



INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION OF EUROPE

DROWNING PREVENTION COMMISSION

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES WORKING GROUP

RECOMMENDATION

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES DROWNING PREVENTION

Introduction

When arriving in a new country, a period of adaptation is inevitable. This also implies adapting to water safety in that country, namely knowledge of the dangers, safety rules and what to do in an emergency.

Thus, each country must develop policies for the prevention of drowning in migrants and refugees.

This recommendation lists some ideas that can be developed nationally, knowing that each country must adapt them to its culture and social situation, and that many more ideas must be created in addition to those listed.

Recommendations

1. Send a SMS upon the arrival of anyone entering the borders with basic information regarding water safety and with some good practical advice in the main languages of migrants and refugees. Send them a link to a page with more practical information if they were interested.
2. Have active communication with all migrant and refugee associations to learn about their water safety needs. It is advisable to make a database that gathers this information: first name, surname, age, sex, phone number, nationality and if they know how to swim: good, regular or bad. It should be ordered from lowest to highest.

3. Negotiate with the local City Council to reserve some places in each swimming course to include free migrants and refugees to learn to swim, starting with those who cannot swim or swim poorly.
4. Create a “Water Safety Flyer” and a “water safety & swimming teaching program” with drowning danger identification, safety rules and what to do in case of emergency, in the main languages of migrants and refugees. Share this information with local association and refugee centre to publicize and reach migrants and refugees in the area.

In the same way, create a poster or sign that should be placed at the entrance of the aquatic spaces with the necessary information about problems that may arise in the aquatic environment.