay. I hope we will meet again next year. I also would like to thank Johanniter International for giving me the opportunity to be a Swappi".

Berlin Marathon: Biggest Volunteer Swap in 2019

During the last September weekend, the Berlin Marathon took place for the forty-sixth time. Johanniter Germany



► The British-German team of cycle-responders.

secured the race of 42,195 kilometres with medical service. The colourful diversity of one of the largest and most prestigious marathons in the world was also represented by the many St John professionals and volunteers from all over Europe that came to Berlin to join their German colleagues.

"With our great team from all over Germany, but also Austria, Great Britain, Ireland and Poland, we were always able to ensure that the athletes and spectators received professional help in an emergency. I would like to say a special thanks to the many volunteers, without whom such missions would not be possible." said Thorsten Behnke, Deployment Manager of Johanniter Germany.



► The four volunteers of Johanniter Austria with David Lehmann (left).

Berlin, Germany, 27th to 29th September 2019

The teams were present everywhere during the entire Berlin Marathon to be able to intervene quickly in critical situations. Mobile and fixed first aid stations secured the track and the finish line. In addition to that, ambulance cars, motorcycles and bicycle units were on site.

Together with the with four volunteers from Austria, twenty-one volunteers from England and Ireland and nine volunteers from Poland, the helpers were ready to initiate every first aid and life-saving measure in case of a medical emergency. The Marathon was once again the biggest JOIN Volunteer Swap of the year. The cooperation with Joannici Dzieło Pomocy, Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria and St John Ambulance England has a long tradition in Berlin.



The cycle responders were members of Johanniter Berlin and St John Ambulance England. The two units signed a partnership agreement in April 2019 as part of the London Marathon and have been working closely together ever since. The cycle responders of Johanniter Berlin were also on duty at the London Marathon.

"By signing our partnership agreement, we want to take our cooperation to a new level through JOIN. We have common training and application standards and are in constant exchange to learn from each other," said Taylan Güngör, Regional Operational Cycling Lead London and South.

The Berlin Marathon is the biggest event of the year for the Johanniter in Berlin. Every year, about 500 volunteers are responsible for the medical coverage of more than 60,000 runners and inline skaters as well as about one million spectators.

Read the report of an English volunteer at the Day Care Centre in Latvia

Riga, Latvia, 16th to 22nd September 2019

Two volunteers from St John Ambulance England participated in the Volunteer Swap in Riga and experienced a week at the Day Care Centre led by our Latvian member Sveta Jana Palidziba. At the centre, employees as well as volunteers care for elderly people with dementia, play games and improve their self-competences. Read the report of Lyn Hunter who travelled to Latvia with Dave Hunter.

"My colleague Dave and I participated in the Volunteer Swap in Latvia because we are both retired nurses with many years of experience in St John Ambulance and a keen interest in the wider work of St John. I have already volunteered for the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital but for Dave this was his first trip abroad for St John Ambulance.

Melanija Grundšteina, the Director of St John in Latvia, met us in Riga and took us to our hotel for the week. The next day we were met by Maris Sirmulis, the Manager of the Day Care Unit in Northern Riga where we were going to work.

The Care Centre is a nice building in the old Russian Quarter of Riga where daycare is provided to 25 elderly men and women, aged from 65 to 97. The Centre opens daily Monday to Friday and the staff provides meals, social activities, health-related exercise classes, arts

and crafts and social contact for the clients. During our week's stay, Dave conducted exercise sessions related to the activities of daily living, that were great fun for the participants. In preparation for a client's 70th birthday, I held a baking session with the residents where we made iced and fruit buns and a salad.

At the request of the staff, Dave and I held a very basic first aid session for the clients, covering choking and control of bleeding. We had planned more but the content had to be translated into Latvian, Russian and German, which was a time-consuming process. When the week came to an end, we exchanged gifts and Thank You cards, translated into Latvian and Russian. We returned to UK after taking a little time out for sightseeing.

The whole experience for us was one of great pleasure, we met wonderful people and worked with dedicated St John Members who provide, not first aid, but social care in their communities.

St John Latvia is only eighteen years old and they run Day Care centres for Dementia Care, Alzheimers, Stroke and Elderly care. They do a fantastic job and provide much-needed care in a country where such care is not available.

Thank you Johanniter International, for the opportunity to undertake this placement."

Volunteer from St John Ambulance at acute care service in Vienna

Vienna, Austria, 2nd to 16th September 2019

The acute care service of Johanniter in Vienna welcomed their colleague Rebecca Fregene from Manchester to practical training as part of the JOIN Volunteer Swap. She is currently studying at Bangor University to become a nurse. For the duration of the training, Rebecca was part of a team of professionals and volunteers providing both patient transport and acute care situations.

Rebecca is a volunteer at St John Ambulance in England and Wales where she is active as a first responder. During the training in the Austrian nursing service, the apprentices learn techniques of care and mobilisation, as well as body care on the patient and perform prophylactic care measures. They support the patient's diet and perform a medical examination under the guidance of a certified health and nursing staff member. Rebecca's duties include participation in diagnostic and therapeutic measures.

The St John Ambulance volunteer stayed with the acute care service in Vienna September for the two-week training.



▶ Rebecca from St John Ambulance (third from the right) with her colleagues from Vienna.

Selected Activities 2019

Johanniter International launches European First Aid Guidelines

Brussels, 4th December 2019

For the very first time, a set of common European-wide First Aid Guidelines is available to the public. The JOIN Guidelines promote the importance of First Aid in daily situations at home, at work and in daily life.



