



Annual Review 2016



A Message from the Chairman



Dear colleagues, dear friends,

It is a pleasure to introduce our Annual Activity Report for 2016. 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.

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, hostels for the families of hospitalised patients, retirement homes, hospitals, first aid and first aid training, youth work, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief 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 when necessary their access to the relevant institutions of the European Union. Furthermore, the JOIN Office is participating in the EU funded project called SOCIALCARE in collaboration with seven other partners including Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria since 2015. European project proposals involving different JOIN members have also been prepared in the framework of the AAL – Active and Assisted Living Programme.

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:

- Experts of the PR, Marketing & Communication Group held their traditional meeting in London.
- The Youth Group has opened national youth events to the participation of all JOIN young volunteers, while the Clinical Group has put in place a medical student exchange programme.
- Following the document drafted by the International Cooperation incl. Fundraising Group on the JOIN International Programmes, several JOIN members have sent out news about the development of these activities.

The Volunteer Swap that started in 2011 continued in 2016, to allow volunteers from JOIN members to learn about their sister organisations across Europe and experience the international nature of St John.

The Annual General Assembly 2016 took place in Helsinki. The meeting provided an excellent platform to discuss the activities of the JOIN Office and explore new opportunities for cooperation within JOIN. For instance, it was agreed by all delegates that the introduction of a JOIN basic first aid standard would be of benefit to encourage greater participation in inter-country cooperation in the Volunteer Swap. The syllabus has been produced and distributed to all JOIN members shortly before the end of 2016.

The JOIN Board welcomed last November a new member in the person of Wolf-Ingo Kunze, who fills the vacancy for the position of Wolfram Rohleder.

My term as Chairman ends in June 2017. During the six years as a member of the Board I have been delighted to witness the development and maturity of JOIN. I thank and pay tribute to my Board colleagues, the Working Groups and our excellent staff in Brussels for the loyalty and support given to me and to all of our member countries.

It has been an honour to have been part of this unique Organisation and I will always treasure the friendships made and happy memories of times shared in this most worthy enterprise.

My very best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Ian Mackenzie'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ian Mackenzie

JOIN Volunteer Swap

International first aid competition at the 'Johanniter Day 2016' in Aachen

Aachen, Germany, 29 May 2016

This year's 'Johanniter Day' was a combination of multiple events: an international exhibition, a first aid competition and a family event all at once. Since 1992 the Johanniter Day hosts a bi-annual national competition in first aid, which brings together the entire St John family, including both volunteers and staff. This year's events were organised by Johanniter regional association of Aachen, Düren and Heinsberg. The celebrations were conducted under the leadership of Mayor of Aachen, Marcel Philipp.



► The delegation of volunteers from St John Northern Ireland

1,500 Johanniter members from across North Rhine-Westphalia and even visiting teams from England, Northern Ireland and Poland were present in Aachen. Various scenarios, including severe burns, children with head injuries and unconscious people after a fall, were presented in realistic accident scenarios to test skills in first aid. The scenarios were acted out by 'victims'. Moreover, a total of 41 teams competed in the Johanniter



► The delegation of volunteers from St John Ambulance England

Day's first aid competition. The aim was to see how the competitors managed to cope with critical situations as first responders and to identify the best lifesavers. „All participants are winners on that day,” Hans von Tiesenhausen said, „because they have shown how well they can save lives.”



► The delegation of children from Polish JOIN member Joannici Dzieło Pomocy

All teams competed publicly by demonstrating their first aid knowledge and skills in the city center. Their skills were assessed by referees according to a fixed point system. Winners were announced during an evening event held in Eurogress, and they will participate in the 2017 Federal Competition in Koblenz.

All Johanniter volunteers and staff members helped make this day memorable through their help as assistants, referees or spectators. With their enthusiasm, they managed to turn the city center into an actual competition arena. Referees gathered at the different competition stations around the Aachen Cathedral, where the opening service was held that morning. The referees judged the work of rescue workers aged six to sixty.

An English volunteer at the Carnival week in Germany

Ludwigshafen, Germany, 4–11 February 2016



From 4 to 11 February, a volunteer from St John Ambulance England assisted his German colleagues during the carnival week. The local branch of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany in Ludwigshafen provided medical services at four different carnival parades. Read below the general impression from this special week as reported by Kathrin Spannagel, Head of the rapid response team at Johanniter Ludwigshafen.

"In 2010, a first exchange involving 10 volunteers from Austria and 2 from Germany took place at the Notting Hill carnival in London. This exchange was arranged via JOIN. That was the first time I ever met other St John volunteers. Ever since then I wanted to know more about how things were done elsewhere.

In February 2016, we finally managed to get together again. Malcolm Toghil, whom I previously met at the Notting Hill carnival, arrived on Thursday 4 February. That same evening, we went to a carnival party with about 2,500 guests; we were on duty at a treatment center until 4 am.

On Saturday and Sunday, we were part of a team on patrol duty during the parades in Frankenthal (100,000 visitors) and Ludwigshafen (250,000 visitors).

On Monday, we were part of an ambulance crew in Mainz. Mainz is one of the biggest carnival parades in Germany,

welcoming about 500,000 visitors. This year the parade was canceled due to a storm warning. However, the parade's party was not cancelled, so we had to be in attendance.

