



In this edition

**Security-Weeks in Germany**

During this year's nationwide Security-Weeks from 21-30 October 09, the German Johanniter are campaigning for their home alarm service.

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**First Aid Training Programme in the Caribbean**

St John organisations are holding free first aid training sessions in seven Caribbean countries for 16 months. The programme is supposed to reach a total of 12,000 people. During future ecological disasters even rural and disadvantaged communities will be able to provide first aid.

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**Europe Cast its Vote**

The 7<sup>th</sup> elections to the European Parliament took place from 4-7 June 09. With an average European turnout rate of 43.1% the public interest of the second largest democracy was again disturbingly low.

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JOIN News

**Working Groups meet in Cardiff and Brussels**

Two working group meetings have taken place within the JOIN network since the publication of the last issue.

St John Cymru Wales invited the "Volunteering" working group to Cardiff on 28 September 09. On this occasion an exchange of volunteers during the London Marathon 2010 was decided. Other topics like senior volunteering and the European Year of Volunteering 2011 were also on the agenda. The group discussed best ways to recruit new volunteers and ensuring they stay active members in the long run.

The group will get together again in the beginning of February 2010 in Stockholm.

The joint meeting of the two working groups "PR-Marketing" and "Fundraising" took place from 1-2 October 09 in Brussels.

Besides the European Year of Volunteering 2011, innovations in corporate design and the websites of the diverse national Johanniter organisations were presented. Cooperation and the exchange of working material have been arranged. After the JOIN-logo has been modernised, everyone agreed that new PR-material needs to be designed.

The next meeting will take place in March 2010.



## JOIN Members News



**St John Ambulance Priory of England and The Islands**

### **Special Award for First Aid Manual**

The latest issue of the First Aid Manual, which was published in February, recently received the Chairman's Special Award of the prestigious British Medical Association (BMA). The manual was jointly designed by St John Ambulance, British Red Cross and St Andrews Ambulance Association. It stood up against 600 other submissions to the competition.



**Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.**

### **Security-Weeks in Germany**

More and more elderly people have to stay completely on their own. A forsa-survey confirmed that every third interviewee in the age of 40-60 is afraid of having an accident at home when old. The Johanniter reacted on this concern and cam-



paigned again for their home alarm service during this year's Security-Weeks from 21-31 October 09. Unfortunately, the service was previously only known to a small number of people and it was the goal of the Johanniter to boost its public popularity and to win new customers. Johan-

niter offered "four weeks of free testing" via radio and TV ads. Letters, leaflets, posters and giveaways for the target group of people aged 75years and over were a part of the campaign.



**St John Cymru Wales**

### **New Headquarters and Training Centre opened**

British Health Minister Edwina Hart officially opened the new St John headquarters in Welsh Wrexham. The brand new Wrexham Centre will

be used as a centre for first aid training for the North-East of Wales.

Their extensive variety of courses is a unique feature in the region. A positive feedback from the large number of industrial enterprises in the area is expected.



**Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Austria**

### **Minipolis – The City of Kids**

This year's Minipolis-Festival from 20-21 August 09 was all about security. The young visitors had the possibility to find out about first aid at many different stations. During a simulated car accident everyone

could watch what needed to be done during a rescue operation. In a quick first aid course children



learned all about recovery position, how to dress a wound and what exactly is a defibrillator. Emergency vehicles could be visited and the K-9-unit was doing daily performances.



**Sihtasutus Johannitide Abi Eestis**

### **Food Packages help to get through the Winter**

Among EU-states the Baltic countries have been hit hardest by the economical crisis. In Estonia the unemployment rate has tripled over the last year. The number of people who suffer from poverty has insignificantly increased. This is why the Estonian Johanniter Foundation JAE has decided to financially support Bethel's Centre for Pastoral Care which will distributes food packages in Tallinn this winter.

The existing soup kitchen will not reach those who are poverty stricken for a short period of time. For these people it is often difficult to queue up in front of the soup kitchen. Together with Bethel's Centre, the Johanniter organisation plans to hand out packages with staple food items to families in need. Thanks to cooperation with businesses and the local organisation In Commune Bonum, it will be possible to provide 200 packages a month up to and including December 09.

The largest costs which occur in this project are transport costs. They are paid by JAE.

## St. John worldwide



### **St John Canada**

#### **Wildfires in Canada: St John Medical First Response Volunteers in Action**

During this summer's severe wildfires in the West of Canada St John Ambulance mobilised volunteers from all parts of the country. They provided first aid to thousands of people who had escaped the fires.