► From left to right: Dr Vincenzo Costigliola (President of the European Medical Association), Prof Ian Greaves (Chair of the JOIN Clinical Working Group) and Johannes Bucher (JOIN Chairman).

Developed by an international team of experts, who form the JOIN Clinical Working Group, the Guidelines can be used as a basis for setting up a European wide framework for First Aid and are designed to apply in every European country. They also provide a solution to some cross-border health issues and will help to foster international cooperation.

The JOIN Guidelines are intended for First Aiders, the general public, as well as health professionals and are available to all users for free.

We believe that promoting First Aid is to the benefit of all of us as the skills can really save a life. Our Clinical Working Group has worked hard to create these Guidelines and should be congratulated for their efforts," said Johannes Bucher, Chairman of JOIN.

The JOIN Guidelines are available in fourteen European languages: Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Polish, Spanish, Swedish, and also Arabic.



► The JOIN European First Aid Guidelines are available online in 15 languages.



► Prof Ian Greaves announces the continuous updating of the European First Aid Guidelines.

For free download of JOIN European First Aid Guidelines, go to:

www.firstaidjoin.org

JOIN at the final conference of the BICAS project

Leipzig, Germany, 29th August 2019



► The consortium of the BICAS project at the final conference in Leipzig with Georg Aumayr (JOIN Office; second from the right).

BICAS is a project about intercultural communication and competencies for paramedics and ambulance coordinated by the German Johanniter Akademie Bildungsinstitut Mitteldeutschland. Among the partnering organisations was Johanniter Austria, which contributed to the research and eLearning development of the project. The collaboration of the consortium of BICAS condensed three years of intensive work in an application, an eLearning course and a handbook for the integration of the course modules in regular training and education of paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

Johanniter International is proud to have supported the project with translations of the content for the final application thanks to the involvement of its member organisations. This smartphone-app is now available for free to support quick and efficient communication between paramedics and patients from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds in emergency situations.

Georg Aumayr, Head of Research for JOIN, attended the meeting to get an impression about the final status of the application and the course material.

The education material is available in English, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish at the BICAS website: <http://bicas-online.eu/>

With the developed app it is now possible to communicate in Arabic, English, Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Spanish and Swedish.

Congratulations to the BICAS-Team!

JOIN Board members at Installation Ceremony of new Lord Prior

London, England, 19th September 2019

A special ceremony, held once every three years, took place at the Priory Church of St John in Clerkenwell, London. This important event saw the installation of a new Lord Prior, Professor Mark Compton, and the Investiture and Reception of a Dame Grand Cross and of Dames and Knights from Priors, Commanderies and St John Associations around the world.

The installation and investiture were presided over by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of The Most Venerable Order of St John, and was attended by many guests and dignitaries including JOIN Chairman Johannes Bucher, JOIN Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson and JOIN Board member Mark Broughton.



► Professor Mark Compton (on the left) at his Installation Ceremony.

The Lord Prior, who is appointed for a three-year term, is the most senior non-Royal member of the Order of St John and also acts as Chair of Trustees of the Order. The new Lord Prior, Professor Compton, has volunteered for

the Order of St John and St John Ambulance Australia for more than 45 years, stepping down this year as national chair and Chancellor of the Order of St John in Australia.

Those invested as Dames and Knights included our former JOIN Chairman Colonel Ian Mackenzie, who was invested as a Knight of Grace for service to St John in the County of Northumbria, and for support to the St John Ambulance Bands.

The new Lord Prior received a warm welcome from Patrick Burgess, Chancellor of the Order of St John, who said "Under Mark's leadership, the Order of the Crown, can look forward to a bright future adapting its medical offer to meet the needs of

the local population in over 30 countries." The Chancellor also congratulated the postulants from many countries who were invested on the day and thanked them for their voluntary work towards fulfilling the aims of the Order.

JOIN members at SJA Volunteering Forum in London

London, England, 5th October 2019

More than 140 St John leaders swept into London for a packed schedule of workshops and debate at the bi-annual 'National Volunteer Leadership Forum' of St John Ambulance England. Representatives of the JOIN Volunteering & Youth Working Group, that had met the day before, attended the event and made numerous contacts with volunteers of our English member.

To kick off the day, a series of questions were addressed to the SJA Executive Leadership Team covering a wide range of volunteer concerns and dug into the new strategy. This was followed by a presentation of the JOIN Volunteer Swap program by Mark Broughton, JOIN Board member. St John delegates then attended different workshops covering a broad range of volunteer-based topics and areas of expertise.



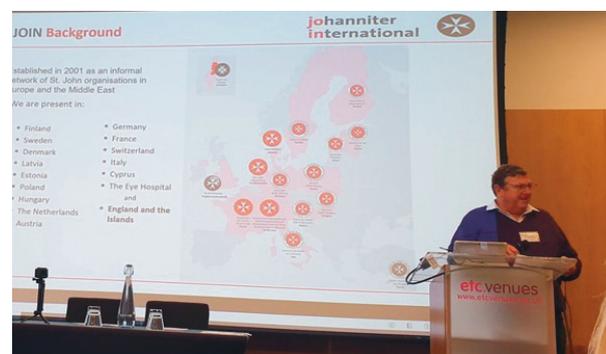
► From left to right: Mark Broughton (JOIN Board member), Frederik Siemssen and Maibritt Zuschke (both Johanniterhjaelpen Denmark), Dr Robert Brandstetter (Johanniter Austria), Katinka Kersting (Johanniter Nederland), Zsafia Porcsalmy (Johannita Segítő Szolgálat), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office).