Tuesday was a day of rest, and we spent Wednesday in Speyer. Our English friend left us on Thursday to go back to London.

We had an unusually quiet carnival season this year, which gave us a lot of time to exchange experiences and knowledge on the work of both St John Ambulance England and Johanniter Germany. There are as many similarities as they are differences, and some aspects would require more attention. We could learn a lot from each other!"



▶ A Johanniter volunteers at the Carnival in Ludwigshafen

Sixth edition of the Johanniter Summer Camp in Estonia

Talu, Estonia, 23–30 July 2016

From 23 to 30 July, the sixth edition of the Johanniter Summer camp for mentally and physically disabled youth was organised in Talu, Estonia. In true camp fashion, youth from around Europe gathered for a week full of activities and experiences. The camp is a cooperation of various St.

John Enterprises. JOIN members from Estonia, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden participated to ensure it was a success. Both healthcare professionals and volunteers were at hand to provide assistance and support throughout the week.

350 St John volunteers at the Berlin Marathon

Berlin, Germany, 24–25 September 2016

Over the weekend of 24 and 25 September, teams from our Austrian, German and Polish JOIN members provided assistance at the 43rd BMW Berlin Marathon with a total of 350 volunteers.



► Björn Teuteberg (left), Board member of the regional branch of Johanniter Berlin, and five first aiders and medical workers with refugee background. The five young men were trained by Johanniter Germany.



► A group picture of St John volunteers at the Berlin Marathon



► A German volunteer with its motorcycle

On Sunday, the day of the main race, St John volunteers staffed 25 help points along the route and in the finish area in order to look after the 40,000 runners as well as more than a million spectators. 10 emergency ambulances, 15 patient transport ambulances, 2 emergency medical service vehicles, 14 motorcycles, 1 bicycle and 28 foot patrols were present. JOIN members' services were required in 864 incidents and 57 patients had to be transported to the hospital.

The mini-marathon and the skaters' marathon took place on Saturday. 272 St John volunteers were involved.

This year, the Berlin Johanniter regional branch was supported by other German Johanniter volunteers coming from Aachen, Baden-Württemberg, Bremen, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Göttingen, Hamburg, Ingolstadt, Kiel, Leising, Nordbrandenburg, Oderland-Spree, Regensburg, Salzgitter, Schleswig, Schwabach, Singen, Südbrandenburg, Wunstorf, and Zwickau-Voigtland. In addition, there were ten volunteers from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria and Joannici Dzieło Pomocy Poland.

Selected Activities 2016

How many millions of lives have been reached by JOIN?

Together with the Dutch, German and Swedish Johanniter Orders and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM), the Most Venerable Order of St John have reached out to millions of lives around the world through training and

providing first aid and other healthcare services. The statistics cover the number of people reached worldwide, the number of people treated, the number of volunteers or the number of people trained in first aid.



Key:
St John
Johanniter Order
SMOM



Over 9.1 million
people were treated worldwide



Over 21,000
St John, Johanniter Order
and SMOM members



Reached out to
over 18 million
people worldwide



Over 500,000
dedicated
volunteers



A total of
2.5 million people trained by
St John, Johanniter Order and SMOM



JOIN members from Germany and Jerusalem win an EU grant to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians

Jerusalem, 22 February 2016

For the last year, our JOIN members Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany and St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group (SJEHG) have been discussing with the Israeli Hadassah Medical Center (HMC) ways of cooperation that will promote peace and encourages constructive relationships between Israelis and Palestinians for development purposes. After studying the different needs in the medical area, they innovatively decided to establish the first genetic research unit in Palestine at St John Eye Hospital in East Jerusalem. The aim of this unit will be to tackle hereditary eye diseases within the most underprivileged Palestinian communities. Thanks to the 'EU Partnership for Peace Programme', the three organisations won a three-year grant to implement such a project.



► Physicians of the St John Eye Hospital treating a young patient

Under the name of 'Peace for sight', the project has just started from February 2016 onwards. In brief practical terms, the plan is to train an ophthalmologist from SJEHG at HMC in both clinical evaluation of patients with hereditary retinal diseases and in molecular genetics. The ultimate long-term goal is that the ophthalmologist will lead and further develop diagnosis and treatment of such patients in the Palestinian territories and continue SJEHG capacity to be improving by training others after

the end of the action. Meanwhile, a dedicated genetic laboratory will be established and equipped at SJEHG with close assistance of HMC by the end of 2017. The laboratory is expected to become operational in terms of DNA extraction and basic genetic screening that will be performed and supervised by the candidate.



► Staff of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

Most importantly, the final beneficiaries will be Palestinian patients with hereditary macular diseases. All the efforts put in 'Peace for Sight' aim at providing sustainable treatment and medical solutions for those people who have had no other option in the past. The project will significantly contribute to a long term impact by stopping the inherited disease from developing in the next generation through identifying and treating the genes responsible for hereditary molecular diseases in the Palestinian population. 'Peace for Sight' will be sustainable beyond the project period, and it will have a life-long impact on the final beneficiaries, their families and the community.

The regional office of Johanniter Germany in Amman (Jordan) is directly supervising the overall project, ensuring that the achievement of results is meeting the standards of the EU.

