

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING Federation of Europe

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EU Partnership Project – European Qualification Framework (EQF) *„Safer Europe by higher qualified Lifeguards“*

Minutes

of the 1st Seminar in Constanta/Romania

08 – 11 September 2011





EU Partnership Project EQF Seminar "Safer Europe by higher qualified Lifeguards"

in Constanta/Romania, 08 – 11 September 2011

Start	Action	Moderator
Thursday, 08.09.2011		
	Arrival of participants	
18:00	Dinner	
19:00	Welcome	Dr. Klaus Wilkens (Germany) President ILSE Gheorghe Oancea (Romania) President ANSPSR
19:15 – 20:15	Introduction The Lifesaving Framework in accordance to the European Qualification Framework (EQF)	Dr. Klaus Wilkens (Germany) President ILSE
20:15	Planning of future steps	
Friday, 09.09.2011		
	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09:30	Analysing the Instructor Education	Thorsten Reus (DLRG/Germany) par- ticipants from, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Great Britain, Ireland, Norway, Poland and Sweden
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 13:00	Continuing Analysing the Instructor Education	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	Risks and Hazards	Helmut Stöhr (DLRG/Germany), Adrian Ripa (ANSPSR/Romania) Andrew Byatt (SLS/Great Britain)
15:00 – 18:00	Rescue Techniques, Rescue Equipment,	Helmut Stöhr (DLRG/Germany) Andrew Byatt (SLS/Great Britain) Anne Ryan (IWS Ireland)
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>	
Saturday, 10.09.2011		
	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09:30 – 13:00	Practical Exercise at the beach of Constanta	Thorsten Gärtner (DLRG/Germany), Adrian Ripa (ANSPSR/Romania)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 16:00	Conclusion: Results of the seminar and perspectives for 2012/2013	Dr. Klaus Wilkens (Germany) Helmut Stöhr (Germany)
16:00 – 18:00	Visiting the School for Lifeguards and Divers	Adrian Ripa (ANSPSR/Romania) Gheorghe Oancea (ANSPSR/Romania)
18:30	Boat tour to an island Dinner	
Sunday, 11.09.2011		
	<i>Breakfast</i>	
	Transfers for the departing participants Excursions	



Chair: **Dr. Klaus Wilkens** (Germany),
President of the
International Life Saving of Europe (ILSE)

Speakers:

Helmut Stöhr (Germany)
Director of Education Service DLRG
ILSE Development Aid Advisor

Adrian Ripa (Romania)
Vice-President of the ANSPSR
Member of the ILSE Rescue Commission

Thorsten Gärtner (Germany)
Chief Instructor for Lifesaving
German Life Saving Society (DLRG)

Thorsten Reus (Germany)
Commissioner for Licences and Qualifications
of Education
German Life Saving Society (DLRG)



Thursday, 08.09.2011

Welcome and Introduction



Dr. Klaus Wilkens welcomed the participants at 07:00 pm. in our Conference Room of the hotel „Majestic“ in Constanta. He thanked Helga Wilkens for organizing and planning the seminar.

He especially thanked the President of the ANSPSR, Lifeguard Federation of Romania, Mr. Gheorghe Oancea, for his friendly invitation, all local organization and support. He also thanked Adrian Ripa, Vice-President of the ANSPSR, and his team for their important assistance.

Dr. Dirk Bissinger, Chairman of the ILSE Education Commission, was pronounced excused as he had important job-related appointments

After everyone had shortly introduced him- or herself, Dr. Klaus Wilkens commented on the Seminar Agenda.

Because the weather was very good (more than 25 °C and sunshine expected for the whole seminar) and because of optimal requirements for training on the beach (Lifesaving Techniques), the participants decided to move the planned stream "Didactics and Methodologicals" to the 2nd Seminar in Bad Nenndorf/Germany (19.-22.01.2012).

However, an overview about the education of instructors in the EU Member States was scheduled for Friday morning.

