

1) Project title

European guidelines for First Aid training for the population.
A reference for local First Aid training manuals.

2) Full name and address of the project leader

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Chief Executive Officer
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3) Full name and address of partner organisations

There are no partner organisations.

4) Other countries involved apart from the formal partners

a. Other countries participating in the steering group:

Austria, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia.

b. Other countries participating in the expert group:

Austria, Spain, France, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, United Kingdom.

c. Organisations participating in the expert group:

European Resuscitation Council, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, World Health Organisation.

5) General and operational objectives of the project

General objective: Contributing to the international harmonisation of First Aid. This complements previous harmonisation efforts by the Red Cross and the Red Crescent

Operational objective: Development of

- 1) European First Aid Guidelines
- 2) European First Aid Reference Guide
- 3) European First Aid Manual

6) Project rationale

Every year, thousands of people experience or witness emergency situations. In many situations, bystanders provide spontaneous help. First aid training is essential in preparing the general public for an initial response in such events. Such knowledge and skills can make the difference in day-to-day situations and in disasters.

The First Aid techniques taught to the public vary greatly between European countries, but these differences cannot always be justified by scientific evidence. Therefore, our aim is to formulate European guidelines on First Aid and to contribute to the international harmonisation

of First Aid training.

International harmonisation is important because of the constant exchange across borders resulting from migration, tourism and business travel, and the intervention of different national rescue teams providing international assistance at a time of a crisis. This project will facilitate further dissemination of First Aid knowledge and practices across borders, thus increasing the number of lives protected and saved in emergency situations.

7) Project target audience or beneficiary group

- a. Authors of First Aid handbooks.
- b. Managers of First Aid programmes.

8) Schedule of activities

Starting date of project: 1 January 2005

Date of completion of project: 31 December 2006

Other information relevant to the schedule:

January 05 – May 05	Formation of expert panel on guideline development
June 05 – January 06	Systematic review of First Aid science
February 06	Guideline conference organised in Riga, Latvia
March 06 – April 06	External review of prefinal guidelines
May 06	Finalisation of European First Aid Guidelines
May 06 – October 06	Development of European First Aid Reference Guide and of European First Aid Manual
October 06 – December 06	Presentation

9) Expected outcomes

There are 3 main outcomes:

a. European First Aid Guidelines

Current approaches to developing guidelines emphasise the need to take research evidence into account. Furthermore, research must be identified and evaluated in a systematic and transparent way. Guidelines may be based on expert consensus, but only when there is no evidence available.

These concerns have been taken into account and we have followed evidence-based methodology for developing the “European First Aid Guidelines”. The guidelines will have a scientific approach and will provide important insights into First Aid.

The guidelines will give recommendations for safety measures, First Aid management of casualties and psychological support. There will also be guidelines for didactical aspects of First Aid training.

b. & c. European First Aid Reference Guide and European First Aid Manual

The final European First Aid Guidelines, together with the resuscitation guidelines of the European Resuscitation Council, will be used to develop a European First Aid Reference Guide and a European First Aid Manual. These references will be extremely helpful tools for the development or revision of First Aid books and courses throughout Europe.

10) Dissemination plan

The project outcomes will be presented between October '06 and December '06:

- a. The "Guidelines" will be published as a scientific article in an international peer-reviewed journal.
- b. The results will be published on the website of the European Reference Centre for First Aid Education of the Red Cross (www.firstaidinaction.net).
- c. The results will be presented during the meeting of the First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN) in October 2006 in Geneva.
- d. The results will also be presented on the 5th European Congress on CPR, Prehospital Care and Prevention on 14-15 September 2007 in Ostend, Belgium.

Implementation of the project results:

The European First Aid Certificate (EFAC) was created by resolution of the directors-general of the Red Cross National Societies of the European Union. In order to obtain the EFAC, Red Cross National Societies must comply with existing guidelines for First Aid techniques applicable/developed in Europe. As such, the EFAC is an important tool for the implementation of the guidelines.

11) State of progress on 10 March 2006

The European First Aid Guidelines are in their prefinal stage.

The European First Aid Reference Guide and the European First Aid Manual are in development.

12) Contact

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