

# **A profile of the Red Cross in the EU**

**Facts and Figures  
2003**

# A Profile of the Red Cross in the European Union (EU)

## *Facts and Figures*

In the EU, the Red Cross network represents over one million volunteers, employs 110,000 people and has over a thousand staff working internationally.


Although each National Society belongs to a different social, political and cultural system and performs different tasks, all share the same basic unifying principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In the EU, the Red Cross is a major provider of social and emergency services and a partner in policy discussions pertaining to humanitarian issues both within and outside the EU.

Since 1983, the National Red Cross Societies of the EU, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, have established a representation and liaising office in Brussels, in order to facilitate cooperation between the EU National Societies and to bring the grass roots experience to the attention of the European institutions.

This publication presents a profile of the 15 EU National Societies: their structure and main activities and their common interests within the EU context. It does not claim to be exhaustive. Realities, facts and figures change from day-to-day and we will update these profiles on a regular basis. The many challenges that lie ahead include the preoccupation of the Red Cross of how best to serve the most vulnerable in an ever changing environment; and the importance of its specific mandate and role within society being recognized by both national authorities and the EU Institutions. In view of EU enlargement, we also look forward to strengthening relations with the National Societies of the candidate countries of Eastern, Central and Southern Europe.

If you already belong to the Red Cross, as a volunteer, as an employee, or as a supporter, I hope that you will find something in these pages that makes you want to find out more about colleagues and their activities in other parts of the European Union. If you work in government, in another voluntary organisation, in a research institute, or the commercial sector, we hope that you too will want to find out more about the potential for co-operation.

The Red Cross/EU Office will be pleased to hear from you, welcome your comments and put you in touch with the relevant person in the National Red Cross Societies.



Luc Henskens  
Director  
Red Cross/EU Office

*April 2003*

# CONTENTS

<b>THE RED CROSS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES .....	5
COMMON VALUES AND INTERESTS .....	6
DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES .....	7
EU WIDE ACTIVITIES IN KEY AREAS.....	9
NETWORKING.....	11
 <b>NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION .....</b>	 <b>12</b>
AUSTRIA.....	13
BELGIUM.....	17
BRITAIN .....	20
DENMARK .....	23
FINLAND.....	26
FRANCE.....	30
GERMANY .....	33
GREECE.....	38
IRELAND.....	41
ITALY .....	43
LUXEMBOURG .....	46
NETHERLANDS .....	49
PORTUGAL.....	52
SPAIN .....	54
SWEDEN .....	57
 <b>NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES OF THE CANDIDATE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.....</b>	 <b>60</b>
CZECH REPUBLIC .....	61
ESTONIA .....	63
HUNGARY .....	65
LATVIA.....	67
LITHUANIA .....	70
MALTA .....	72
POLAND.....	74
SLOVAKIA .....	77
SLOVENIA.....	80

<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF THE MOVEMENT .....</b>	<b>82</b>
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RC/RC .....	83
RC/EU OFFICE.....	85
ICRC.....	86
 <b>EUROPEAN NETWORKS OF NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES .....</b>	 <b>87</b>
EUROPEAN LEGAL SUPPORT GROUP (ELSG) .....	88
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES AGAINST VIOLENCE.....	89
(ENAV) .....	89
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES ON HIV/AIDS (ERNA/RECS).....	90
EUROPEAN PUBLIC SUPPORT GROUP (EPSG) .....	91
EUROPEAN RED CROSS SOCIETIES NETWORK FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT (ENPS) .....	92
FIRST AID EUROPEAN NETWORK .....	93
PLATFORM FOR EUROPEAN RED CROSS CO-OPERATION ON REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS (PERCO) .....	94
WEST EUROPEAN YOUTH RED CROSS NETWORK (WEYRCN).....	95
WESTERN EUROPEAN NETWORK ON VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT (WENDOV) .....	96
 <b>GLOSSARY.....</b>	 <b>97</b>

## The Red Cross in the European Union

### Members of the global network of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Most of the countries that are currently member of the EU were among those where the Red Cross idea took root in the mid-1860s. Since then the network has expanded. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, founded in 1919, is today comprised of 179 National Societies and has become the world's largest humanitarian organisation with about 97 million members and around 20 million volunteers assisting some 233 million persons each year.

**National Societies** are the foundation and vital force of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. They are recognized by their governments on the basis of the Geneva Conventions and of national legislation as a voluntary aid society, auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. They provide a range of services to the most vulnerable people without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. Governments contribute to their work through financial support and by taking part in the Movement's International Conferences.

**Within their own countries** National Societies are autonomous national organizations providing an indispensable framework for their volunteers and staff. The missions they carry out in co-operation with their governments include *inter alia*: mitigation of human suffering by programs in health, education and social welfare, emergency relief operations, ensuring respect and dissemination of international humanitarian law and to protect the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.

**At the international level**, National Societies give assistance to victims of armed conflicts, as provided in the Geneva Conventions, and to victims of natural disasters and other emergencies. This assistance is provided through the National Societies concerned, the International Federation or the International Committee of the Red Cross.

### The Movement

The National Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross constitute the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### The International Conference

It is the supreme body of the Movement where the components of the Movement meet with representatives of the States party to the Geneva Conventions. Together they decide upon humanitarian matters of common interests.

### Fundamental Principles

The Movement is guided by the same seven Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.



**The power of humanity** was chosen in May 1999 as the slogan for the Red Cross Red Crescent to promote activities worldwide.

# The Red Cross in the European Union

## Common values and interests

The National Red Cross Societies of the EU reflect a picture of Europe, where each country, regardless of its characteristics, and each at a different pace, is trying to move forward together with its European partners. Although each National Society belongs to a different social, political and cultural system and performs different tasks, all share the same basic unifying principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

**Today, the 15 National Red Cross Societies of the EU represent a network of over one million volunteers, employ 110,000 persons and have over a thousand staff working internationally.**

The strategic plan - *Strategy 2010* <sup>2</sup> which will take the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies through the first decade of the millennium speaks of our core mission to the most vulnerable in our community. For the Red Cross in the EU, that word “community” embraces local, regional, national and global challenges. Our strength lies in the contribution of volunteers at the local level who come together, through the Red Cross network, to meet emergency needs.

Activities of the Red Cross focus on **four core areas: promoting humanitarian values, disaster response, disaster preparedness and health and community care**. The need to collaborate on those issues in the EU context is increasingly becoming important.

For three main reasons:

- **Policy decisions and regulations developed by the EU institutions, directly affect National Red Cross Societies’ work, both at the national and international levels.** This also includes allocations of financial resources by the EU to Red Cross sectors of work, previously only decided and managed by national authorities.
- **The National Societies have a legally mandated auxiliary role to their Governments. This protected and unique status needs to be fully acknowledged by the EU.** The capacity of the EU National Red Cross Societies to come to the assistance of the public authorities is predicated on a strong day-to-day role in service delivery, which could be unintentionally undermined were it misunderstood and not integrated by the EU Institutions.
- **A number of issues can no longer be dealt with at the national level alone.** Common standards are often required in service delivery across the EU and in international assistance programs. Examples of ‘best practice’ and bringing that experience to the attention of the European institutions is seen as important in order to advocate for the most vulnerable and to contribute to policy making in this respect.

