

2018 – 10

News from the network

JOIN Board meeting in Brussels

On 11 October, the JOIN Board came together in Brussels for a regular Board meeting. Participants were JOIN Chairman Johannes Bucher, JOIN Vice-Chairman Christian Velten-Jameson, Mark Broughton and Eric von Troil. Hubertus von Puttkamer, Federal Board member of Johanniter Germany, also attended the meeting. The JOIN Office gave a feedback on the Volunteer Swap. 86 St John volunteers already participated in the program this year. An update was also provided on European project proposals recently submitted. The next proposal to be drafted is an Erasmus+ project about First Aid in Schools. [Continue reading](#)

Clinical Working Group meets to review draft of European-wide First Aid manual

From 15 to 18 October, the Clinical Working Group of JOIN came together in Brussels to review the first draft of a European-wide First Aid manual. Delegates from Austria, Cyprus, England and Italy were present while our expert from Jerusalem joined the meeting via video call. In four intensive reviewing sessions the eight representatives focused on finalising their first draft. JOIN medical doctors and two external experts discussed the content details and terminologies, so they can be translated into multiple languages and used all over Europe by St John enterprises. [Continue reading](#)

Three JOIN members at the biggest EU Civil Protection Mechanism exercise

The 2018 Modex Romania was the largest medical exercise ever conducted in the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The simulation took place from 12 to 16 October and mobilised over 2,000 people. It was the fifth and final exercise this year conducted by a consortium of ten civil protection partners and led by Johanniter Germany. Together with its partners our German JOIN member designed, placed, conducted and self-evaluated the exercise which simulated the scenario of a 7.5 scale earthquake in Bucharest. [Continue reading](#)

Two German volunteers at the Austrian National Holiday

From 25 to 26 October, two German volunteers went to Vienna to participate in the ambulance services provided at the big events at the Austrian National Holiday. The volunteers gained valuable insights into Vienna's rescue services and the work of Johanniter Austria at large-scale operations. While they learnt about the Austrian health and care system, the volunteers shared experiences and discussed the differing procedures in their respective countries. Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria plans to accelerate International exchanges as they are an important factor in the development of services. [Continue reading](#)

New permanent employee at the JOIN Office

The JOIN Office welcomes a new employee, [Eva Pelgen](#). She completed her studies in Intercultural Management and Communication in Karlsruhe, Germany, and has previously been working in Birmingham, England, as International Coordinator. On 1 October, she joined the office and will be assisting Joachim Berney in a permanent part-time position. With a background of voluntary youth work and professional experience in translating and EU Project Management, Eva Pelgen will be involved in all communication matters among the JOIN network.

News from the members

Germany: Johanniter's Emergency Aid reaches people affected by earthquake in Indonesia

Two weeks after the severe earthquake and subsequent tsunami of 28 September on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the emergency relief measures of Johanniter International Assistance arrived. Local coordinator, Ejodia Kakoensi supported the transport and distribution of aid packages to the affected people in the city of Palu. She works directly with the local partner organisation PERUATI, which implements the distributions. In addition to the ongoing emergency aid, disaster prevention, in particular, will be the focus of Johanniter International Assistance in Indonesia. [Continue reading](#)

Germany: Johanniter organises Open Forum in Quito on measures for climate change adaption

On 2 October, Johanniter International Assistance came together with its Ecuadorian partner organisations to conduct a discussion forum addressing climate change. Aiming at creating local capacities for sustainable highland management, our German JOIN member invited more than 400 participants to the event in Quito for sharing and discussing project experiences. Representatives of indigenous communities and families, from local and national government and experts for climate change and agroecology discussed ways to achieve the continuity of actions in the territory. [Continue reading](#)

Jerusalem: St John Eye Hospital wins International Photo Competition

One of SJEHG staff members, Marie-Claire Boyle, has won the International Association for Preventable Blindness (IAPB) Photo Competition 2018. IAPB is a network of organisations across the world tackling preventable blindness together. The competition is held every year to celebrate World Sight Day, an international day of celebration of the achievements in the fight against blindness across the world. This year, over 1,400 pictures were sent for the competition. SJEHG winning entry as well as other winning pictures can be seen on the following [link](#).

Netherlands: Johanniter invites volunteers to a theater performance about voluntary work

On 30 September, our Dutch JOIN member invited more than four hundred volunteers to a theater performance dealing with the topic of voluntary work. This performance created by the theatre group at the request of Johanniter Nederland addressed change in the voluntary sector. Scenes and songs were improvised on the spot based on suggestions and ideas from the audience. The interactive play gave the volunteers the opportunity to share their experiences and stories and led to a lot of exchange and recognition. [Continue reading](#)

Wales: St John celebrates Centenary with Charity Ball

Our Welsh JOIN member hosted their Centenary Charity Ball at the St Fagans National Museum on 16 October and celebrated 100 years of St John being there for Wales. The media famous Doctor, Hilary Jones GP, took to the stage as host for the evening as the St John Cymru-Wales showcased their achievements as Wales' leading first aid charity from across the last century. Guests celebrated not only the difference St John has made in local communities and at events across Wales, but also recognised two inspirational stories from people who had put their first aid skills into practise. [Continue reading](#)

News from Europe

Johannita Segítő Szolgálat in Brussels for the V-IOLA project

On 12 October, our Hungarian JOIN member attended a V-IOLA project meeting in Brussels. Standing for 'Volunteer International On Line Asset', the project aims to enhance volunteers management capacities of third countries. It also intends to strengthen Civil Protection systems and ability to cope with natural and man-made disasters by promoting prevention and preparedness initiatives. Johannita Segítő Szolgálat is one of the 14 consortium members, which is led by the Italian Civil Protection Department. You will find more information on the V-IOLA project on the following [link](#).