Throughout the day, delegates gathered and networked at the busy marketplace, packed with information stands. The JOIN Office had its own stand providing information and material on the JOIN family in general and on the Volunteer Swap in particular.



► Joachim Berney (JOIN Office) representing Johanniter International with a stand.

The Forum ended with inspiring speeches that outlined the plans to change public perception, in order to develop greater awareness of St John's work serving communities. Finally, SJA Chief Executive, Martin Houghton-Brown, closed the day with a stirring speech that explained how St John will meet the demands of delivering its bold new strategy while staying within its means.



► JOIN Board member Mark Broughton presenting the JOIN Volunteer Swap.

Johanniter International Assistance in Kenya to help people affected by heavy floods

Kenya, 31st October 2019

After a months-long drought, heavy rain set in early October in wide parts of Kenya due to the climate phenomenon El Niño resulting in heavy flooding, landslides and mudslides. German aid organisations were coordinating relief efforts for those affected.

„The dried-up soil cannot absorb the masses of water, causing floods that tear away housing, livestock and the few crops on the fields," said Philippe Carette, County Office Manager of Johanniter International Assistance in Kenya.

3.1 million people in Kenya were already suffering from a severe food shortage. According to Kenyan and international experts, November may be the worst month in years for East Africa. The reason is the difference in water temperature in the western and eastern Indian Ocean of up to two degrees. More water evaporates and heavy rain fronts can form in the process.

Thousands of people in northern Kenya were already weakened by a long drought and reliant on food aid. To explore their specific needs, Johanniter International Assistance, together with Malteser International and other German aid organizations, had already carried out a survey of the situation in northern Kenya in the summer. „Our surveys show that access to adequate food for people has worsened significantly due to the absent rain periods this year and the previous year. The current

rain makes the situation worse. The result is a further increase in malnutrition, especially in children under the age of five. It also increases the risk of diseases such as cholera or hepatitis due to the standing water," - Martin Schömburg, Country Office Manager for Malteser International in Kenya.



► Northwestern Kenya has been affected most by floods and landslides.

To improve the situation for the local people, Johanniter International Assistance and Malteser International supported those affected. In Turkana Johanniter International Assistance distributed food such as corn, beans, oil and salt to the population. At two schools in the refugee camp in Kakuma, students received meals and water tanks supply the inhabitants of the region with clean water. Through local partners, the aid organisations ensured the operation of strategic wells for clean drinking water supply and distributed supplementary food to children and pregnant women.

World Diabetes Day 2019

Jerusalem, 14th November 2019

World Diabetes Day marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting who co-discovered insulin in 1921. Diabetes is one of the major health and development challenges of the 21st century. It is an incurable, costly, increasing but largely preventable disease affecting people of all ages.

One of our JOIN members, the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, has been making enormous efforts to tackle the growing diabetes epidemic across the Palestinian territories. In 2019 the St John Eye Hospital has concluded a year-long Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness in the Palestinian territories, for people aged over 50. The report showed that rates of the condition 'Diabetic Retinopathy' are growing as the rates of diabetes increase. Diabetic retinopathy is also known as diabetic eye disease: a medical condition in which the retina is damaged. The 2019 study found that Diabetic Retinopathy was one of the main causes of avoidable blindness in the area, causing almost one in four of all cases.

"The results of this year's study prove that rates of diabetic retinopathy are growing alongside the increasing rates of diabetes across the Palestinian territories. Luckily, we have been developing robust diabetic retinopathy research, training and screening service, so we are already off to a strong start in tackling the condition. What is necessary now is further investment across all levels to ensure this epidemic with the best possible resources we can gather" said Dr Nahed Mikki, Project manager and Head of the campaign to fight Diabetic Retinopathy.

The St John Eye Hospital has screened over 60,000 patients for the condition in specific diabetic retinopathy-focussed projects. These efforts are complemented by their screening services offered in mobile outreach teams, hospitals and clinics. The priority is put on education to catch the condition early. The Hospital aims to educate both, primary health care providers and those living with diabetes on how to monitor the condition.

Newsflash

European Parliament adopts 'RescEU'

On 12th February, the European Parliament formally adopted new plans to strengthen Europe's ability to deal with natural disasters. They consist in establishing an EU response reserve of civil protection assets called 'RescEU' to assist Member States, when national capacities are overwhelmed. The law also sets up, upon Parliament's request, a RescEU reserve of resources, such as forest fire-fighting planes, high-capacity pumps, field hospitals and emergency medical teams. On 21st March, the proposal entered into force.

JOIN members show solidarity with the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

In September, the US Government made a wide range of cuts to Palestinian funding, which has directly and indirectly affected our JOIN member from Jerusalem. In response to the cuts, the St John Eye Hospital urged the wider St John family and the international community to help them once more to continue their vital mission. The message was well understood by the JOIN network: Johanniter from Austria and from Switzerland and The Order of St John in The Netherlands have committed to providing financial support to the St John Eye Hospital.