St John youth at Johanniter Germany's Federal Pentecost Camp

Neufrankenroda, Germany 14–16 May 2016

From 14 to 16 May, about 850 German Johanniter Youth spent the Pentecost weekend at the bi-annual joint camp. The participants came from all over Germany and 5 were from Hungarian JOIN member Johannita Segítő Szolgálat. This year marked the 12th edition of the largest nationwide event of the Johanniter Youth and had as its motto „Johncalli – We are making circus“. The camp sites of the family community of Siloah in Neufrankenroda turned into the Johanniter circus and participants into small and big artists.



▶ Pentecost Camp young participants in action

The weekend and program began early on Saturday morning with various thematic workshops on artistry, acrobatics, juggling, etc. Compared with the last edition two years ago – with daily temperatures of over 30° Celsius – the campers had to deal with much colder temperatures.



▶ A group picture of the participants

Despite the cold, changeable weather and shivering faces, the participants kept up their high spirits and the camp site turned into a circus arena. At the Pentecost Camp, various activities were organised such as workshops, a night hike and a circus show fitting the motto.



▶ A Pentecost Camp organiser giving instructions to young participants

Unfortunately, the Saturday evening program had to finish early due to the weather but the circus show on Sunday filled the audience with astonishment for amateur artists from all over Johanniter Germany demonstrating their outstanding skills and talents. The traditional Pentecost Camps are made possible thanks to the helping hands of many volunteers who have been part of a great team for years. On behalf of all those present, the national youth leader of Johanniter Youth, Armin Pullen, especially thanked with kind words the volunteers Julia and Markus Steck, Kathrin Dorendorf, Gregor Schmidt and Thomas Dittkuhn.

Despite the cool temperatures, the Johanniter Youth can look back on a successful event that went by without major incidents, except for the early finish of the night hike. Two honorary members of Johanniter Youth, Hans-Peter von Kirchbach and Wolfram Rohleder, as well as Federal Board Member Wolf-Ingo Kunze, and State and Regional Board Members from Saxony-Anhalt-Thüringen and West Thüringen, Andreas Weigel and Katharina Rothe-Philipps, participated in the Pentecost church service and were all amazed.

Six JOIN organisations draft a European project together to help people living with Dementia

The JOIN Office involved its members Johanniter Austria and Johannita Segítő Szolgálat Hungary to draft together a European project proposal. The project, called "6thSenSe", aimed to help elderly people suffering from dementia. More specifically, it addressed the challenge of pain and discomfort assessment among the elderly either staying at home or resident of medical retirement home.

The three regional associations of Johanniter Germany from Saxony, Bavaria and Bremen/Lower Saxony also expressed their interest of participating in the project. Finally, the European Commission didn't select "6thSenSe" from the large number of applications. This experience was still a very positive example of JOIN collaboration and will be reconducted in the future.

The Board of Johanniter Bavaria meets European officials

Brussels, Belgium, 15 March 2016

On 15 March, the Board of the Bavarian regional association of Johanniter Germany had a one-day trip to Brussels. The JOIN Office arranged several meetings with different European stakeholders.



► From left to right: Jürgen Wanat and Alexander Graf von Gneisenau

The day started with a discussion on the current refugee situation with Doris Peschke, Secretary General of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe. Afterwards, the Board of Johanniter Bavaria met three German MEPs (Members of the European Parliament). The MEP Monika Hohlmeier gave an update on the debates on refugees within the European Parliament. The MEP Kerstin Westphal, member of the Regional Development Committee of the European Parliament, indicated ways to support aid projects of Johanniter Bavaria in Romania. The MEP Markus Ferber also expressed his view on the refugee situation.

The Board of Johanniter Bavaria was welcomed by the Representation of Bavaria to the European Union in the afternoon. Dr Benedikt Edlbauer from the Bavarian State Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Family and Integration made the presentations. The last visit took place at the Committee of the Regions. This EU advisory body is composed of locally and regionally elected representatives coming from all 28 Member States and share their opinion on EU legislation that directly impact regions and cities.

The general aim of this trip was to build a network at European level and to get concrete insights into the functioning of the European Institution. In this regards, the Board of Johanniter Bavaria will keep in touch with the European officials that they met.

Johanniter Germany at the World Humanitarian Summit

Istanbul, Turkey, 23–24 May 2016

On 23 and 24 May, more than 50 world leaders and 5,000 humanitarian, development and political stakeholders have gathered at the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. Dr Arnold von Rümker, President of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany, and Dr Inez Kipfer-Didavi, Policy Advisor for Johanniter International Assistance, attended this event on behalf of our German



► Dr Arnold von Rümker (left) and Dr Inez Kipfer-Didavi (right)

JOIN member. The overarching goal of the summit was to seek ways to reverse the trend of ever-increasing humanitarian needs and to make the international aid system more efficient and effective.

Johanniter Germany has been actively involved in the two-year long preparations of the event. Only in Europe, more than 23,000 stakeholders such as governments, business, aid organisations, civil society, affected communities and youth groups were consulted in the run-up to the summit to find ways to better tackle the growing humanitarian needs.