In the reception centres cooperation with other relief organisations worked very well.

Volunteers of Salvation Army administered the incoming of new patients and the Canadian Red Cross provided medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers and canes to support the frail and elderly. St John volunteers gave out hundreds of first aid kits that were thankfully received.



### **St John New Zealand**

#### **Becoming an Everyday Hero with St John**

No matter where – in the workplace, at home or at the roadside, the new interactive website of St John New Zealand offers everyone the opportunity to test and advance their skills in first aid in three everyday scenarios.

The edutainment product called "Everyday Hero" is the first of its kind in New Zealand. Director Gerry Fitzgerald says the website is all about gaining the necessary skills and confidence to carry out the right tasks and keep cool in case of an emergency.

Everyone who got interested can become an everyday hero on [www.everydayhero.org.nz](http://www.everydayhero.org.nz).



### **St John Uganda**

#### **Dental Hygiene Project for Rural Community**

Volunteers of St John Uganda organised the first outreach programme for dental care in the rural area of Nsangi. 15 dentists of a nearby hospital in

Mulago were on site to give medical advice. They did routine check ups and small operations.

St John mobilised the local community which responded well to the new programme. The volunteers organised the dentists' transport to Nsangi and prepared their meals. Moreover, they succeeded in distributing a vehicle with painkillers and antibiotics.

Christine Kasirye of St John Uganda rates the project as a big success. "Many people who had sleepless nights with toothache were appeased."

## Health and Social Affairs in Europe

### **Gender Equality boosts Economic Growth**

A new survey put out by the Swedish EU Presidency found out that stronger gender equality on the labour market can lead to an increase in economy by 15-45%.

Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities reported a distinct connection between balanced labour participation of men and women and a high per capita income in many countries. Countries with a high female labour participation and with more female Executive Managers often register better economic performance. 'In view of the economical crisis all potentials should be tapped to the full' says Špidla.

Considerable progress could be achieved in respect of female participation on the European labour market in the last ten years. But still one can find huge differences between men and women on the labour market. Among strongly deviant employment rates, gender-specific wage-differentials, involuntary halftime employment of women and a gender-specific segregation of the labour market are striking.

At a conference in Stockholm on 14-15 October 09 the question was discussed which political initiatives were necessary to mainstream the position of women on the labour market. The results of the dialogue between the responsible ministers of the actual (France, Czech Republic and Sweden) and future three-country presidency (Spain, Belgium and Hungary) shall be included in the future EU-Strategy for Growth and Employment for the time after 2010.

## **Eat it, drink it, move it!**

That is the new motto with which the current campaign of the European Commission appeals to children and teenagers for a more healthy diet. According to the EU Commission nearly 22 million children in the EU are overweight. Every year about 400,000 more children are documented. As a reaction on this alarming development so called "taste-teams" started their eight-week journey through Europe's schools on 28 September 09. Young Belgians, French, Irish, Estonians, Lithuanians and Polish will be able to learn, in a playful manner, what balanced diet means and what it can look like. All in all, the project aims to reach 18,000 children and 180 schools.

The campaign is launched in connection with the European School Fruit Scheme which provides about 90 million Euros to supply Europe's pupils with free fruit and vegetables in the schoolyard.

## **Humanitarian and Development Aid**

### **Immediate Aid for Sumatra**

After the heavy earthquake off the coast of the Indonesian island Sumatra, a team of Johanniter Emergency Aid made their way to the crisis region on 30 September 09 to determine the demand of relief supplies and to deliver a so called "emergency health kit" to M Djamil Clinic in Padang. The kit contained urgently needed medication and a basic equipment of surgical instruments. It will ensure basic medical care for 300,000 patients.

Several volunteers of the regional division of Rhine-Main were a big help in loading the relief supplies on board the plane at Frankfurt Airport. The clinic is situated only 30km away from the epicentre of the earthquake. It got hit hard. Thanks to the relief action of Johanniter it is now possible to use four of the 14 operating theatres again.

The city Pariaman is situated even closer to the epicentre and was nearly completely destroyed. Thanks to the financial support of the German Department for Foreign Affairs the Johanniter were able to supply the population with tents and other relief supplies.