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<sup>2</sup> Strategy 2010: see page 82

# The Red Cross in the European Union

## Domestic Activities

There are **significant differences** between the socio-political situations in the different Member States of the EU. This means that the activities of National Societies and their working methods are not always similar. Nevertheless, **sectors of common interest are becoming increasingly apparent** and thus the necessity to develop models (i.e. learning from “best practices” from the private and voluntary sectors) is bringing National Societies together in different fora.

The image of the Red Cross amongst the European public might be one of ambulance and first aid services, blood transfusion and a **provider of emergency and rescue services**, but all National Societies in their quest to assist the most vulnerable in their communities have developed a wide range of **community health and social welfare services**.

The following table, without being exhaustive, provides a wide cross-section of domestic operations implemented by the 15 National Societies in the EU.

<b><i>Disaster response and preparedness</i></b>	
Rescue	Germany (water, mountain), Italy, Spain (water and mountain), Ireland (mountain), France, Austria, Finland.
Ambulance services	Austria, Ireland, Luxembourg, NL, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Finland, Germany, Portugal.
1 <sup>st</sup> aid training course	Belgium, UK, Denmark, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Sweden, France (European Reference Centre on First Aid), Spain, NL, Italy, Finland, Luxembourg, Sweden (including 1 <sup>st</sup> aid teams).
Reception of refugees and asylum seekers	Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, NL, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden.
Blood services	Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, NL, Belgium, Spain.

<b><i>Promotion of humanitarian values, dissemination of IHL and RC/RC Fundamental Principles</i></b>	
Dissemination of IHL and Principles	Austria, Belgium, UK, Italy, NL, Spain, Ireland, France, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark.
Youth	Austria, Belgium, UK, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, France, Sweden.

## Activities of Red Cross National Societies in the European Union 1

<b>Health care and social welfare services</b>	
Home assistance	Austria, UK, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, France, Sweden.
Visiting program (elderly, isolated, prison)	UK, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, France, Spain, Ireland, NL, Italy, Austria.
Transport / escort of elderly	UK, Ireland, Spain, NL, Italy, Finland.
Meals on wheels	UK, Luxembourg, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Portugal.
Tele alarm (direct call service to the RC)	Greece, Spain, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Germany, Sweden.
Medical loan	UK, Belgium, Italy.
2 <sup>nd</sup> hand shops	UK, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden.
Primary health care	France (international), Finland, Portugal, Italy.
Health promotion	France (children), Greece, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Finland, Austria.
Psychological support	Denmark (psychological first aid, victim support, psychological assistance), Finland (self-care promotion, activities promoting contacts between people), Denmark (self-help groups, here and now contact scheme for traumatised people), Belgium, Spain, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden.
HIV/AIDS	Italy, Spain, France (domestic + international), Luxembourg, Sweden, Denmark (international, for development assistance), Finland.
Nursing training programme	Austria, France, Spain, Germany, Sweden.
Tracing	All EU National Red Cross Societies.



# The Red Cross in the European Union

## EU wide activities in key areas

Increasingly, EU National Red Cross Societies collaborate in joint programs and develop activities together. In relation to the EU institutions, priority is given to areas of common interest to the majority of National Societies and in sectors that are on the agenda of the EU. National Societies and the International Federation, through the RC/EU Office, concentrate on **fund-raising, promoting the Red Cross values and principles** and presenting the **Red Cross as a major service provider and partner in policy making** both within and outside the European Union.

### Areas of common interest to EU Institutions and the Red Cross

- Emphasis on **social inclusion** and meeting the needs of groups subject to discrimination: minorities, disadvantaged youth, people with disabilities, elderly, asylum seekers, and refugees.
- Emphasis on strengthening **civil dialogue** and development of civil society.
- Emphasis on the **voluntary sector** as a major job and training provider.
- Emphasis on widening **networks and developing partnerships** with other organizations in public, voluntary and commercial sectors.
- Emphasis on using a wide range of **communication tools** to provide widespread access to information on good practice, and networking opportunities.
- Effective and fast **international relief operations**.
- **Development cooperation** based on local capacities in key areas: transmittable diseases (including HIV/AIDS), poverty alleviation, and food security.
- Challenges related to the **upcoming enlargement of the EU**.

At present, the Red Cross is engaged in active dialogue with the EU on the following priority areas:

### Within the European Union

- **Service and Program areas**
  - Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants;
  - Emergency planning and response: including the role of volunteers in civil protection and first aid issues;
  - Working with young people as part of the Red Cross volunteer base and as a target group for its services;
  - Assistance to vulnerable elderly people;
  - Social inclusion and anti-discrimination projects.
- **Policy Interests**
  - Influencing the European Union's socio-political agenda:
  - EC Public health programme;
  - The Common European Asylum System;
  - The Road Safety programme.

## **EU wide activities in key areas: International solidarity**

### **Outside the European Union**

Within the framework of the International Federation and in collaboration with the ICRC, **National Red Cross Societies of the EU present a major donor resource** and support for the implementation of programs and projects of National Societies worldwide.

All EU National Societies develop their own strategies, geographical and sector-related priorities, often coinciding with the objectives of their own governments. Nevertheless, these National Societies are increasingly coming together to tackle common goals and activities.

### **Emergency Assistance and Relief operations**

Emergency assistance is provided in the fields of emergency shelter, food and medicine; water and sanitation; restoring family contacts for disaster victims (tracing) and logistical support.

#### **Strengthening Rapid Disaster Response**

EU National Red Cross Societies are in the forefront to implement concepts, which increase disaster response capacities.

**FACT:** Coordinated by the Federation, experts from National Societies, in the form of Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT), can be mobilized immediately for the period of time required to organize the response to needs following a disaster.

**ERU:** The concept of Emergency Response Units (ERUs) was devised by the Federation in 1994 to speed up the response to a disaster. ERUs comprise pre-trained specialist volunteers and pre-packed sets of standardized equipment ready for use "off the shelf". In the ERU scheme, the team members know each other in advance.

EU National Societies have developed ERUs in water supply and sanitation, telecom, basic health-care units, field hospitals and logistics.

#### **ECHO**

The European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid Office -ECHO-, has become a major donor in support of international emergency assistance and relief operations of the EU National Red Cross Societies, the Federation and the ICRC.

During the period 2000-2002, approximately 69% of the total amount requested by the Federation and EU National Societies was covered by ECHO. In 2002, the EU National Societies and the Federation received approximately 30.5 MEUR from ECHO.

### **Development co-operation**

The role and work of EU National Societies in support of capacity and institution building of other National Societies world-wide and their commitment to mid to long-term rehabilitation and development activities is often little known and underestimated. They intervene in key areas such as: training, reinforcing disaster preparedness, community-based health and care, HIV/AIDS prevention and care, and food security.

Programs are run in co-operation with the Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in that country. Activities are guided by country and regional assistance strategies and include a capacity building component to strengthen the National Society.