In the frame of the World Humanitarian Summit, Johanniter Germany notably engaged itself to the following:

- Strengthening of national and local capacities in regard with disaster preparedness, emergency aid and crisis management;
- Transferring of 20% of own financial resources to local partner organisations working on site;
- Widening of the scope of the aid beneficiaries, in particular women, teenagers, the elderly people as well as people with disabilities;
- Economic and social integration of refugees and internally displaced persons through access to health and education systems as well as labour market;
- Provision of the Johanniter "Emergency Medical Teams" where the local capacities are insufficient.

JOIN members at the St John's Day in London

London, England, 18 June 2016

On 18 June, fourteen hundred members, volunteers and staff of the Most Venerable Order of St John as well as twenty representatives of the other Orders of St John gathered in London to celebrate the St John's Day 2016. JOIN Chairman Ian Mackenzie and the JOIN Office were also present. The St John's Day provides an opportunity for the whole family of St John to join together to rededicate its service, to celebrate the work of our volunteers and staff and to commemorate those who have gone before us.



▶ His Royal Highness The Grand Prior meeting with cadets performing first aid demonstrations.

The day started with the publication of the Priory's report 2015. In the afternoon, the focus moved to St Paul's Cathedral for the service of commemoration and rededication. During the service, the banners of two former Lord Prior's of the Order, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Barry and Professor Anthony Mellows, were formally laid-up.

St John Ambulance's band the "Isle of Sheppey", which was celebrating its 70th anniversary, performed this year the traditional musical finale.

After the service, His Royal Highness the grand Prior and the Lord Mayor met with cadets who were performing first aid demonstrations for the public.

Restoration of the Muristan site, where the foundation of the St John Order was laid

Jerusalem, 30 August 2016

In the centre of the Christian Quarter, within the Old City of Jerusalem, lies the ancient Muristan. The area, located just south of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, was where King Antiochus V built a hospital following a divine vision on Golgotha. In the year 600, Pope Gregory the Great commissioned the construction of a hospital at the site, a place where Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem could be treated. Over the following centuries, the structure was destroyed and rebuilt several times, however it is most associated with the Knights of St John, who established a hospital there to care for sick and injured pilgrims of all faiths in the Holy Land, in the early 12th century.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group has been working to restore this ancient Muristan site to its former capacity as a provider of healthcare. This beautiful building will open later this year and will provide primary and emergency eye care for residents and tourists in the famed Old City. The renovation of the clinic work was carried out by the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalisation Programme, using international renovation standards for historical buildings.

Futhermore, our JOIN member just received permission from the Archaeological Authority - necessary as there



► Restoration work

are ancient cisterns, tunnels and even tombs underneath the area - to turn the neighbouring space into a large garden and a tourist destination for the thousands of pilgrims and visitors that frequent the Old City each year.



► The view from the building's roof on the Old City of Jerusalem

Selected Meetings 2016

JOIN Annual General Meeting 2016

Helsinki, Finland, 20–21 May 2016

A most successful and informative Annual General Meeting was hosted by Johanniter Finland in Helsinki on 20 and 21 May. Attended by thirty delegates from Europe including Cyprus and Jerusalem, a wide spectrum of topics provided an interesting and varied programme.

The first day began with our Chairman, Ian Mackenzie, outlining the general activities of the network over the past twelve months, followed by comprehensive financial information by our Vice-Chairman, Christian Velten-Jameson.

This was followed by the Heads of the working groups providing more detailed information about their activities which encouraged discussion and clarification on a number of issues. Areas covered included the outcomes of the PR, Marketing & Communication Group (Dr Robert Brandstetter, Johanniter Austria) and highlighted emergency PR support and the production of videos for public information. Julia Zeilinger (Johanniter Germany) spoke about the Youth Group meetings and youth events open to international participation. Volunteer Swap opportunities were presented by Adam Williams (St John Ambulance England). To encourage greater participation in inter-country cooperation in this area, it was agreed by all delegates that the introduction of a JOIN basic first aid standard would be of benefit. England will produce the proposed syllabus content for distribution to and eventual agreement by all prior to implementation by 2017. In the absence of the Head of the Clinical Group, Lubumbe Van de Velde (JOIN Office) provided an update on recent areas of discussion.



► Kevin Orr, Head of the International Cooperation incl. Fundraising group.

An 'international' session then followed and focused on projects run by JOIN members. Kevin Orr (Most Venerable Order of St John), Head of International Cooperation incl. Fundraising Group, provided an update of its activities and Stephan Beschle (Johanniter Germany) outlined the worldwide projects of Johanniter International Assistance. Kevin and Stephan then together presented the ongoing Mother and Baby programme in various African countries. Finally Tom Ogilvie-Graham (CEO of St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem) gave an interesting insight into the outstanding services delivered to all in need in this very difficult area of unrest.

The work of the Brussels office was outlined by Joachim Berney, our General Manager presenting detail of its routine activities while emphasising its focus on networking as well as EU funding opportunities. Lubumbe and Georg Aumayr (JOIN Office) provided information on the ongoing SOCIALCARE project and Georg concluded by identifying potential research topics for JOIN members and indicated ways to involve them in international projects and the drafting of project proposals.

The next AGM is planned to take place in Berlin on 8-10 June 2017.