### **Johanniter support Refugees**

Due to armed conflicts in the North-West of Pakistan nearly 2.5 million people have been forced to leave their homes and take refuge in the neighbouring regions. They have become dis-

placed in their own country. Most of them are hosted by other families. Nearly every family accommodates another. Although Pakistan is no poor country, financial means are short at present and a lot of refugees have needed to give up their jobs. As money is missing for food, mal- and undernutrition is widely spread, especially among children and women.

In cooperation with UNICEF-Pakistan, the German Department for Foreign Affairs and the British relief organisation "Merlin" Johanniter are supporting the population with medication and supplementary food. Each day local Johanniter teams visited camps in the region and examined those who were hit by the food shortage. Very severe cases are referred to the health centres in the region. Moreover, the teams give advice on topics such as nutrition, health, hygiene, birth control and preventive examination for pregnant women. The work of the relief organisations reaches approximately 80,000 people.

Because of the tense security situation in the region the action frame of relief organisations becomes ever smaller, "our local volunteers in Pakistan are affected by that, as well", states Jens Schwalb, Head of the Department for Projects of Johanniter International Assistance in South- and Central Asia, Europe and Middle East. "Nevertheless, at the moment we can provide efficient support with our projects and reach many people, this way."

### **New Website on Development Cooperation**

The European Commission launched a new website on development cooperation on 17 October 09, the International Day of the Eradication of Poverty.

The site is supposed to be a forum where development workers, partner countries, donors, scientists, Commission officials, NGOs and representatives of civil society have the possibility to exchange best practices. The website can be found [here](#).

## **Volunteering**

### **Ubuntu-Award for Voluntary Service**

The ceremony of the international Ubuntu-Award for Voluntary Service took place in the Apartheid-Museum in Johannesburg on 30 September 09.

The award complimented quality of youth voluntary service and shall strengthen the ability of the organisation to carry out high-quality volunteer projects. It is awarded by a consortium of ten organisations in Africa and Europe and supported

by European Commission in the context of the project "Youth in Action". Led by the organisations AVSO (Association of Voluntary Service Organisations), based in Brussels, and VOSEVA (Volunteer and Service Inquiry Southern Africa), based in Johannesburg, a network of NGOs are active in the area where voluntary service is built. The awareness that North and South have to work closely and equally together in order to set off sustainable development is a central aspect.

This year's winners are:

- Durbanville Children's Home – South Africa;
- African Information Movement (AIM.) – Ghana;
- Sports and Youth – Togo;
- Taita Foundation – Kenya (Special Prize for Sustainability).

AVSO President Massimiliano Viatore describes the strengths of voluntary service as follows: "What you learn and get is what you give and offer".

The prize will be awarded again in the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

### **"Let's slogo!"**

This is the motto of the official competition for a logo and slogan of the European Year Volunteering (EYV) 2011. The winners in both categories will be used for official promotion and information materials of the EYV.

Until 18 September 09 everyone was invited to submit ideas for logos and slogans at the "EYV 2011 Alliance". Until 16 October 09 the public was asked to vote for the two winners online.

The participant who has made the running for the Image of the European Year of Volunteering will be announced by the Commission on 16 December 09.

## **Civil Protection**

### **Training Programme for First Aid in the Caribbean**

The official Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US has counted a total of 16 tropical storms, amongst them eight hurricanes in the Caribbean in 2008. It was the second worst hurricane season since documentation by NOAA. Apart from the storms, the region is also prone to earthquakes, volcanic activities, flooding and other natural catastrophes.

That is why it is so important that the population of the island region has good knowledge of first aid thus in an emergency everyone is prepared.

Financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by Johanniter International

Assistance in Germany a new project to train communities in first aid and disaster response was launched in June 09. St John organisations of seven

Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Dominica; Grenada; Guyana; Jamaica and



Saint Lucia) organised free training days for a total of 12,000 people over a period of 16 months. Debbie Worrel, Head of St John in St. Lucia says that the people of St. Lucia will profit from the project a lot. "In times of crisis even the most rural and disadvantaged communities across the country will have the knowledge of basic first aid and disaster preparedness."

## **Other EU Policy News**

### **Europe cast its Vote**

The 7<sup>th</sup> elections to the European Parliament took place from 4-7 June 09 with citizens of 27 EU-Member States participating. That meant approximately 375,000 Europeans were entitled to vote in the second biggest democratic elections in the world.

Akin to the preceding elections in 2004, the average turnout of voters in the EU was low with only 43.1% of citizens who participated. The highest participation was shown by the people of Luxembourg with a total of 91%. In Slovakia only 17% of all persons entitled to vote took part in the elections.