In the European Commission, the Red Cross/EU Office is in regular contact with DG Development, RELEX and EuropeAid.

# The Red Cross in the European Union

## Networking

The Red Cross Movement has the framework needed for successful networking: common principles. There is also the shared **desire to increase voluntary activities to meet the needs of vulnerable people**. Within the Movement, Red Cross networks actively promote cooperation and exchange, bringing together practitioners with expertise in a specific sector. Networks are based on:

- Voluntary participation in sectors of interest;
- Mutual trust and benefit;
- Mid to long-term development towards a common goal.

National Red Cross Societies are involved in at least three different kinds of networking activities:

- 1) Networks on a horizontal level **between different National Societies**, involving several geographical regions or between different local branches within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- 2) **Individual citizens** can, through their participation as Red Cross members, contribute to the building and supporting of social networks and to bringing about improvements in society.
- 3) Networks between **NGOs or public authorities and Red Cross** units at different levels (local, regional, national, European, global) in order to broaden partnerships, increase coordination and streamline approaches.

In the European Union, the National Red Cross Societies created the **Red Cross/EU Office** in 1983 as a representation of the interests of the National Societies and International Federation, in order to advocate for and promote the activities, policies and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the EU institutions.

The Office in Brussels facilitates the exchange of “best practice” amongst National Societies and the development of common positions in those sectors of interest debated in the EU institutions. The majority of European Red Cross networks were created through the RC/EU Office.

EU National Red Cross Societies and the RC/EU Office also participate and maintain relations with a number of EU-wide networks established by NGOs. The main ones include: **EAPN** (European Anti-Poverty Network), **ECRE** (European Council for Refugees and Exiles), **EYF** (European Youth Forum), **Eurolink Age**, **Platform of European Social NGOs**, **CONCORDE** (Non Governmental Development Organizations), **VOICE** (NGOs involved in emergency humanitarian aid).

## National Red Cross Societies in the European Union

### A Profile of the Red Cross in the European Union

#### *Facts and Figures*

- Austrian Red Cross
- Belgian Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Hellenic Red Cross
- Irish Red Cross
- Italian Red Cross
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- Portuguese Red Cross
- Spanish Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross



**ÖSTERREICHISCHES ROTES KREUZ**

**Austria**

## **Mission**

In accordance with its mission statement (last updated in 1994), the Austrian Red Cross operates in the following fields: rescue and ambulance services, health and community services, disaster relief and development co-operation programmes, blood programmes, tracing service, training (for both Red Cross staff and the general public), dissemination of humanitarian law and the Youth Red Cross.

A new drive in the strategic considerations of the Austrian RC has been initiated with the "Future process" in 2000 which not only resulted in the elaboration of guidelines for the Austrian Red Cross work in its core activities but also set the path for the future development of this activities.

## **Legal basis**

- **1880:** The Austrian RC is founded
- **1921:** Austrian RC joins the League
- **1962:** Current legal basis for the recognition of the Austrian RC
- **1970:** Austrian RC 's statutes
- **2000:** Latest revision of the Austrian RC's statutes
- **Mai 2002:** Most recent General Assembly

## **Constituency**

The structure covers all Austrian regions:

- **9 regional branches**, one per Land,
- **+/- 143 districts** (regional subdivisions for the implementation of tasks),
- **930 local branches.**

## **Human resources**

- **Paid staff:** +/- 4 400
- **Volunteers:** +/- 41 300 (representing more than 80% of all workers). Approximately 760,000 supporting members.
- **Training:** sessions are organised for paid employees and volunteers at the national and regional levels (complementary training for paid collaborators, first aid, cardiac resuscitation, etc.).

## **National context**

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 8.075 million**

**GDP per capita: € 25,037**

**Life expectancy: 77.7 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.4 ‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1995**

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## Domestic activities

### Disaster relief services

The Austrian RC provides an independent disaster relief service, which is ready to provide assistance at any time in both national and international emergencies. The staff in this service is trained in the fields of rescue, first aid, transportation of the wounded and in the use of special equipment. The society keeps permanent emergency stocks in each of the nine *Länder*, such as tents, blankets, field beds and all kinds of medical equipment.

Of particular importance in emergencies such as avalanches or earthquakes are the search-dog teams. Whether in Austria or abroad, these specially trained and qualified dogs have often proved to be quicker and more reliable than some highly sophisticated apparatus.

### Rescue and ambulance services

The Austrian RC is the largest provider of rescue and ambulance services in the country. It uses specially equipped emergency vehicles and helicopters together with highly trained emergency doctors to give the best medical help at the scene of the emergency. This mobile emergency system has been installed nation-wide and about 90 vehicles are in place and available 24 hours a day.

### Health and Community services

Home nursing services have become a major field of activity for the society. These services cover the preparation for up-coming hospital treatment, post-hospital care, and regular attendance for people with chronic ailments. Community service activities include "meals on wheels" and direct call service for the elderly.

The Austrian RC also offers training programmes for volunteers and relatives of people who need these services. These are aimed at people who are, or soon might be, nursing members of the family. They are taught self-care, mental and physical mobility principles in old age. The programme for health and community services involves about 950 paid employees and 2,500 volunteers.

### Blood

Austrian RC blood centres provide most of the blood supplies in Austria. Every year, half a million of units of blood are required to meet the needs of hospitals. Blood donation at the Austrian RC is strictly voluntary and non-remunerated.

All blood units are subject to stringent examination and testing in order to exclude, among others, HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis (PCR-testing). The procedures of how blood is collected, stored and processed are rigorously regulated by international safety standards (WHO, Council of Europe) and the 1999 Austrian blood safety law.

## Leadership

➔ At the national level, a strict distinction exists between governance and management. The President of the Austrian RC is a volunteer, while the Secretary General and the other members of the Managing Board are paid employees. The General Assembly meets once a year; the governance board meets four times a year, and the Managing Board once a week.

➔ The **General Assembly** is composed of the representatives of the regional committees and the members of the Governance Board. The Austrian RC's statutes stipulate that the votes of the regional committees shall be proportionate to their population, with a minimum of four votes. At the **regional level**, similar ratios of distribution are in force. The existing distributions guarantee a constant representation of all parts of the population.

➔ The **Governance Board** is composed of the President of the society, the Vice-Presidents, the Presidents of the regional branches and the Federal President of the Youth Red Cross.

➔ **Regional and national bodies** were established as non-profit societies under Austrian law and act with legal and financial independence.



## Domestic activities (2)

### Youth

Established as a division of the Austrian RC, the Youth Red Cross is closely associated with the educational institutions and constitutes an operational platform of teachers, parents and young people. The Youth Red Cross provides guidance for young people in respect of humanitarian education and social behaviour and offers practical help.

Its activities include promotion of peace; disaster relief and development aid; community actions; summer camps and therapeutic programmes; health education; first-aid training for children and teachers; nursing, mother-and-child care; swimming and water safety; environmental education; promotion of reading; traffic education. In 2002, there were 8,000 volunteers in schools. These volunteers reach more than 1,2 million pupils and 5,000 young people outside schools.