► From left to right: Front row: Wolfram Rohleder, Melanija Grundšteina, Anna Pieta, Lubumbe Van de Velde, Tom Ogilvie-Graham, László Porcsalmy. Second row: Sy Joshua, Ian Mackenzie, Dieneke van Haeften, Thomas Vorwerk, Jan Willem Storm van 's-Gravesande, Harm-Bastian Harms, Stephan Beschle. Third row: Georg Aumayr, Joachim Berney, Johannes Bucher, Adam Williams, Julia Zeilinger, Pontus Hedberg, Dr Sotos Syzinos. Last row: Dr Bob Broughton, Wolf-Ingo Kunze, Eric von Troil, Sir Paul Lambert, Christian Velten-Jameson, Imre Szabján.

PR, Marketing & Communication group meets in London

London, England, 10-11 March 2016

On 10 March, the JOIN PR, Marketing & Communication Working Group came together in London for a two-days meeting. Representatives from Austria, Estonia, Germany, Jerusalem, The Netherlands and the JOIN Office were hosted by English JOIN member St John Ambulance (SJA).

On the first day, the participants updated each other on PR and Marketing activities in their respective organisations. Refugee issues were predominant in Austria and Germany. The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital presented the new documentary about its own work, while Dutch JOIN member presented its future website which will be activated by end of April.

The next topic of discussion consisted in an exchange of views on 'Emergency PR work'. As usual, the JOIN Office prepared an update on recent developments in Brussels.

On the second day, the participants received valuable information on the production of videos by St John Ambulance. Some JOIN members showed their interest to translate or add subtitles to the SJA's videos on first aid. Furthermore, the group agreed on creating a blog for internal use to share experiences. Additionally, the meeting provided the occasion to meet different SJA's officials from the PR, Marketing and fundraising units.

JOIN Board meeting in Brussels

Brussels, Belgium, 25 October 2016

On 25 October, the JOIN Board came together in Brussels for a regular Board meeting. Participants were JOIN Chairman Ian Mackenzie (St John Ambulance), JOIN Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Œuvres de Saint-Jean) and Eric von Troil (Johanniter Finland).

The day began with our JOIN Chairman reporting on the Alliance Orders meeting held in Rome earlier in the month. This was followed by the JOIN Office providing a



► From left to right: Eric von Troil, Christian Velten-Jameson and Ian Mackenzie

feedback on its recent work and on the working groups' activities. As decided at the last AGM in Helsinki, the Board agreed on the terms of a JOIN basic first aid standard. This document will be distributed to all JOIN members in the following weeks.

Regarding European funded projects, detailed information were provided on the ongoing SOCIALCARE project. Furthermore, the JOIN Office gave an update on two project proposals. A decision was made for the project called '6thSenSe', aiming to help elderly people suffering from dementia, which will finally not be funded by the European Commission. A new project proposal named 'SUNNY', aiming to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of a European open licensed e-mental health programme for youth, is currently drafted by the JOIN Office and will seek to involve different JOIN members.

The meeting ended with the preparation of the AGM 2017, which will take place on 8-10 June 2017 in Berlin.

SOCIALCARE

The SOCIALCARE project is a collaboration of eight different partners from four European countries. Johanniter International and Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria make up two of the eight partners. The project is funded by the AAL "Active Assisted Living" programme of the European Union which aims at strengthening existing community initiatives that empower elderly citizens.

SOCIALCARE wants to create a platform that brings together demand and offer for care in the setting of neighbourhood communities. It recognises that a lot is being done at community level in the terms of bottom-up care and social activities. Therefore, our solution is to create a one stop platform that takes into account the needs of the community and the existing solutions to those needs with an user friendly approach. In practical terms these principles have been incorporated into an app offering end-users care, learning and social services reachable by a set of simple clicks.

The JOIN Office and Johanniter Austria are the project partners responsible for developing a plan for acceptance of the project by end users in local conditions. Johanniter Austria has been very active in providing the materials necessary for conducting user-centred research and it has taken care of ethical manual for the project. Johanniter International contributed by sharing its well-established experience on sustainable involvement of volunteers and by disseminating the results both to our local partners in

Brussels and to the JOIN members. At a local community level, the JOIN Office wants to ensure the compatibility of SOCIALCARE within the Brussels Capital Region. Four local care organisations are involved in the various stages of the project through consultation and regular focus group meetings.

The project has successfully entered to its final third stage; the pilots are about to be launched in April 2017 and the project will be running till the beginning of 2018.



SOCIALCARE Midterm Review passed successfully

Brussels, Belgium, 6 October 2016

It is intended that projects funded by the European AAL Programme are reviewed once – approximately half way through the project during so-called mid-term review. Apart for all eight project partners, the SOCIALCARE mid-term meeting was attended by the CMU-representative, the lead-National Contact Point (NCP) as well as NCPs from other agencies involved in the project. The project partners arrived in Brussels already the day before for the final preparatory work.

During a four-hour review meeting, the performance of the project and possible obstacles that could block the



▶ AAL2B Business Model Workshop

progress and end results were thoroughly discussed. The first part of the meeting was focused on technical aspects by presenting the system architecture and demonstrating the prototypes of all SOCIALCARE components. The second part of the meeting focused on the social innovation process – how to create and support sustainable SOCIALCARE communities – and on dissemination and exploitation issues – how to share the project results with other parties and how to bring the SOCIALCARE solution to the market successfully.