JOIN Chairman in Jerusalem

On 4th September, Ahmad Ma'ali, CEO of the St John Eye Hospital, welcomed our JOIN Chairman in Jerusalem. The hospital has a special significance to all St John people because of its location at the birthplace of the historic Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem



founded in the 11th century. The members referred to themselves as 'Knights of St John'. Their hospital provided free-of-charge care to patients of all faiths, which was a revolutionary approach to charity at the time. The hospital today is the only charitable provider of eye care in the Palestinian territories.

Video on Johanniter International

We are proud to present a short video of JOIN and our members to the broad public. The three minute video introduces the partnership of Johanniter International, shows our joint achievements and illustrates our members' nine main fields of activity: First Aid, Ambulance Services, Hospitals, Youth Work, Elderly Care, Care for people with disabilities, Care for people in need and International Humanitarian Aid. Watch the video on our YouTube Channel (<https://tinyurl.com/johanniter-international>). If you are interested in editing the video for your purposes and channels please contact join.office@johanniter.org.

EU Commissioner visits EU civil protection exercise led by Johanniter Germany

From 4th to 5th November, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Christos Stylianides, joined the EU Modular Exercise (MODEX) in Lisbon with a small delegation. The team of Johanniter Germany welcomed the opportunity to also thank the



Commissioner for his personal commitment to support the disaster relief procedures within the Union and RescEU, the future EU's collective response to natural disasters. With 219 participants from five countries, this MODEX in Portugal was the biggest EU Urban Search and Rescue Exercise ever.



Selected Meetings 2019

JOIN Annual General Meeting 2019

Zurich, Switzerland, 10th to 12th May 2019

The JOIN Annual General Meeting 2019 was hosted by our Swiss member. Thirty-four delegates – a record for an AGM – from St John enterprises across Europe met in the city of Zurich to discuss a wide spectrum of topics.

The first day began with our Chairman, Johannes Bucher, outlining the activities of the Board and the network over the past twelve months, followed by comprehensive financial information by our Vice-Chairman, Christian Velten-Jameson. All delegates warmly approved the application of Johanniterhjaelpen Denmark to become a member of Johanniter International. The delegates also unanimously approved an amendment to the Article of Association creating the status of 'Associated Member'. This new tool is aimed to attract St John organisations which are currently not members of the JOIN network.

This was followed by presentations of the working groups providing more information about their activities and discussions. The Head of the Clinical Group (Prof Ian Greaves, St John Ambulance) reported on the completion of the JOIN European First Aid Guidelines. This constitutes a major achievement as it is the first time that First Aid Standards are successfully drafted at European level.

The Head of the PR, Marketing & Communication Group (Dr Robert Brandstetter, Johanniter Austria) highlighted the cooperation within the JOIN network regarding campaigns, lobbying activities and harmonisation of the members' logos. Areas covered included the outcomes of the Volunteering & Youth Group (Mark Farmer, St John Ambulance) and the remarkable growth of the Volunteer Swap program in the last eighteen months.



► From left to right

First row: Jan Willem Storm van 's Gravesande (Johanniter Orde), Peter Khoury (Jerusalem), Zsófia Porcsalmy (Hungary), Mark Farmer (England), Hubertus von Puttkamer (Germany), Maibritt Zuschke (Denmark), Harm-Bastian Harms (Germany), Melanija Grundšteina (Latvia), Sir Malcolm Ross (Most Venerable Order of St John), Lidwien van der Reep (The Netherlands), Christian Velten-Jameson (France), Prof Graziella Kainich (Italy), Alexander von Korff (Johanniterorden), Johannes Bucher (Austria), Ralph Rocktäschel (Italy), Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland), Dr Davide Laetzsch (Italy), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Birte Hilbert (Germany).

Second row: Dr Ahmad Maali (Jerusalem), Dr Sarah Vecchione (Italy), Prof Ian Greaves (England), Frederik Siemssen (Denmark), Dr. Andreas Tanos (Cyprus), Mark Broughton (England), Stephan Beschle (The Most Venerable Order of St John), Dr Grzegorz Giemza, Eric von Troil (Finland), Pontus Hedberg (Sweden), Lars af Hällström (Finland).

Not in the picture: Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria), Dr Daniel Gutscher (Switzerland), Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office), Sarah Duthie (England), Nils Schröder (Germany), Julian Jungjohann (Germany).



▶ JOIN Chairman Johannes Bucher.

Furthermore, the delegates discussed the opportunity to create the now existing Fundraising Group.

Nils Schröder (German Johanniter-Youth) presented the project proposal on 'First Aid in School' that encompasses ten JOIN organisations committed to implementing training for first aiders in schools throughout Europe. This was followed by an interesting insight of Harm-Bastian Harms (Johanniter Germany) into European Emergency response projects. Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office) showed the JOIN video presenting Johanniter International and the work of its member organisations.



▶ From left to right: Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland), Sir Malcolm Ross (The Most Venerable Order of St John), Mark Broughton (England), Christian Velten-Jameson (France), Johannes Bucher (Austria), Alexander von Korff (Johanniterorden), Eric von Troil (Finland), Hubertus von Puttkamer (Germany), Dr Daniel Gutscher (Switzerland).

On the second day, the delegates outlined the general activities of their charity over the past twelve months. The work of the Brussels Office was presented by Joachim Berney, our General Manager, emphasising its focus on networking as well as EU funding opportunities. Detailed presentations followed on JOIN's EU-funded projects SecureHospitals, EUinAid and iProcureSecurity.

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 new elected JOIN Board 2019-2021.

From left to right: JOIN Chairman Johannes Bucher, Mark Broughton, Hubertus von Puttkamer, JOIN Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson, Lidwien van der Reep.