Furthermore, the Youth Red Cross publishes documentation to promote the humanitarian message. In 1998 the health education programme was expanded by the GIVE service centre. The centre supports health promotion at school and provides contacts with organisations, models of good practice and advice on relevant reference material.

### Dissemination of IHL

Austrian RC organises seminars on humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, notably for Red Cross staff, the authorities and military forces, journalists and students at schools and universities. These activities aim to improve the public's knowledge of humanitarian law and promote better understanding of the meaning of the emblem.

### Tracing

The tracing service aims at restoring contact between family members separated by conflicts and natural disasters and in exchanging Red Cross Messages. Over the past decades the tracing service has handled almost half a million cases, most of them in connection with World War II and the conflicts in former Yugoslavia.

### Basic instruction and further training

All Austrian RC branches offer basic courses in first aid, in addition to more intensive courses and training programmes in health and community services. Each year they attract about 150,000 participants.

## Organization/planning

**Development plan:** The Austrian RC places great importance on the permanent development and improvement of its activities and carries out regular assessments and evaluations of its performance at all levels of the Society.

## Partnerships with other national organizations:

→ Several activities are implemented in partnership with other organisations or institutions. Most recently, the Austrian RC has been strongly involved in a number of relief projects during and in the aftermath of the flood disaster in 2002. The Austrian RC has taken a leading position in the donation campaign “ORF Hochwasser Soforthilfe”, which combines the efforts of 8 humanitarian organisations in cooperation with the Austrian broadcasting station ORF.

→ Austrian RC is currently involved in a **programme granting legal aid to asylum seekers and refugees**, in partnership with UNHCR and Caritas Austria.

→ **Austrian Red Cross hosts ACCORD, the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation.** It provides independently and objectively researched information on the political, human rights and social situation of refugees and asylum seekers in countries of origin. ACCORD is funded by the European Refugee Fund, the UNHCR, the Austrian RC and other institutions. For online country information visit [www.ecoi.net](http://www.ecoi.net)

→ Austrian RC also cooperates with Red Cross NS in neighbouring countries. In 2002, the ARC initiated cooperation with the Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and Slovenian RC. The first meeting was held in Vienna in early 2003.

Another area of cooperation with other EU NS is in the field of ERUs.

**International activities**

Several areas of activities mentioned above also have an international dimension – such as the tracing and disaster relief services, which aim to provide assistance for both national and international emergencies.

The ERU teams, specializing in water and sanitation and telecommunications, have trained experts and are available to leave for disaster areas within 72 hours.

The international relations of the Austrian RC have increased through closer cooperation with the Federation, the ICRC, and the Red Cross EU/Office. An initiative to intensify the relationship with the four neighbouring Central European National Societies (Czech, Slovak, Slovenian and Hungarian Red Cross) was started by the Austrian RC in late 2002. Disaster preparedness, health and social activities, First Aid, volunteerism and Youth are areas that were identified for closer co-operation.

One focus of Austrian RC international activities is directed towards eastern and southern European countries, not least because of their geographical proximity. However, international relief and development programmes are carried out worldwide, either bilaterally or via the International Federation or the ICRC.

**Fields calling for an external support**

- Health and community services
- Blood programme
- Disaster relief services in war and peace; aid programmes in developing countries
- Tracing service
- Training for the Red Cross staff and external candidates - principally on first aid and home care
- Dissemination of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions
- Red Cross Youth

**International solidarity**

➔ **6.7 million Euro spent on international work (2002)**

➔ **30-40 field delegates each year**





Belgische Rode Kruis  
Croix-Rouge de Belgique

## Belgium

### Mission

The mission of the Belgian Red Cross is to:

- Contribute to the improvement of public health, prevent disease and alleviate suffering through training and relief programmes,
- Co-operate in the organisation of urgent relief for the victims of disasters of all kinds, both abroad and at home,
- Recruit and train the necessary volunteers to fulfil the above tasks,
- Encourage the participation of the whole population, especially youth, in Red Cross activities,
- Disseminate the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law,
- Act in time of conflict (and to prepare itself to this end in time of peace) in any field defined by the Geneva Conventions in the interest of all victims of war, both civilian and military.

### Legal basis

- **1864:** Belgian RC is founded, becoming a legal entity in 1891.
- **1919:** Joined the League of Red Cross societies.
- **1998:** Most recent update of statutes, mainly relating to the organisation of the national authorities, the implementation of a credit committee and internal audit, as well as the organisation of blood transfusion within the general management. Each community now has two general management structures: one for humanitarian activities and another for blood transfusion.
- **Oct 2000:** Most recent annual General Assembly and elections, effective January 2001.

### Constituency

Local sections: the high number (220 for the Belgian RC-Francophone Community, 275 for Belgian RC-Flanders) enables the Belgian RC to cover the whole country. The local sections are administered by local committees and are grouped within regional committees in charge of the co-ordination of local activities.

The regional committees are themselves overseen by provincial committees. Each Community has a community council and a governing board. Sections belonging to the region of Brussels, which is both Dutch and French speaking, are grouped together within a structure called "Brussels-Capital".

### Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 2,134 persons; about 1,000 in the blood programmes and the rest is working in the humanitarian services at national HQ and provincial offices.
- **Volunteers:** 23,000 (mainly within local sections) who take part in all Belgian RC activities.
- **Training:** is offered for volunteers, paid staff and outsiders

### National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 10.2 million**

**GDP per capita: € 25,038**

**Life expectancy: 77.9 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 4,4‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1957**

### Challenges

- ➔ Since 1994, Belgium has been a federal state associating three regions (Flanders, Walloon and Brussels) and three communities (Dutch, French and German speaking).
- ➔ Situated in the heart of the EU of which it is one of the founding members, it is the seat of the European Parliament and Commission.
- ➔ The Belgian RC enjoys a good reputation and confidence amongst the population. Regular market research shows that it is well known by the public and its mission is well understood. It is perceived as efficient, dynamic and transparent. The diversity of its activities, however, gives a fuzzy picture and its structures are sometimes considered to be bureaucratic. There is moreover a constant concern to simplify the different levels of structure and to enhance their responsibility.

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## Domestic activities

### Relief

Belgian RC volunteers are trained to provide assistance in emergency situations. In case of disaster they provide medical, material and psychosocial support and collect information on the victims.

Within the relief activities, we can find:

- **First aid:** The Belgian RC runs first-aid training courses. It organizes a large number of training sessions for the European First-Aid Certificate (EFAC). It offers first-aid services at public events
- **Emergency assistance:** Help to the victims of floods, earthquakes, attacks...
- **Ambulance service:** In 2000, approximately 143,00 people were transported by ambulance (34,000 emergency and 110,000 non-emergency).
- **Emergency psychological aid:** Psychological aid to victims of disaster.

