

2017 – 05

News from the network

Upcoming AGM 2017 in Berlin

This year's JOIN Annual General Meeting will be hosted by Johanniter Germany in Berlin from 8 to 10 June. The meeting will give all members the opportunity to learn about new developments within the JOIN network and discuss past and future projects. Moreover, the term of the current Board is ending and a new Board will be elected by the General Assembly for a period of two years. The AGM 2017 will also offer the occasion for a short trip to Wittenberg, the town of Martin Luther, which is celebrating 500 years of the Reformation in Europe and across the globe.

Johanniter Austria and the JOIN Office submits two new proposals within the AAL Programme

The JOIN Office submitted two project proposals within the 2017 AAL (Ambient and Assisted Living) Programme Call, this time searching for integrated solutions for the elderly. Together with Johanniter Austria and partners from Belgium and Switzerland, we submitted a project called 'DICE' to test the impact of a smart home system of non-invasive ambient sensors placed around homes. The consortium of the second proposal called 'COGNAC' is composed of partners from Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland with the aim to integrate two existing solutions working around memories. Keep fingers crossed for us!

Austrian and German JOIN members participate in the BICAS project

On 8 and 9 May, the first partner meeting of the BICAS project led by the Johanniter Academy in Leipzig and involving Johanniter Austria took place in Vienna. BICAS, which stands for 'Building Intercultural Competencies for Ambulance Services', aims to develop an intercultural training course concept. This will help paramedics, who are more and more confronted with situations where intercultural knowledge and competencies are vital. The resulting learning training course and App will be used in trainings of paramedics throughout Europe. More information [here](#) on the BICAS project.

Focus Group meeting with Brussels care organisations to discuss SOCIALCARE project

On 12 May, the JOIN Office met again with its partner organisations from Brussels-Capital Region active in care for elderly. We regularly meet to speak in a closed circle of experts about our [SOCIALCARE project](#). While the official pilot sites of the project are located in the Netherlands and in Austria, we are exploring opportunities to bring the developed Apps to the elderly in Brussels. This time we showed a demo of the latest prototypes of the Apps, we spoke about running initiatives for elderly in Brussels and we discussed how SOCIALCARE Apps could possibly support them with an online meeting platform tool.

Are you a volunteer or a volunteer coordinator? - fill in a questionnaire about your motivation

The JOIN Office is involved in the SOCIALCARE project, aiming at creating a digital meeting platform for elderly and establishing a community support network for them. In the frame of this project we are searching for engaged volunteers and also volunteers' coordinators to fill a simple online questionnaire about motivations for their voluntary engagement. The results will be fed to study and help us to reach the research goal of this European project. Read more about the SOCIALCARE project [here](#). If you are a [volunteer](#) or a [volunteer coordinator](#), please fill in the questionnaires under the given links.

News from the members

Austria: Launch of Superhands campaign: "Caring for parents is not a children's game"

On 22 May, Johanniter Austria started a [Superhands](#) campaign to draw attention on 43,000 young people in Austria who constantly care for their relatives. The campaign includes TV and radio spots, as well as posters for schools. "Caring for parents is not a children's game" says the claim of the Superhands campaign. Those 43,000 children and teenager who care about a family member in Austria are often left alone with the worries, stress and responsibility on their shoulders. Superhands aims to provide free and anonymous help and advice about possibilities how to relieve teenagers of their nursing tasks. [Continue reading](#)

England: St John Ambulance launches General Election Manifesto

Our English JOIN member just launched its 'Manifesto' of calls in advance of the 2017 British election. The Manifesto, which will be sent to the candidates of the main parties, calls on the next government to: 1. Ensure that all children have the opportunity to learn first aid during their time at school; 2. Protect workplace health and safety after the Brexit; 3. Develop National Health Service commissioning practices that better encourage resilient communities. The main purpose of this Manifesto is to identify new champions for first aid who could support St John Ambulance in the next parliamentary term. [Continue reading](#)

Germany: Johanniter International Assistance opens a new Facebook page

Johanniter Auslandshilfe (English: Johanniter International Assistance), providing humanitarian aid to victims of natural disasters, conflicts and violence in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, opened a new Facebook Channel! Their communication team will provide you with news and facts around the humanitarian system and their activities around the world. Johanniter International Assistance is looking forward to stay in contact with you through this platform. "Like", share and most importantly enjoy the news [here](#)!

Germany: Watch TV report on Johanniter's activities in South Sudan

In response to the famine currently affecting South Sudan, Johanniter Germany is implementing nine projects, four addressing food security and five nutrition. Our German JOIN member is focusing its activities in the region of Western Bahr el Ghazal. Approximately 5.5 Mio people are food insecure in South Sudan at the moment. A German TV team from public channel ARD visited Johanniter's projects. The report (in German), that you can watch on the following [link](#), has reached an audience of 1.6 Mio viewers and helps to increase the visibility of Johanniter and to inform about the desperate situation in the region.

Venerable Order of St John: Promotion video of St John International about its worldwide impact

St John International published a video providing an insight to its incredible work. Working in more than 30 countries around the world, St John organisations not only provide community-based first aid and training, but also promotes health and well-being. Find out what are the faces beyond 230,000 volunteers providing first aid and first aid training, professionals delivering ambulance services, community-based health services, eye care and many more. Find out the faces behind the work of St John International! Watch a short trailer [here](#) or a full video [here](#).

News from Europe

Johanniter Germany at the VOICE General Assembly 2017

On 16 May, the European network called "Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies" (VOICE) held its Annual General Assembly in Brussels. VOICE is a network representing 85 European NGOs active in humanitarian aid worldwide, including Johanniter Germany. The meeting started with an exchange of views with Monique Pariat, Director-General of DG ECHO. VOICE Board presented their past activities and informed on the priorities in a near future. The JOIN Office and Jens Schwalb from our German JOIN member attended the meeting.