Our current Chairman Johannes Bucher (Johanniter Austria) and Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Oeuvres de Saint-Jean France) were re-elected for the next two years in the Board. The other Board members elected were Mark Broughton (St John Ambulance), Hubertus von Puttkamer (Johanniter Germany) and Lidwien van der Reep (Johanniter Nederland). Eric von Troil (Johanniter Finland) was thanked for the four years he dedicated as Board member.

The AGM 2020 will be hosted by St John Association and Brigade Cyprus in October.

JOIN Clinical Working Group releases European First Aid Guidelines

The JOIN Clinical Working Group finalised in 2019 the JOIN European First Aid Guidelines and will continue to work on a follow-up project. Their commitment to creating the very first common European Guidelines for first aiders reaches back to 2018 when the members of the JOIN Clinical Working Group decided to tackle cross-border health issues and help improve international cooperation among first aiders and organisations.



► Vienna, Austria, 19th to 21st February 2019
From left to right: Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Dr Andreas Tanos (Cyprus), Dr Davide Laetzsch (Italy), Dr Henrik Antell (Finland), Dr Sarah Vecchione (Italy), Chairman Prof Ian Greaves (England) and Dr Rainer Thell (Austria). Not in the picture: Dr Jorg Oberfeld (Germany), Judith Musallam (Jerusalem) and Dr Harvey Pynn (UK).

Delegates from Austria, Cyprus, England, Finland, Germany, Italy, Jerusalem and Poland met three times in the course of 2019. They came together in Vienna in February to review the content of the draft that has been compiled, discussed and refined for the last nine months. A second meeting took place in Zurich in May just before JOIN's AGM (see page 16). Each section of the Guidelines was further discussed, amended and finetuned and an agreement on the very final content was found. Finally, the Clinical Working Group met in Brussels in December to finalise the preparation of the Launching event of the JOIN European First Aid Guidelines. This constitutes a major achievement following two years of hard work and compromises.

With the official launching of the Guidelines on 4th December 2019 in Brussels (see page 11), the project reached its main achievement, but not the end. The Guidelines will be continuously updated and translated into even more languages. They are available for free download in currently 15 languages on www.firstaidjoin.org



► Zurich, Switzerland, 8th to 10th May
From left to right: Dr Davide Laetzsch (Italy), Dr Andreas Tanos (Cyprus), Dr Paul Hunt (United Kingdom), Dr Rainer Thell (Austria), Prof Ian Greaves (England), Dr Owen Williams (United Kingdom) and Dr Sarah Vecchione (Italy).
Not in the picture: Dr Henrik Antell (Finland) and Mrs Judith Musallam (Jerusalem).

Building on their success, the Clinical Working Group focused on a new project and started drafting European-wide First Aid Standards for Schools. The working group defined Four First Aid stages related to the age range of the children were defined during the last meeting. The emphasis of the training content was then discussed in accordance with the different levels.



► Brussels, Belgium, 2nd to 4th December
From left to right: Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Richard Webber (England), Chair of the Clinical Working Group Prof Ian Greaves (England), Dr Paul Hunt (United Kingdom), Dr Owen Williams (United Kingdom), Ryszard Stykowski (Poland), Dr Andreas Tanos (Cyprus), Nils Schröder (Germany), Dr Henrik Antell (Finland).

The Clinical Working Group will continue its work during 2020.

JOIN Board meeting in The Hague

The members of the JOIN Board met in The Hague for a regular Board meeting.

As first point of the agenda, the creation of a new status of JOIN 'Associated member' was approved, aiming to attract St John organisations which are currently not a member of the JOIN network. This was followed by comprehensive financial information by our Vice-Chairman.

The JOIN Office gave feedback on the working groups' activities, and notably the drafting of European First Aid Guidelines by the Clinical Working Group. The European project proposal recently submitted on 'First Aid in School' and involving ten JOIN members was also presented. Concerning the Volunteer Swap 2019, dozens of St John volunteers already expressed their interest to participate in one or another swap.

The Hague, The Netherlands, 27th March 2019

Moreover, a verbal report was provided on the implementation of the SecureHospitals and the EUinAid European-funded projects. Finally, the JOIN Board started preparing the AGM 2019 in Zurich.



► From left to right: Hubertus von Puttkamer (Germany), Mark Broughton (England), JOIN Chairman Johannes Bucher (Austria), JOIN Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (France), Eric von Troil (Finland) and Joachim Berney (JOIN Office).

JOIN PR Marketing & Communications Group meets in The Hague

The Hague, The Netherlands, 28th to 29th March 2019

The JOIN PR Marketing and Communication Group came together in The Hague for their annual face-to-face meeting. With two new members from Johanniter Denmark and St John Ambulance as well as a visit from Board Members Johannes Bucher (Johanniter Austria) and Mark Broughton (St John Ambulance England) the meeting took place at the office of Johanniter Nederland.

The day began with the review of the JOIN-Guidelines and Documents for Public Relations, which were discussed and agreed to be amended according to recent developments. The drafting of European First Aid Guidelines by the Clinical WG was also presented and discussed regarding the branding, layout and pictorial editing.

Johanniter Germany gave an overview of their Common policy lobbying at the European Parliament

and Commission as well as their public consultations evaluations.

After Johanniter Germany presented the political communication on day care facility for children (Kindergarten) in Germany, Johanniter Austria reported on their lobbying activities concerning patient transport in Vienna.