### Social welfare

- Loans of specialized equipment such as wheelchairs and crutches
- Presence in medical and social institutions,
- Welcoming patients in hospitals, visiting house-bound people,
- Lending books
- Red Cross homes are being opened and are becoming increasingly popular among the beneficiaries
- "Meals on wheels"
- Holidays for underprivileged children

### Blood

In Belgium, 95 per cent of the collection and distribution of blood is organized by the Red Cross. Blood and plasma donation is voluntary and non-remunerated. In 2000, there were 361,395 donors of blood and plasma. The organization procures blood and blood products for hospitals and clinics; strict medical control guarantees the quality and safety of the blood.

### Youth

Red Cross youth spreads the Red Cross ideals among young people. It provides first-aid training courses for young people between the age of 10 and 15 and offers educational materials on intercultural learning for schools and youth associations.

### Reception of asylum seekers

At the request of the Federal authorities, the Red Cross has set up a number of reception centres for asylum seekers, with government funding, and offers tracing services.

### Dissemination of IHL and Red Cross Principles

The Red Cross works with the authorities, the military, academic institutions and youth to spread knowledge of the Fundamental Principles and IHL.

## Leadership

The General Assembly of the Belgian Red Cross takes place each autumn and brings together presidents of local sections and members of the National Council. The last Assembly was held in October 1999.

→ **The National Presidency**

→ **The National Council** (legislative), gathers the members of the community councils and representatives from relevant government departments (the latter only have consultative powers)

→ **The National Governing Board** (executive), which brings together the members of the governing boards from both communities. The members of all authorities (committees and councils) are elected.

→ **The Community Councils** meet four times a year to draw up budgets and approve accounts, determine action lines and assess community activities

→ **The Governing Boards** consist of provincial presidents and a number of members with a specific mandate. The board meets on average once a month. Belgian RC statutes stipulate that the activities carried out by the National President and the members of the National and Community Councils, Governing Boards, and the provincial, regional and local committees are unpaid.

The Belgian RC is subdivided between two of the three communities of the country: Belgian RC-Flanders and Belgian RC-Francophone Community (for practical reasons, the German-speaking community is joined to the latter).

The society is recognized as an auxiliary of the public authorities at the national and regional levels and is linked by agreements covering emergencies, reception and care of asylum seekers, health education, first aid and blood services.

The Belgian RC is also negotiating a framework agreement with the Ministry of National Defence for international operations.

## International activities

### Staff

- 18 (full-time employees) are employed in the Belgian RC-French-speaking Community and 18 in the Belgian RC Flanders.
- Every year, about 60 delegates go on missions abroad.

### Flemish-speaking community

The Belgian RC-Flemish-speaking community budget devoted to international activities amounted to € 5.8 million in 2001. Approximately 80 per cent of the budget comes from the public authorities, with the European Community providing 5.5 per cent. On average, 82 per cent of the budget is devoted to emergency assistance activities and rehabilitation, and 5 per cent to development.

The priority areas for the Flemish-speaking community are Ethiopia, Namibia, Nepal and Mozambique (and as of 2003: Vietnam and Rwanda) for long-term development programs, and India, Cambodia, former Yugoslavia and Vietnam for emergency and rehabilitation.

Belgian RC Flemish-speaking community specializes in:

- Primary health care
- Logistics

Privileged cooperation relations exist with the:

- Ethiopia RC
- Mozambique RC
- Namibia RC
- Netherlands RC
- Nepal Red Cross Societies
- Vietnam RC

### French-speaking Community

The priority areas of the Belgian RC-French-speaking community (budget in 2000, € 20.38 million) are Africa and Eastern Europe.

The fields of specialization of the French-speaking community are:

- “Emergency Assistance and Rehabilitation” (camp management; rehabilitation of social structures),
- “International Social Programs” (street children; former child soldiers)
- “Promotion of humanitarian values and IHL”

It has privileged cooperation relations with the:

- Albanian RC
- Bulgarian RC
- Burkinabe RC
- RC of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Luxembourg RC
- Russian RC
- Rwandan RC

## Organization/planning

### Strategic work plan:

➔ Belgian Red Cross-Flanders developed a 1997-2002 strategic work plan, defining its general orientations, objectives and priorities. An operational plan with the actions and results to be obtained for the different objectives reinforces this strategic work plan.

➔ The Belgian Red Cross French-speaking Community defined its priorities in a framework document entitled called “What Red Cross for the Year 2000” which was adopted in 1998. Budgets and annual strategic work plans are based on that document.

## International solidarity

➔ **27.241 million Euro spent on international work (2000)**

➔ **+/- 60 delegates in 2001**



# British Red Cross

*Caring for people in crisis*

Britain

## Mission

The British Red Cross Society commits itself to following the overall strategic goal of improving the situation of the most vulnerable – those defined as being at greatest risk from situations that threaten their survival or their capacity to live with a minimum of social and economic security and human dignity. The Mission, Vision and Pledges were introduced for the unification of the National Society in January 1998.

## Legal basis

- **1870:** British RC is founded, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1908.
- **1923:** British RC joins the League.
- **1997:** Last revision of the statutes prior to the unification of the British RC into one single registered charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (prior to the restructuring, each of the society's branches had separate charitable status).
- **1 January 1998:** A new Royal Charter comes into effect.
- **March 2003:** Most recent national assembly.

## Constituency

The Society undertook a major review of its current structures and cost base during 2001. The review highlighted the opportunity to streamline our management structures to improve cost effectiveness and local decision-making. To this end, **we have reduced our regions from eight to four, and cut the number of operational units from 69 Branches to 21 Areas.** This means that each Area is now large enough to plan and deliver services more effectively with less duplication, but small enough for people to make local decisions based on local priorities.

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 290 at national HQ and 2,630 at regional and branch level
- **Volunteers:** 44,123 active volunteers and 2,551 link group members (volunteers who no longer give active service, but wish to stay in touch with the society).

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 59.542 million**

**GDP per capita: € 21,950**

**Life expectancy: 77.2 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.9 ‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1973**

## Challenges

➔ **Ageing of the population:** The UK has a population of 59.0 million, set to increase by 4% by 2011, with a more than proportional increase in the number of people aged 75+.

➔ **Social benefits:** The decline of the role of the welfare state, the difficulties experienced by the NHS in coping with increasing demands, and the rising numbers of “have-nots” are high on the agenda of the government and of several NGOs and the British RC.

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## Domestic activities

### Health and social care

A range of services include:

- Home care
- Therapeutic care
- Temporary domestic support to an ill person when their carer is unexpectedly absent
- Care and support for patients arriving home after staying hospital
- Help to those who are living a short-term crisis

### First aid

Volunteers, trained and skilled in advanced first aid practice, are on hand at major public events.

### Medical loan

The British RC lends equipment such as wheelchairs and walking frames to those in urgent need. Trained volunteers give advice on using the equipment safely and efficiently.

### Transport and escort

The British RC transport and escort service provides trained volunteers to help people who feel vulnerable. The service supports trips to the shops, hospital appointments, family visits, etc. Drivers and escorts who either use their own cars or specially adapted vehicles can take passengers anywhere in the UK.

### Family tracing and messages

The British RC tracing and message service provides a line of communication between people separated by war or natural disaster.