Following seminars were scheduled:

19.-22.01.2012	Bad Nenndorf
01.-04.03.2012	Szczecin (Commission Meeting)
17.-20.01.2013	Prague (Commission Meeting)

„European Quality Framework (EQF)“

(Dr. Klaus Wilkens)

– Idea, issues and next steps –

In the beginning Dr. Wilkens commented on the Model of **8 Levels for the process of life-long learning** with the help of a presentation (File "Thursday-1"). Particularly he focused on the transfer and acquirement of **knowledge, skills and competences** in the EU Member States

Based on the recommendations of the EU Government (23.04.2008) he explained lifelong learning to be an important aim for people all over Europe, all over the world too.

The core of the EQF is a conjunction of European Quality Systems and the result will be a cross approval of issues, qualifications and competences. The goal is an easier comparison of national qualifications.

Therefore reference levels 1 – 8 describe what a learner knows, understands and is able to do – the 'learning outcomes'.



The EQF ("The Lifesaving Framework") includes the **reference levels 1 – 4:**

Level	Qualification
1	Lifesaver*
2	Lifesaver**
	Lifesaver*** (Pool Lifeguard)
3	Lifesaver*** (Inland Open Water Lifeguard)
	Lifesaver*** (Beach/Surf Lifeguard)
	Lifesaver*** (Lifesaving Instructor)
4	Chief Lifeguard/Chief Instructor

Dr. Wilkens emphasized that the recognition of lifesaving by the EU Government in his programs – e. g. Leonardo-da-Vinci – was an important step for the ILSE.

Finally Dr. Wilkens advised the participants to be (more) active in developing their "**National Quality Frameworks – (NQF)**". As a consequence the NQF will be presented to the national governments, especially the ministries of cultural affairs.

The **conclusion** was:

- The European concept is compatible to the ILS-Certificate System
- The European concept could be a base for the Lifeguard Vocation all over the world

Friday, 09.09.2011

How do we qualify a Lifesaver to become an instructor?

(Thorsten Reus)

- Getting an overview of current concepts -

Thorsten Reus started his presentation by commenting on the first objectives that are required to develop a common concept for the education of instructors (File „Friday-1“):

- Getting an overview of education in EU Member States
- listing differences and similarities of the guidances
- intermediate result: showing the cut sets
- developing this new guidance to an EQF



Based on a collection of necessary knowledge, skills and competences of instructors, the participants from

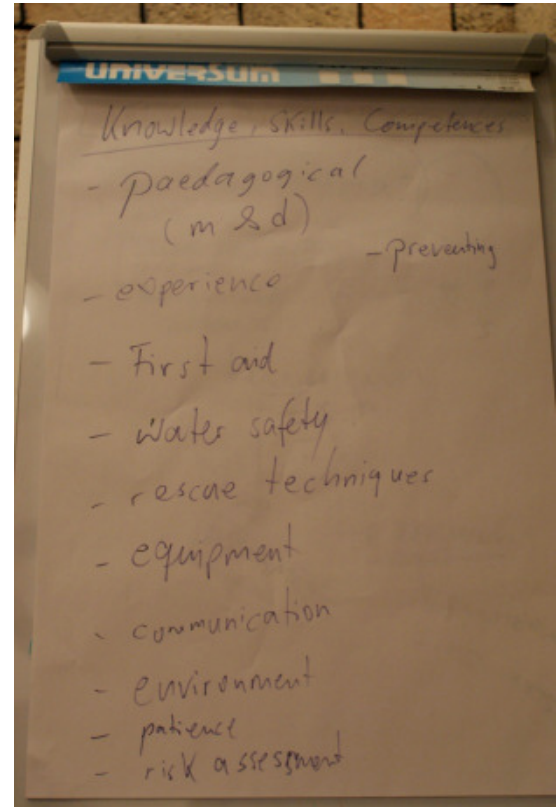
Germany, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Czechia, United Kingdom (SLS), Bulgaria, Ireland and Romania

presented an overview of their guidances for the to educate 'ordinary' Lifesavers to Instructors. (Files „Friday 2“ to „Friday 9b“).

Thorsten Reus concluded that all presented guidelines were very different and a comparison is difficult even if there are similarities.

The points of difference can be distinguished in the categories of

- their timeframe,
- their contents and
- their particular intensity concerning such,



However, aligning these points in one commonly usable concept is the reason of developing the EQF.