Additionally, Johanniter Germany showcased their Brand strategy as well as their new Intranet "4-JUH" which was launched successfully in September 2018.

The second day of the Meeting was devoted to the discussion of recent developments, new programmes and the presentation of social media campaigns and actions of all attending partners.

Johanniter International presented the communication concerning the Volunteer Swap 2019, its new merchandising and discussed the JOIN Annual Review 2018 and social media activities with the group.



► From left to right: Stephan Beschle (The Most Venerable Order of St John), Therese Raatz (Germany), Hannah Marsh (England), Marie-Claire Boyle (Jerusalem), Katinka Kersting (The Netherlands), Birte Hilbert (Germany), Eva Pelgen (JOIN Office), Joachim Berney (JOIN Office), Christina Stark (Austria), Mark Broughton (England), Frederik Siemssen (Denmark), Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria) and Lidwien van der Reep (The Netherlands).

Very first meeting of the JOIN Fundraising Group in Brussels

Brussels, Belgium, 2nd to 3rd October 2019

The newly created JOIN Fundraising Working Group came together in Brussels for its very first meeting. Representatives from Austria, Denmark, England, Jerusalem, Latvia, The Netherlands, the Order of St John, Sweden, Switzerland and the JOIN Board met at the JOIN Office. As a significant budget share of many JOIN members relies on fundraising, it was decided at the Annual General Meeting 2019 to establish a new working group in this field of cooperation.

The day began with a presentation of each member organisation on their fundraising activities. This was followed by a discussion on fundraising needs and main planned projects to be funded. All existing fundraising techniques were reviewed, and their relevance assessed according to the objectives, capacities and domestic context of each JOIN member.

The second day of the meeting saw participants discussing how to achieve bilateral and multilateral partnerships. It was agreed that the working group will aim to share knowledge, experience and best practices on Fundraising, grant management and other related topics. Practical work on common opportunities, such as grants, will happen on a case-by-case basis.

We are looking forward to successful work on fundraising cooperation and new possibilities. All JOIN members are kindly invited to become part of the new Fundraising Working Group to share experiences and exchange practices.



► From left to right: Melanija Grundšteina (Latvia), David Dahdal (Jerusalem), Thomas Vorwerk (Switzerland), Darren Luff (England), Rebecca Mauger (England), Charlotta Sjöberg (Sweden), Stephan Beschle (The Most Venerable Order of St John), Johannes Bucher (Austria), Frederik Siemssen (Denmark), Georgette Enthoven (The Netherlands), Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria).

JOIN Volunteering & Youth Group meets in London

London, England, 4th October 2019

The JOIN Volunteering & Youth Working Group met in the British capital for a face-to-face meeting. Representatives from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, the JOIN Board and the JOIN Office were hosted by St John Ambulance England.



► From left to right: Tony Gibney (England), Nancy Kestler (Germany), Zsafia Porcsalmy (Hungary), Mark Broughton (JOIN Board member), Maibritt Zuschke (Denmark), Frederik Siemssen (Denmark), Katinka Kersting (The Netherlands), Dr Robert Brandstetter (Austria).

The day began with an open discussion on the values that every JOIN member is sharing. Supported by more than 100,000 volunteers, our member organisations serve humanity with social and medical services that are open to everyone. This was followed by a presentation of each participant on the methods of recruitment of volunteers at national level.

Furthermore, the JOIN Office prepared a detailed presentation on the Volunteer Swap program, including statistics on past and current opportunities, number of participants and possible improvements.

Finally, the working group agreed to intensify exchanges by regularly meeting online. It was also decided to discuss the topic Youth during the next online call together with Youth officers, with the final aim to develop a sense of belonging to the JOIN family within all volunteers and young people.

JOIN Board meeting in Brussels

Brussels, Belgium, 3rd December 2019

All members of the JOIN Board came together in Brussels for a regular Board meeting.

The day began with our Chairman reporting that St John Malta applied to become a member of Johanniter International. This application was enthusiastically agreed by the Board and will be submitted to the next AGM in May. This was followed by a short report on the Alliance Orders meeting held in Potsdam a few weeks ago. Our Vice-Chairman provided comprehensive financial information. Moreover, the Board finalised the preparation of the Launching event of JOIN European First Aid Guidelines.

The JOIN Office gave feedback on the working groups' activities, including the very first face-to-face meeting of the newly created Fundraising Group and the meeting in London of the Volunteering & Youth group. Concerning the Volunteer Swap, 101 St John volunteers already participated in the program this year. In the field of communication, the board watched the new video presenting Johanniter International.



► From left to right: Hubertus von Puttkamer (Johanniter Germany), Mark Broughton (St John Ambulance England), Lidwien van der Reep (Johanniter Nederland), JOIN Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Œuvres de Saint-Jean), JOIN Chairman Johannes Bucher (Johanniter Austria).

European-funded projects

iProcureSecurity

Since May, Johanniter International works within a consortium of ten organisations across Europe that brings together research on medical emergencies, experiences from field operations, expertise in procurement and assessments of societal aspects.

Medical Emergency Teams (METs) represent the key component of the Emergency Medical Services Systems (EMSS) across Europe. However, for various reasons, EMTs show significant differences in their composition, employment standards and deployment capabilities. This and other challenges such as climate change, terrorism and natural disasters are calling for closer cooperation of public safety and health authorities on a European and international level.