### Red Cross Youth

Red Cross Youth works throughout the UK and seeks to respond to the unmet needs of children and young people, by providing educational initiatives to increase their awareness of the world and their role within it. Its purpose is to meet the most pressing personal, social and health needs of children and young people through the provision and support of citizenship education in schools and programs for community action, peer support and global awareness. These are aimed at children and young people aged between 5 and 25. In 2000, the Red Cross Youth had 10,000 volunteers and 1,000 leaders.

### Dissemination of RC Principles and IHL

The British RC strives to promote awareness and understanding of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and IHL by:

- Conducting dissemination programs for staff and outside groups,
- Providing accurate and practical guidance on matters relating to the interpretation and implementation of the Principles and IHL and on the use of Red Cross/Red Crescent designations and emblems,
- Co-operating with government departments, other components of the Movement, and other outside bodies and individuals.

## Leadership

➔ **Board of Trustees:** Governance is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, comprising one trustee for each of the society's former eight regions and seven co-opted members. The Board currently has 15 volunteers (5 of them women). Young people and ethnic minorities are not directly represented on the Board at present. The Board approves policy and works, which are implemented by the Director-General and the Senior Management Team (SMT). The Board meets six times a year and the SMT monthly.

➔ **Volunteer Councils (21)** have a consultative and supportive role, primarily in the following areas:

- Supporting the branch director and other officers to help the British RC be responsive to local issues, and assisting the branch in implementation of national policies
- Sharing an overview of the work of the branch with the branch director, to ensure it is in line with British RC policies
- Supporting the branch director for the preparation and implementation of the branch plan and budget

**A National Assembly** is held each year, with members and staff from branches, regions, and HQ eligible to attend. The Board appoints the Chair of the Assembly each year in advance of the Assembly so that he/she may assist to plan the event.



## International activities

### Personnel

66 persons work in the HQ's International Division. Of the 87 delegates in the field at the end 2001, working in 52 different countries, 60% were under contract to the International Federation and 28% to ICRC.

### Activities

The British RC has five operational priorities: promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and care in the community and the strength of the Movement

#### Emergency response

The British RC responds to appeals and other requests for assistance and emergency relief needs from the ICRC and the International Federation, and following its own assessments. In its response, the British RC aims to provide effective support in the form of skilled personnel as well as material and financial assistance. Where appropriate, advice is sought from specialists, or British RC may itself participate in the needs assessments on which the appeals are based. It may provide direct assistance as part of a co-ordinated Federation and ICRC response.

#### Development co-operation

British RC seeks to develop sustainable programmes that build long-term capacity in situations of chronic vulnerability, through two complementary strategies:

- **Support for locally identified, planned and implemented development programmes** that focus on prevention, mitigation and improved preparedness, for both 'silent' and sudden onset emergencies. The programmes aim to reduce vulnerability, and build on local capacities, with a particular emphasis on areas such as health, water/sanitation and disaster preparedness.
- **Provisions of institutional support to other societies to enhance their capacity to meet the needs of chronically vulnerable groups and respond** to sudden disasters.

In its development programming, British RC is guided by the following:

- **Long-term commitment:** The British RC commits itself to a typical minimum involvement of at least five years in each country where it conducts this type of programme.
- **Sustainability and exit strategies:** The British RC identifies at what stage its contribution to a programme will end, either when the work is completed or responsibility is handed over to a local partner.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** The British RC assists partner societies to carry out monitoring and evaluation as an integral part of all long-term development projects that it supports.
- **Mapping of international activities.** British RC prioritises its assistance to Africa, India, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States.

It has close co-operation relations with the national societies of Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Russia and Turkmenistan.

## Organization/planning

➔ **Development plan:** the society introduced an annual corporate planning process (the latest approved in December 1999). The strategy division produces planning guidance that is circulated throughout the society. All planning is done according to a standard format and agreed objectives, consulting with staff, volunteers and other stakeholders. These are consolidated into regional/divisional plans.

➔ **Strategy review:** British RC is in the process of carrying out a 5-10 year strategy review. This includes reviewing some recent initiatives such as unification.

## International solidarity

➔ **96.9 million Euro spent on international work (2000)**

## Mission

The Danish Red Cross set out its mission and statement of goals in its plan of action for 2002-2005. This was adopted at the General Assembly in 2001 and is revised by the assembly every second year. The Danish RC is an auxiliary to the Danish government in the fields of humanitarian assistance, relief work and education, either alone or in co-operation with state bodies or other organisations. The Danish RC and the government also co-operate in the area of asylum seekers and international humanitarian aid and rehabilitation.

## Legal basis

- **26 April 1876:** The government recognises the Danish RC as a private humanitarian organisation. The Danish RC's legal foundation is its statutes, adopted in accordance with the law. Specific agreements are concluded between Danish RC and various government offices.
- **1917:** The Danish RC joins the League.
- **November 2001:** Most recent update of the statutes at a meeting of representatives of the Danish RC. It is now possible to be active in Danish RC without being a member.
- **November 2001:** Most recent General Assembly and national elections.

## Constituency

- **District level:** 252 local branches, which co-operate actively within the boundaries of a county.
- **Special statutes:** Reydi Krossur Føroya (the Red Cross of the Faroe Islands) and Kalaallit Røde Korsiat (the Red Cross of Greenland) have the statutes of independent organisations under the Danish RC, reflecting their statutes as largely self-governing entities within the Kingdom of Denmark. Danish Red Cross Youth is an independent children's and youth organisation under the aegis of the Danish RC.

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 130 at HQ (88 women and 42 men), 25 part-time support staff (15 women and 10 men).
- **Volunteers:** the number has remained steady in the Danish RC at 15,000 volunteers at regional and branch level, while 20,000 help the annual fund-raising campaign. There are approximately 79,000 members.
- **Training:** training programmes for paid staff include introduction to the Movement, IHL and structure of the Danish RC, physical and psychological first aid as well as IT courses. Volunteers receive similar core training plus capacity building and activities within the local branches, as well as general courses including press relations, leadership training and accounting.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 5.3 million**

**GDP per capita: € 25,766**

**Life expectancy: 75.6 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.9 ‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1973**

## Challenges

Integrating ethnic minorities into Danish society, fighting cultural and racial prejudice, promoting health and protecting the natural environment are some of the challenges faced by the Danish RC

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## Domestic activities

### Physical & psychological first aid

The Danish RC trains more than 65,000 people each year in physical first aid. 850 volunteers are members of first aid teams, on duty at major public events such as rock concerts and football games; in 1999, they treated over 22,000 people. Psychological first aid courses, given by specialized trainers, aim at helping people to cope with situations such as accidents, serious illness and death. Training is available to individuals and companies, while volunteers offer support to victims of crime or violence. 2000 people were trained in psychological support in 2001.

### Visiting service

- **Home visitors:** 5,000 volunteers make weekly visits to mentally ill, disabled and elderly people living alone.
- **Prison visitors:** offer prisoners humanitarian support.