The day after the meeting, the JOIN Office hosted an intensive AAL2B Business Model workshop where all SOCIALCARE partners discussed in detail a draft business model.

The SOCIALCARE partners received overall positive reactions from the AAL representatives during this midterm review meeting and the mentioned comments resulted in a shortlist of action points for the remaining project period.

Fourth SOCIALCARE focus group meeting

Brussels, Belgium, 4 November 2016

The JOIN Office hosted for the fourth time a meeting with representatives of care organisations from the Brussels Capital Region. We want to ensure the compatibility of the SOCIALCARE project with Brussels local conditions with the view of possible transfer of the project and for this purpose an early feedback from local experts is essential. The primary aim was to present the latest version of the app with all its components and to discuss the pilot projects in the Netherlands and Austria.

Our project partners from the Netherlands presented from a very practical angle the setting of two pilots in the communities of Putte and Son en Breugel. The Brussels partners were particularly curious about the social cohesion aspect of the pilots: they ask what makes these pilots so successful in motivating elderly people to actively use new technologies whereas in Belgian it is rather difficult. A conversation followed on the bottom-up approach of the project and motivational strategies for engaging local neighbourhood communities. These are crucial elements for building up trust and confidence among

elderly towards active use of modern technology and thus for successful implementation as such.

The meeting was kept in an informal interactive spirit and we believe that the geographical, linguistic and cultural proximity of Belgium to two main SOCIALCARE pilot sites in the Netherlands could help to sparkle a fruitful future cooperation.



► From left to right: Guido Cuyvers (AGE platform), Marius van Dalen (EVIC), Nina van der Vaart (NFE), Georg Aumayr (JOIN), Lenka Christiaens (JOIN), Olivia Vanmechelen (Kenniscentrum)

JOIN participates in the panel discussion of the European Summit on Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing

Brussels, Belgium, 6 December 2016

On 6 December, JOIN Research Officer Georg Aumayr spoke as a panellist at the European Summit on Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing in Brussels. More specifically, he participated in the discussion about 'Removing barriers to scalable markets'. The event built on the achievements of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy ageing (EIP AHA), Horizon 2020 and the Active and Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL). It intends to mobilise the relevant stakeholders around a common vision for scaling up innovation in Health and Active Ageing, targeting in particular high growth-potential areas such as ICT supported independent living and age-friendly smart homes, social robotics, digitally supported integrated health and social care services.

Georg Aumayr was invited to share experiences from his work for our JOIN Austrian member. He gave his vision on how to make healthcare across borders more interoperable and how to approach problems hindering the cooperation among stakeholders delivering care to ageing population. He presented Johanniter as the care organisation with the oldest tradition in Europe currently actively delivering care not only by its professional taskforce but also in close cooperation with volunteers. Georg Aumayr spoke in favour of standardisation as a possible enabler of better interoperability of system in healthcare. In his view, standards should be used and fed into the development phase of the new care technologies from the very beginning.



► Georg Aumayr (JOIN office) third from left

About 2,000 visitors from all over the world were expected to attend the Summit. It provided an excellent platform to discuss various projects and emerging challenges concerning delivery of care to ageing population. This was an outstanding opportunity to bring activities of Johanniter to the attention of a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Thanks to our colleague Georg Aumayr we proved that Johanniter is not only a care organisation with the oldest tradition in Europe but also with an ample potential to bring innovation into the fast-moving care sector.

Emergency Response in JOIN

Johanniter Germany participates in a European urban search, rescue and medical module exercise

Tinglev, Denmark, 29 January – 1 February 2016

From 29 January to 1 February 2016, Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany participated in a second European Module Exercise within the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. This Module took place in Tinglev, a municipality in the south of Denmark, and focused on medical and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) exercises.

One advanced medical post from Italy, two medium USAR modules from Austria and Estonia, a technical assistance and support team from Germany as well as an EU Civil Protection expert team participated in the exercises. The Austrian USAR module was assisted by personnel from Slovakia, while the advanced medical post from Italy received support from a German medical skeleton team. They all performed the urban search, rescue and medical response following a simulated earthquake in "Modulistan". "Modulistan" is a virtual European country presented as a European Union's candidate member state.

A total number of over 300 responders, local role-players, trainers and exercise staff contributed to the success of this exercise. A social event took place in the town of Tinglev to celebrate the end of the exercise.



► Rescuers in action

EU Module Exercise in Lower Austria

Großmittle, Austria, 8–11 June 2016

From 8 to 11 June, the largest EU Module Exercise until date was realised within the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The exercise was dedicated to medical and urban search rescue (USAR) modules and was organised on the grounds of "Tritolwerk" and "Jansabarracks" in Großmittle, Lower Austria.

An advanced medical post (AMP) team from the Czech Republic, two medium USAR modules from Bulgaria and Slovenia, a technical assistance and support team (TAST) from Finland and a Union Civil Protection expert team (UCPT) performed medical response and search and rescue missions in the earthquake which affected fictitious country of "Modulistan". Further participants were the Austrian armed forces disaster relief unit and the multinational module on damage assessment and countermeasures, with staff from Croatia, Italy and Slovenia.