The winners of this year's elections were first of all the conservatives (36% of all votes for EPP) and eurosceptic fractions (7.3% for ECR and 4.3% for EFD). The social democratic parties of Europe lost a great deal of support. Consequently, they were represented by only 159 members of parliament at present. That meant 56 members less than during the previous legislative period.

The new President of the European Parliament is Jerzy Buzek, former Prime Minister of Poland. Elected by a total of 86% of all votes, Buzek is the first head of the European Parliament of the middle and eastern European countries which entered into the EU in 2004.

Detailed information on the results of this year's election can be found [here](#).

## Europe's Way towards a Constitution

In the second referendum on 2 October 09 the Irish have voted for the Treaty of Lisbon with a majority of 67.13%. This time the 59% turnout rate was a little higher than the one of the earlier referendum in 2008 (53%).

At least to some extent, the Irish "Yes" regarding a European Constitution is accounted to the "Ireland Guarantees" which have been decided during the EU Summit 2009. If the treaty comes into effect, Ireland can guarantee to supply one commissioner. Societal and ethical issues such as abortion, divorce or the role of religion in education stay untouched by the treaty. The same goes for Irish fiscal policy and the traditionally military neutrality.

Just one week later on 9 October 09, Polish Head of State Lech Kaczynski signed the treaty. Although his parliament accepted the treaty in 2008 the President held back his signature with reference to Ireland until then.

The approval of Czech President Vaclav Klaus is still outstanding at publication of this issue. Klaus regards his approval, demanding an opt-out clause for his country, similar to the ones of Great Britain and Poland. However, such a change is not possible without a reopening of the ratification process, at this point in time. The only possible solution seems to be a guarantee by all other 26 Member States which could be made into a protocol and then annexed to the treaty.

Klaus behaviour already has a negative impact on the reputation of his country. Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer ensured on 13 October 09 in Brussels: "Nothing has changed concerning the pro-European focus of Czech foreign policy."

## Upcoming Events

### **"European Day of People with Disability" Conference**

The European Commission and the European disability Forum (EDF) will jointly launch the "European Day of People with Disability" Conference on 3-4 December 09.

This year's conference will deal with the question how the foundations for a self-determined life can be laid. In this context economical independence, social services and supporting technologies will be discussed.

Results and conclusions will be included in the EU-Actionplan in favour of people with disabilities.

## Civil Participation in Europe

The Conference of International NGOs (INGO) and the Centre for Information, Cooperation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS) will launch a conference entitled "Civil Participation in Europe" on 12-13 November 09 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Members of international nongovernmental organisations will get the chance to exchange experience and work out ways and means of participation in political decision-making. More information [here](#).

## Past Events

### **EU-Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease**

On 22 July 09, the European Commission passed concrete suggestions to fight Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases. The key areas of the initiative are early diagnosis and prophylaxis, a better coordination of science between EU countries, the exchange of best practice and the establishment of a forum for rights and dignity of patients.

At present, more than 7 million Europeans suffer from Alzheimer's or other kinds of dementia. Due to demographic developments the number of persons concerned might double within the next 20 years.

### **International Day for Disaster Reduction**

This year's International Day for Disaster Reduction on 14 October 09 was dedicated to the topic "Hospitals Safe from Disaster" which is also the name of a campaign run by WHO, World Bank and UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Hospitals are the most important infrastructure during catastrophes. If they are destroyed, the possibility to save lives is considerably hindered.

In his official message of 14 October 09 UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed governments and decision makers when he talked about health facilities having to be better prepared for local hazards. The costs of making hospitals safe for disaster were relatively small. "The most expensive hospital is the one that fails."

## EU Funding opportunities

### **Migration and Asylum: Cooperation with Non-EU-Countries**

EuropeAid asks for proposals of projects concerning migration and asylum.

The programme aims to assist non-EU countries in improving the controlling of migration into the EU. The main focus is not to fight the causes of migration but their management.

Single projects can be funded with grants between 500,000 and 2 million euros.

More information [here](#).

### **Youth in Action: Partnerships for Transnational Activities**

The executive agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture (EACEA) asks for proposals of youth projects in an international realm until 1 December 09.

Transnational youth exchange, voluntary services and trainings can be funded for a duration of 24 months maximum in connection with the programme "Youth in Action". The application form is available in the [internet](#).

***Note: Details of these and additional funding opportunities are included in a monthly newsletter, which the JOIN Office receives. Please send us an e-mail, if you are interested to be updated on this on a regular basis.***