### Red Cross Youth

Locally, Danish RC Youth carry out a variety of community activities, ranging from help with homework to support for victims of crises, a nation-wide chat-line, summer camps, and work with refugees and migrants. Internationally, the youth section is involved in health and environmental projects in Uganda, Ethiopia and Tanzania, and in exchange programmes for young people. In 2001, the youth section had 1,400 members most of them active volunteers.

### Refugees and immigrants

Around 65 local branches and 500 volunteers are involved in integration activities for refugees and immigrants. Among the initiatives are help with school work, a network of contact families, a 'city-guide' where new citizens are introduced to their surroundings, cultural events, a café used as a meeting place for refugees and locals etc. The overall aim is to make integration into Danish society as smooth as possible.

### Asylum seekers

Since 1984 the Danish RC, in a contractual arrangement with the Danish government, has handled all humanitarian, social and medical tasks connected with care of asylum seekers in Denmark over the period people are awaiting a decision on their application, which can take several years. These tasks include accommodation, education and training, medical and health services, social services, psychosocial treatment and support. Since asylum seekers do not have access to the normal social institutions, the Society has taken on the task of providing those services within the asylum system.

### International partnership

The aim is to promote support for the international work of the Danish RC, and contribute to increased intercultural understanding. Branches act as 'local ambassadors' for the Society's international work and inform about its activities and the need for humanitarian assistance abroad. The society organises study tours and seminars, and the branches receive regular updates on the international work. In 2002, almost all of the branches were involved in this programme.

## Leadership

➔ The **General Assembly** is the Danish RC's supreme body, comprising 1 member from each local branch (4 from Copenhagen RC) and representatives of the 14 country districts. The Faroe and Greenland sections, and RC Youth, each have a representative. The Assembly meets once a year. Between meetings the Central Committee is responsible for Danish RC governance. Elected members of Danish RC organs are unpaid.

➔ The **Central Committee** consists of the Danish RC President, two vice-presidents and 12 members, all elected by the General Assembly. The Committee meets approximately once a month.

➔ The **Secretariat** (paid staff) contributes to policy-making and is responsible for day-to-day administration.

## Organization/planning

➔ New plan of action: the Danish RC is currently implementing a 2002-2005 Plan of Action. The draft plan is prepared by HQ, submitted to the Central Committee for review and then presented at the General Assembly for approval.

➔ Humanitarian co-ordination: Danish RC is a member of various groups bringing together NGOs, the authorities as well as the military. Issues include ensuring co-ordination in humanitarian activities, civil-military co-operation, questions of international humanitarian law, health education, and first aid.

## Needles and pins...

More than 4,000 volunteers make clothes for children in developing countries or disaster zones. In 2001 24 tons of clothing was sent to disaster areas.



## International activities

### Personnel

Around 100 field delegates

### Activities

The Danish Red Cross has increased its capacity and competence within disaster relief and community-based health care, and now intends to focus on HIV/AIDS, disaster preparedness, TB, psychosocial support and a number of issues within conflict management. Since national societies and their local networks represent one of the strengths of the Movement, the Danish RC has a specific interest in capacity-building activities.

There are currently 30 full-time employees working on international activities.

Breakdown of funding sources for international work in 1999:

- 69 % from the government
- 19% from individual donations
- 12% from the European Union

Breakdown of spending in 1999:

- 71% of spending went to disaster relief (approx. 25% more than normal due to the Kosovo crisis)
- 29% for development (Rehabilitation is included in both development and relief budget)

The Danish RC supports the ICRC's work in the world's conflict zones with emergency aid and delegates, such as doctors and nurses.

The Danish Red Cross believes that disaster relief should be viewed as only one of several separate interventions, which include prevention, preparedness, relief, rehabilitation, and development. In line with this perspective the Danish RC increasingly views disasters as complex emergencies, which require long-term solutions.

Development assistance is predominantly provided bilaterally, generally on the basis of a comprehensive development agreement, and is focused on a limited number of countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone), East Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), southern Africa (Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe) and Asia (Laos, Nepal, Philippines, Viet Nam). In addition, a partnership between the Baltic and Nordic societies has been under way since 1997.

## International solidarity

➔ 31.62 million euro

### Co-ordination without borders

The Danish RC is a member of the Nordic Co-operation Group, comprising the Nordic Red Cross societies, and of the EU Co-operation Group under the auspices of the Federation and the Red Cross/EU Office in Brussels. Danish RC is a member of the FAIS committee on EU asylum and migration affairs chaired by the interior ministry, and is a member of the police commissioners' group for victim support, the Organisation for Self Governing Institutions and the national kindergarten organisation.

## Enhancing Psychological support

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, acknowledged the need to offer psychological assistance in addition to traditional relief activities.

As part of this effort the International Federation and the Danish Red Cross established in 1993 the Federation's **Reference Centre for Psychological Support**. Today, nearly ten years after, psychological support is systematically being integrated into relief operations alongside programmes for shelter, health and food.

More information on this Centre is available in the document relating to the European Red Cross Societies Network for Psychological Support (ENPS) p90.



# Suomen Punainen Risti Finnish Red Cross

Finland

## Mission

The Finnish Red Cross mission, as stated in its statutes, is to:  
Assist and support the most vulnerable, both at home and abroad, complement disaster preparedness and social welfare services provided by the State, assist public authorities in times of war and national emergencies.

## Legal basis

- **1877:** Creation of the “Finnish Society for the Care of the Sick and Wounded Soldiers” (Finland still a Russian Grand Duchy).
- **1919:** After independence, the name of the Society is changed to the Finnish Red Cross.
- **1920:** Recognition of Finnish RC by the ICRC, and by the League in 1921.
- **1950:** Finnish RC renews its organisation, and becomes an association under public law, its statutes being issued by public decree.
- **March 2000:** A separate Red Cross law comes into force authorising the President of the Republic to approve Finnish RC's statutes (decree) as proposed by the Finnish RC General Assembly.

## Constituency

The Finnish RC structure covers both the administrative regions (Red Cross Districts) and all municipal communities (Red Cross Branches) in Finland with:

- 12 districts (2003)
- 602 local branches

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 1,321 - 136 at HQ (70 % women), 115 in districts and 1,070 in the institutions (blood transfusion service, orthopaedic service, emergency shelters for youth, ambulances and other professional institutions within the Finnish RC)
- **Volunteers:** 45,000 active (60-70 % women): 10,000 in social and health services, 8,000 in first aid groups and 10,000 involved in youth activities besides voluntary collectors; about 200,000 blood donors, 80,000 regular contributors to the disaster relief fund
- **Training:** *basic* for volunteers in each programme area, *instructor* for volunteer activities, *trainers'*, *delegates*, *institutional and programme development* for staff at HQ and districts, *leadership* for senior managers.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 5.178 million**

**GDP per capita: € 23,312**

**Life expectancy: 72.2 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 4.4‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1995**

## Challenges

➔ **Social benefits:** The economic situation in Finland is good and the living standard high, however there are increasing gaps in social welfare provision.

➔ **Unemployment:** The country's official unemployment rate was (2001) 9.1% of whom 24% have been out of work for more than a year. The unemployment situation is most difficult in eastern and northern Finland.