More than 500 responders including local actors, trainers and exercise staff contributed to the success of this exercise. It ended with a communal social event.

These two module exercises were organised on behalf of the European Commission by a consortium composed of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany, Ministry of the Interior

Austria, Crisis Management Centre Finland, Danish Emergency Management Agency and the Italian Civil Protection Department.



► Exercise rescuers transporting wounded

Italian JOIN member S.O.G.IT helps victims of the earthquake in Amatrice

Amatrice, Italy, 23 August 2016

After the earthquake on the night of 23 August that stroke central Italy in the area around Amatrice, our Italian JOIN member S.O.G.IT mobilised its sniffer dogs. They worked rigorously to find and assist the survivors of the quake, despite the dangerous conditions caused by the aftershocks. The 6.2 magnitude-earthquake, along with the 98 aftershocks in the following 36 hours, greatly devastated the towns, demolishing buildings and trapping



► S.O.G.IT sniffer dogs unit in the ruins of Amatrice

hundreds of people in the rubble. So far, the quake has caused 292 deaths, left 2,925 people homeless and countless people still missing.

The team of S.O.G.IT concentrated its efforts in a sector of Amatrice to find people among the debris. The working conditions were challenging and dangerous, as the building could collapse at every moment. Additionally, the risk of aftershocks was high.

Improving cooperation in emergency situations: a joint JOIN exercise in Lower Saxony

Celle, Germany, 15 October 2016

On Saturday 15 October, around 200 participants from three countries gathered together at a training event organised by Johanniter Germany to practice emergency operations abroad. One could have met participants from Johanniter Austria, Johanniter Finland and Johanniter Germany at a training site of the Academy for Fire and Emergency Protection in Celle (Lower Saxony). The goal of the exercise was to meet conditions to register for so-called 'Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)' of the World Health Organisation (WHO). WHO foresees that by having introduced a registration system with standardised procedures under EMT, medical teams will be able to deliver a faster and better coordinated help under emergency conditions.

The exercise simulated an earthquake with a vast number of injured victims. The goal was to reinforce cooperation



► Johanniter Finland emergency rescuer



► Earthquake emergency simulation

of volunteering emergency rescuers from various countries and to prepare them in the best way possible for an emergency action abroad. There have been already several occasions when JOIN emergency rescuers pooled their forces together to help abroad: for instance, our Austrian member sent staff with Johanniter Germany in Pakistan (floods) or in The Philippines (typhoon) while our Finnish member sent staff in Haiti (earthquake).

WHO evaluators were rather positive about the quality of cooperation of the teams. Jorge Salamanca Rubio from WHO, who is in charge of the registration process for EMT, said to be impressed by having the chance to observe cooperation between the emergency teams. 'This is exactly how I imagine medical emergency teams in action', he said.

JOIN's Work in 2016

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 Ian Mackenzie (St John Ambulance England), Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson (Association des Oeuvres de Saint-Jean, France), Eric von Troil (Johanniter Finland) and Wolfram

Rohleder (Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany). Wolf-Ingo Kunze succeeded Wolfram Rohleder in November.

The Board meets regularly at face-to-face meetings and holds conference calls. In 2016, apart from meeting at the AGM, the Board held one meeting in London in March, another in Brussels last October and several conference calls.

The term of the current board ends at the Annual General Meeting in June 2017.

Working groups in 2016

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 Skype and telephone conferences ensure close exchange between the working group members.

In 2016, five working groups were operative within JOIN.

Clinical Working Group

As its name suggests, the JOIN clinical working group deals with all clinical and medical cooperation within JOIN. The group is made up of chief medical officers from JOIN members with the respective medical and clinical services. Its main aim is to exchange information on medical developments within the JOIN organisations as well as at the national levels. In addition, the working group monitors international developments with regard to clinical issues such as negotiations in the European Resuscitation

Council. The Clinical group is currently headed by Dr. Louis Lillywhite, chief medical officer of St John Ambulance England.

In 2016, the group discussed EU directives related to clinical activities and updated each other on their current projects and challenges in the clinical area. It also decided to put in place a medical student exchange programme in 2017.

International Cooperation incl. Fundraising Working Group

Development cooperation and humanitarian aid has always been a substantial part of JOIN members' services. Motivated by positive cooperation examples in the past (for example fundraising for natural disasters or participation of personnel from other JOIN members in international rescue teams from JOIN members), this working group aims to identify potential cooperation areas. The participants also deal with joint fundraising, mobilisation of different resources and raising awareness about the various international projects JOIN members implement worldwide. Kevin Orr from St John International is leading this working group.

At the Annual General Assembly in Helsinki, a special 'international' session focused on projects run by JOIN members. The aim was to explore the benefits for each JOIN members of participating in international cooperation projects.

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. Related issues such as fundraising or the JOIN-internal purchasing of medical equipment have also been part of the group discussions.

In 2016, the working group met in London. For more details on this face-to-face meeting, please see page 15.

Volunteering Working Group

This working group is headed by Adam Williams (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.

In 2016, the working group was decisive in organising all activities related to the JOIN Permanent Volunteer Swap (see pages 4-6).