Consequently, iProcureSecurity seeks to intensify cross-border collaboration between practitioners and foster operational, procedural and technical standardisation among the various EMSS across Europe. The project delivers technical requirements for the development of innovative products and solutions in the Emergency Medical Services field and enables production organisations and service suppliers to participate on an equal footing in the Pre-Commercial Procurement phase.

iProcureSecurity creates a Pan-European Network of practitioners, and any other relevant stakeholders from the EMS sector to identify the capability gaps between the different EMSS across Europe, assess the innovation needs and deliver technical requirements that can act as ready-to-use tender documents for the Pre-Commercial Procurement action. Finally, it creates a sustainable network that runs beyond the scope of the project.



The role of Johanniter International is to create a networking and engagement strategy aiming to involve all stakeholders in the field of medical emergency services, leading them to engage in a knowledge exchange process. Furthermore, the JOIN Office has established strong synergies among existing networks and research projects to create a sustainable environment for knowledge exchange. In this regard, Johanniter International is trying to involve as many of its member associations as possible, beside Johanniter Austria, through the establishment of an Expert and Advisory Board.

The project started on 1st May 2019 and runs for twenty months. iProcureSecurity is funded by the European Commission under the program Horizon 2020, the most significant EU Research & Innovation initiative. Specifically, the project responds to the EU's call for 'Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens'.



Developments during 2019 in the European Projects EUinAid and SecureHospitals.eu

In addition to iProcureSecurity, JOIN is engaged in two other European Projects running since 2018: EUinAid and SecureHospitals.eu.



EUinAid is an Erasmus+ project aiming to improve skills and competences of young people from 18 to 25, especially those who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and youth workers in the field of Health Assistance. Within this project, the JOIN Office works together with our members Johanniter Austria, Hungary and Italy as well as three other humanitarian



► Participants in the mobility scheme examine ambulance equipment in Turin

and educational organisations to implement a novel approach to involve youth in First Aid. The project directs at developing and testing an innovative cross-border approach to First Aid practice and training at EU level. It fosters the assessment of transversal skills and supports the validation of non-formal learning and its permeability with formal education pathways.

Entering project month 13 in December 2019 the first phase of the mobility scheme for EUinAid was prepared throughout the year. Groups of young people affiliated with the consortium partners were recruited to travel to Turin, Italy in the coming year to engage in First Aid



► The Consortium of the project EUinAid in front of the headquarters of S.O.G.IT Settimo Torinese.

courses as part of a youth exchange hosted by our Italian member S.O.G.IT Settimo Torinese. This will be followed by training offered by our Austrian member Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Vienna.



The **SecureHospitals.eu** project is a Horizon 2020 project aimed at raising awareness on cybersecurity in hospitals and developing high-quality training supported by e-approaches to minimise the risk of cyber-attacks against healthcare facilities.

The creation of an online information hub enabled the community to overview and share knowledge and resources, that are being used to create training via a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), local on-site workshops webinars in a blended approach. Johanniter International created the project's training strategy which is being implemented and organises the Summer School on Cybersecurity in Hospitals which will take place in June 2020 in Vienna.



► The Consortium of SecureHospitals.eu on their face-to-face meeting in Vienna.

JOIN's Work in 2019

The JOIN Board

The JOIN Board is made up of representatives from JOIN member organisations and is elected by the General Assembly 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 Johannes Bucher (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria), Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Oeuvres de

Saint-Jean, France), Hubertus von Puttkamer (Johanniter Germany), Mark Broughton (St John Ambulance England) and Lidwien van der Reep (Johanniter Nederland).

The Board meets regularly at face-to-face meetings and holds conference calls. In 2019, apart from meeting one day before the AGM, the Board held one meeting in The Hague in March, another in Brussels last December.

The term of the current board ends at the Annual General Meeting in May 2021.

Working Groups in 2019

Given the aim of JOIN to derive benefits for its members from increased exchange and cooperation, the working groups are one of the most important 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 and telephone conferences ensure close exchange between the working group members.

In 2019, four working groups were operative within JOIN.

Clinical Working Group

In 2019, the JOIN Clinical Working Group made a dream come true by publishing the very first European-wide First Aid Guidelines (see page 11). They are available to all users for free in fifteen languages, and can be downloaded on www.firstaidjoin.org

The Clinical Group has been headed for the last three years by Prof Ian Greaves, Chief Medical Officer of St

John Ambulance England. 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 2019, the working group met three times in Vienna, in Zurich and in Brussels to finish the content of the very first European First Aid Guidelines. For more details on these face-to-face meetings, please see page 18.

PR, Marketing & Communication Working Group

This working group, headed by Dr Robert Brandstetter (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria), deals with all issues concerning JOIN's press work, the website, publications as well as corporate identity (CI) and corporate design (CD). In the past, for example, it developed the JOIN logo and helped develop brochures on JOIN activities. The main purpose of the group lies in sharing experiences, best practices and know-how on related topics.

In 2019, the working group met in The Hague. For more details on this face-to-face meeting, please see page 19.

Volunteering & Youth Working Group

This working group is currently headed by Tony Gibney (St John Ambulance England) and is responsible for volunteer exchanges between JOIN members and the Volunteer Swap. These activities enrich the individual volunteering experience, enhance cooperation and understanding between the members and enable JOIN members to work together in an efficient and practical way. Moreover, the working group deals with all other issues regarding

volunteering such as legal guidelines and recruitment of volunteers. It also discusses common interests in JOIN member's youth activities such as summer camps, first aid trainings and competitions, youth exchanges, etc.