The **similarities** are primarily:

- the guidances are quality systems,
- Lifesaver** is the minimum required base of education,
- exams or tests are always required,
- almost all systems include a phase of practice, assisted by a tutor (versed instructor),
- professional knowledge, skills and competences will be accepted and credited for the total time of education, some EU Member States even require a university degree to become an instructor and
- some guidances are issued for national foundation by the government (basically restricting the organisations' autonomy)



Risks and hazards on the beach

(Adrian Ripa)

- Preparation for praxis -



Adrian Ripa sensibilized the participants to risks and hazards of swimming in the rip current of the sea. The swell and the current, in addition the impact of wind and weather, are not only problems of tourists or swimmers. Lifeguards have to be able to recognize actual hazards, so they can choose the correct equipment for lifesaving.

If Lifeguards know risks and hazards especially in their area of operations, they could adapt their training to these special circumstances. This makes the matter also important for instructors (File "Friday-12").

Rescue Techniques and Rescue Equipment

(Helmut Stöhr)

- Preparation for praxis –

In its textbook for instructors of lifesaving, the „German Life Saving Society (DLRG)“ offers important advise for Rescue Techniques for active lifeguards.

Helmut Stöhr introduced the participants to basic Rescue Techniques (Carries, Tows and Assists, Releases) by presenting slide decks and charts that are included as teaching material in this and other (German) manuals (File “Friday-13”).



These Rescue Techniques are one possibility among many for lifesaving. The following discussions between participants showed that every organization applies mostly similar variants, also included their respective manuals.

It showed again how difficult finding an unanimous consensus to develop the EQF will be.

As a next point an overview about generally used Rescue Equipment was given. The participants conducted a small survey that showed which Equipment is in use in each EU Member State (Files “Friday 15”, “Friday-16”). The result is, again, part of the preparation of Saturday’s praxis unit, because this seminar should primarily offer the possibility of training with unknown equipment.



Finally, Anne Ryan presented Rescue Equipment used in Ireland (File “Friday-14”)

Inflatable Rescue-Boat (IRB)

(Dr. Klaus Wilkens)

Concluding, Dr. Klaus Wilkens presented photos of the current state-of-the-art technique of the use of IRBs. Two variants of IRBs can be ordered: One offers a keel filled with air, another one is produced with an ordinary GFK-keel. Furthermore there are different possibilities concerning the floor: either original (inflatable) or aluminum variants can be ordered. Both have different advantages considering their area of operation (File “Friday-10”).

IRB’s can be ordered at the „German Life Saving Society (DLRG)“ (www.dlrg.de) and are already in use by the ANSPSR in Constanta (Mamaia).

Saturday, 10.09.2011

Praxis on the beach

(Thorsten Gärtner, Adrian Ripa)

Built on yesterday's theory, Thorsten Gärtner and Adrian Ripa presented the Rescue Equipment generally used in Mamaia on the beach.

Following a short introduction the participants were able to exercise their skills in three groups:

- Spineboard
- Rescue board
- IRB

The Praxis Part was concluded by training the different variants of Releases and Carries.



Using a spineboard was demonstrated on the beach before training in the sea started.



Using the different Rescue Equipment (Tube, Spineboard, IRB, Rescue Board) as well as the demonstration of the different Releases and Carries was the main focus of our praxis unit.

Conclusion

After lunch every speaker summarized the main contents of his part (see above) and thanked the participants for their attention. The immediate results of this seminar will be developed further in the following three seminars.

Feedback of the participants concerning the agenda and contents of the seminar was quite positive, even though the final aim of developing an EQF is still quite difficult.

Visiting the Induction of the new training-center for lifeguards and divers.

(Georghe Oancea)



A new indoor pool and a 20 meter high diving tower was build in Constanta by the ANSPSR, partly financed by the EU-government. This modern center for the training of lifeguards and divers all over the year impressed all participants



Dr. Klaus Wilkens valued the effort of this still young organisation highly and handed the president of ANSPSR, Georghe Oancea, the flag of the ILSE and a ship-bell to continue to command his team with simple signals in the future.



All participants thanked the whole team of the ANSPSR with big applause for their great hospitality and the excellent organization of the seminar.



All photos were taken by Carmen Reus, German Life Saving Society (DLRG).