Youth Working Group

As the name suggests, this working group discusses common interests in JOIN member's youth activities such as summer camps, first aid trainings and competitions, youth exchanges etc. The working group also facilitates numerous bi- and multilateral exchanges between young members of JOIN organisations. Julia Zeilinger from Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany is chairing the group.

Apart from several online meetings in 2016, the group drafted a common Power Point presentation and opened the Federal Pentecost Camp of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany to international participation (see page 9).

The JOIN Secretariat in 2016

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 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 2016 was to foster international cooperation. A special 'international' session held at the AGM aimed to explore the benefits for each JOIN member of participating in international cooperation projects.

Another significant influence on the work agenda of the JOIN Secretariat for 2016 was its participation in the SOCIALCARE project. SOCIALCARE, as highlighted in the pages 16/17, will last until the beginning of 2018.

Furthermore, the JOIN Secretariat coordinated the drafting of a project proposal involving six JOIN organisations. The project, called "6thSenSe", aimed to help elderly people suffering from dementia. Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria, Johannita Segítő Szolgálat Hungary as well as the three regional associations of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany from Saxony, Bavaria and Bremen/Lower Saxony expressed their interest of participating in the project together with the JOIN Secretariat.

Throughout the year, the JOIN Secretariat maintained its representative character for members in Brussels. The JOIN Secretariat took part in various meetings at European level, for instance in the areas of care, humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, research and innovation (HORIZON 2020) upon request and on behalf of several JOIN members.

In October, Lenka Christiaens succeeded Lubumbe Van de Velde at the JOIN Secretariat. She is a legal graduate from the University of Bratislava and Leuven and has completed the team as a Project Assistant. For the next 14 months, she will be the contact person for the Brussels-based care organisations within the SOCIALCARE project. Additionally, she will work together with Joachim Berney on JOIN matters.

Perspectives on 2017

In 2017, 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 a priority for JOIN and the Brussels office will support them in the best way possible.

First and foremost, the JOIN Office will explore the possibility of preparing joint project proposals. A new project proposal named 'SUNNY', aiming to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of a European open licensed e-mental health programme for youth, is currently drafted by the JOIN Office and will seek to involve several JOIN members. Furthermore, promoting EU funding opportunities, notably in the framework of the AAL - Active and Assisted Living Programme - will be a priority. By participating in research consortia and applying for European funding, 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 fulfill and implement its tasks under SOCIALCARE.

In the area of international cooperation, the JOIN Office aims to build on the presentation held at the Annual General Assembly 2016. Motivated by positive cooperation examples in the past - such as joint fundraising for

natural disasters or participation of personnel from JOIN members in international rescue teams from other JOIN members - the JOIN Office will seek to raise awareness on international programmes within the JOIN network.

Naturally, the JOIN Office will keep facilitating exchange between the different members. Following the successful projects that the Volunteer Swap brought in 2016, efforts will be continued to attract more volunteers, notably through the introduction of Common JOIN First Aid Standards. Swap opportunities for 2017 are already being offered. Furthermore, first participants in the medical student exchange programme are expected in spring 2017.

Finally, 2017 will be a special year. JOIN members will celebrate the 500 years of the Reformation in Germany, in Europe and across the globe. Thousands of individual events will be dedicated to both the area of politics and to living together with people in peace and harmony. Worshippers will notably converge on Wittenberg, the town of Martin Luther where the Reformation has begun.

The Annual General Meeting in 2017 will be hosted by Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Germany and will take place in Berlin on 8-10 June 2017.

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p. 4 (top) - Johanniter Germany, (bottom) - Annika Wunsch, (left) - Johanniter Germany; p. 5 - Malcolm Toghill, St John Ambulance England; p. 6 - Juliane Flurschütz (Johanniter Germany); p. 8 - St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group; p. 9 - Johanniter Germany; p. 10 - Johanniter International; p. 11 - Johanniter Germany; p. 12 - The Most Venerable Order of St John; p. 13 - St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group; p. 14 - Dr Robert Brandstetter (Johanniter Austria); p. 15 - Johanniter International; p. 16 - Eerste Verdieping - a SOCIALCARE partner; p. 17 - Johanniter International; p. 18 - Johanniter Germany; p. 19 - Italian JOIN Member S.O.G.IT; p. 20 - Johanniter Germany

About JOIN

Johanniter International (JOIN) is a partnership of 16 national charity organisations in Europe and the Middle East, which were originally founded by the Orders of St John, and the 4 Orders of the Alliance of the Orders of St John. Member organisations provide national and international services such as emergency medical services, first aid, social care, youth work and international assistance, in addition to services for elderly, poor and disabled people in need. The shared approach of JOIN members to humanitarian welfare and social aid is based on the member organisations' christian heritage.

The work of JOIN charities is made possible through the combined efforts of over 100,000 volunteers and professionals who believe that our societies need people that care for other people. JOIN is made up of charitable organisations that rely on fundraising to continue their work. Activities and projects are funded by donations from individuals, companies and foundations across the world.

The central office is located in Brussels, Belgium. Its purpose is to advocate the interests of St John charities within the institutions of the European Union and facilitate Europe-wide cooperation as well as international projects.

For further information please contact our Brussels office.