In 2019, the Volunteering & Youth Group met in London and attended the St John Volunteering Forum (see page 20). It was also decisive in organising all activities related to the JOIN Volunteer Swap (see pages 4 - 10).

Fundraising Working Group

Motivated by positive cooperation examples in the past - common fundraising for natural disasters, financial

support to JOIN members in temporary difficulty -, the delegates of the AGM 2019 decided to create a Fundraising Working Group (see page 17). This new group exchanges best practice 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 fundraising departments of JOIN members and is headed by David Dahdal from the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group.

In October 2019, the working group met in Brussels for its very first face-to-face meeting (see page 20).

The JOIN Secretariat in 2019

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 first hand 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, by running an informative website and social networks and by replying to enquiries on European matters put forward by JOIN's members. Furthermore, the JOIN Office identifies relevant EU funding opportunities for its members.

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

One of the main focuses of the JOIN Secretariat for the year 2019 was the management of the Volunteer Swap programme. Information about available swaps are regularly updated on the JOIN website together with basic practical information about work content, travel, accommodation and contact persons. The Secretariat was also in contact with every participants of the programme in order to fund 50% of their travel costs.

Another significant influence on the work agenda of the JOIN Secretariat in 2019 was the participation in the European projects EUinAid, SecureHospitals.eu and iProcureSecurity, as highlighted on pages 22 and 23.

Furthermore, the JOIN Secretariat participated in the

drafting of four other European project proposals, usually involving other JOIN members. The first project, called 'First Aid for Europe' and involving ten JOIN members, aimed to train young people and specialists to implement First Aid in Schools across Europe. The second project, called 'IncludeMe', was about better including the members of marginalised and vulnerable communities, in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. The third project, called 'CySecTools4HCO', had the goal to strengthen the cybersecurity capabilities of Healthcare organisations across Europe. The fourth project, called 'Actwell', aimed to review, develop and validate nudge actions for practitioners to be used during collective threat situations.

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 meetings at European level, for instance in the areas of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, civil protection, care, research and innovation.

In the end of 2019, Elsa Pacella joined the Brussels Secretariat. She has a Master's Degree in International Relations and Eastern European Studies from the University of Bologna and the Corvinus University of Budapest. Besides her professional experience for different NGOs in the field of democracy support, migration and at the European Parliament in the Foreign Affairs Section, Elsa Pacella also volunteered for various local associations in Italy. She will implement the iProcureSecurity project, assist JOIN members with the writing of proposals and support administration, as well as work on a daily basis with Joachim Berney, Eva Pelgen and Georg Aumayr on JOIN matters.

Perspectives on 2020

In 2020, 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 further expand following an eventful year in 2019. The JOIN Office will play a central role by facilitating exchanges, attracting more volunteers and managing the reimbursements of travel costs. First swap opportunities for 2020 are already being offered.

Furthermore, promoting EU funding opportunities will stay a priority. The JOIN Office will explore the possibility of preparing European project proposals involving a broad range of JOIN members. The newly created JOIN Fundraising Working Group could play a key role to this purpose. Regarding research consortia, JOIN wishes to

bring its members closer to innovative, cutting-edge research in various relevant service areas. Additionally, the JOIN Office will be committed to fully fulfil and implement its tasks under the SecureHospitals.eu, the EUinAid and the iProcureSecurity projects.

Following the publication of the very first European First Aid Guidelines, the JOIN Office will seek to promote its dissemination at a high international level. Furthermore, the Clinical Working Group will be meeting several times in the course of 2020 to complete the drafting of European First Aid Standards for Schools.

Finally, JOIN wishes to further expand its network in 2020 and will aim to welcome new member organisations.

The Annual General Meeting in 2020 will be hosted by our member from Cyprus and will take place in Limassol in October.

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4 - Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany; 5 - Johanniter International; 6 - Johannita Segitö Szolgalat Hungary
7 - St John Ambulance England; 8 - Johanniter International Assistance; 9 - Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany

p. 4 (top to bottom) - Johanniter Germany - Johannita Segitö Szolgalat - Johanniter Germany regional branch of Berlin - Johanniter regional branch of Berlin - Johanniter Austria; **p. 5** all 3 pictures: Johanniter Germany; **p. 6** - Johanniter Germany - St John Ambulance England - St John Ambulance England; **p. 7** - both pictures: Johanniter Germany; **p. 8** - Johanniter Finland - Eike Hundhausen; **p. 9** all 3 pictures: Johanniter Germany regional branch Berlin; **p. 10** - Johanniter Austria; **p. 11** - Johanniter International - Dr Paul Hunt - Johanniter International; **p. 12** - Johanniter International - Rob Golding, British Ceremonial Arts Ltd.; **p. 13** - Johanniter International - Johanniter Denmark - Johanniter International; **p. 14** - Johanniter International Assistance; **p. 15**; Johanniter International - Johanniter Germany - EU Modex; **p. 16** - Johanniter International; **p. 17** - all 3 pictures: Dr Robert Brandstetter; **p. 18** - all 3 pictures: Johanniter International; **p. 19** - Johanniter International - Johanniter Nederland; **p. 20** - Johanniter International - Johanniter International; **p. 21** - Johanniter International; **p. 22** - Johanniter Austria; **p. 23** - S.O.G.IT Settimo Torinese - S.O.G.IT Settimo Torinese - Johanniter International

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.