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## Domestic activities

### Voluntary social and health services

These services aim to prevent different forms of social exclusion and promote health and safety, with the help of 10,000 volunteers and approximately 400 employees.

Special social and health services include:

- **Domestic aid:** The Finnish RC's basic duty is to assist people in need. It gives both physical and psychosocial support and assistance in accidents, in crises and other circumstances, which are difficult for individuals or families to cope with alone. The assistance is usually organised by the district and local branch.
- **Visiting service:** Volunteers visit the elderly, handicapped or lonely people, patients recovering from mental illness, or anyone in need of support. The visitor is a listener and psychological supporter, who can also assist in small practical matters if needed. The length of the relationships with visitors or support persons varies according to needs.
- **Support to the sick:** Volunteer assistants work at hospitals, institutions or at home, to assist patients and help staff or family members cope.
- **Activities with the elderly:** Volunteers run club activities and are involved in organising trips, holidays, and other leisure activities for elderly people. The aim is to enrich elderly people's lives with meaningful activities and to provide rehabilitation when needed.
- **Professional home care services:** These aims at providing integrated services based on the clients' needs and may vary from place to place. Finnish RC mainly provides home help services (such as cleaning, cooking, bathing, shopping, etc.). The provision also covers home nursing, group care, telephone hotline, various rehabilitation services and activities for special groups, transport and escort services for the elderly.
- **Vacation substitutes for informal carers:** This aims to help carers who look after a relative at home and to maintain high-quality care for those in need. Under the law, carers are entitled to financial benefits and a substitute to allow them one day off a month, this if the assistance is continuous and binding.
- **Self-care programme:** Through appropriate courses, the programme aims to help people help themselves in coping with everyday health issues and attending to minor illnesses at home.
- **Prison visitors:** Volunteers offer support to lonely inmates, and give the opportunity of having a confidential relationship with someone on the outside.
- **AIDS programme:** This is centred on information campaigns and training courses, a national AIDS hotline, and support for HIV-infected people, their families or anybody seeking information.

## Leadership

➔ The **General Assembly** is the highest decision-making body, where branches are represented in proportion to their membership. The Assembly adopts the guidelines for Finnish RC activities and its budget and elects the President and Vice-Presidents. It also makes recommendations for all Finnish RC bodies and elects members of the Council and the Board.

➔ The **Council** approves the Board's annual financial and activity report.

➔ **Districts** are in charge of regional activities.

➔ **Branches** are in charge of local activities according to national guidelines and policies. Branches and districts are legal entities and have their own annual meetings and boards.

## Domestic activities (2)

➤ **Drug programme:** In September 2000 Finnish RC started a preventive drug programme. The objective is to influence the attitudes of young people so that they do not start using drugs.

➤ **Refugee assistance and multi-cultural work:** Finnish RC is the main refugee-assisting organisation in Finland in the field of integration, by training volunteers and providing legal and social counselling for migrants. Finnish RC also promotes tolerance and inter-cultural values by offering training courses, and by working in conjunction with refugee/immigrants' associations. It also offers tracing services and operates two reception centres.

➤ **Crime victim services:** The services provide support, practical advice and help to victims of crime. On another level, the activities aim at influencing attitudes of the general public and that of legislators in order to improve the status of crime victims. The service operates a national telephone help line, offers legal advice, has a network of ten regional offices that provide support to victims, and publishes a magazine to inform victims and Finnish RC volunteers of new developments in the field.

## First aid and Voluntary Rescue Service

Local branches take care of public safety by providing first aid attendance to some 15,000 people at more than 4,000 public events each year. The branches also participate in joint activities with over 40 member organisations of the Voluntary Rescue Service (such as in tracing the missing or in support activities following accidents); Finnish RC acts as co-ordinator of the rescue service. Finnish RC's 1,900 first aid trainers train more than 86,000 people every year.

➤ **Staff:** 8,000 volunteers in first aid groups, 30,000 in civic organisations in the Voluntary Rescue Service, 20 employees, 1,900 first aid teachers (honorarium).

## Youth

Finnish RC provides support and activities for children and youth ranging from first aid groups, camps, visits, adventures, youth exchange, groups for the handicapped and non-handicapped youth and groups for international activities with the help of 10,000 volunteers, 800 leaders and 50 paid staff.

➤ **“Taking Control of Your Life”** is a training programme for unemployed young people, that offer tailor-made training packages, job seeking training, and labour policy awareness.

➤ **Outreach work**, for people under the age of 18, designed to prevent violence and criminal activity, establish contact with youth who risk being marginalized, and offer help for substance abuse rehabilitation.

➤ **Contact activities** create opportunities for joint activities for handicapped and non-handicapped youth. These seek to promote understanding between people of different cultures and encourage the sharing of experiences; this takes place in the context of camps, meetings, groups and trips.

## Organisation/planning

### New strategic plan

The Finnish RC's present mission statement was adopted by the General Assembly in August 1999 and is included in the 2000-2002 plan. The statement was developed through participation of the local branches and co-ordinated with the Federation Strategy 2010.

## Professional institutions

**The Blood Transfusion Service (BTS)** is a financially and operationally independent national organisation under the aegis of the Finnish RC. Its mission is to ensure effective and safe transfusion practice throughout the country with the aim of national self-sufficiency. BTS is responsible for the blood service for the entire country, which entails blood collection, the manufacture of blood products and maintenance of a register of bone marrow donors. There are 600 paid staff; 200,000 individuals donate approximately 320,000 units of blood.

**Orthopaedic Service:** The Finnish RC Orthopaedic Service and the Finnish Prosthetic Foundation founded a new company, *Respecta*, in October 2000, taking over the activities of the Finnish RC's orthopaedic service. *Respecta* continues manufacturing the limb prostheses and provides other appliances.

### Emergency Shelters for Youth:

The Finnish RC has five emergency shelters for the young and two Youth Centres. The emergency shelters offer a temporary place for the night and someone to talk to for young people aged under 18 who need counselling and emergency accommodation.

### International activities

The principal source of funds for international assistance in 2002 was the government (63%). Spending is mainly on relief activities (including rehabilitation), with development projects representing 21 % of expenditure.

#### Areas of specialisation:

- Emergency Response Units (ERUs)
- Development/co-operation
- Primary health care
- Specialised delegates
- Capacity building (institutional development, disaster preparedness planning)

**Staff:** 26 employees, and 79 delegate contracts in 2002. Finnish RC has also supported financially 6 regionally recruited delegates during 2002.

### Disaster relief and development co-operation

The Finnish RC provides international aid (personnel, funds, and equipment) in response to appeals from the International Federation and the ICRC. The main sources for funds are the Finnish RC's disaster relief fund, the Finnish government, and increasingly the EU.

Disaster relief is offered to victims of conflict and natural disasters. Development co-operation aims to improve the capacities and disaster preparedness of newly established national societies, or those with fewer resources. Finnish RC directs disaster relief to programmes of both the International Federation and the ICRC, as well as on a bilateral basis (primarily in the form of training and expert advice, or financial support).

Finnish RC's international personnel reserve comprises about 700 professionals (approximately 400 of them active) who have undergone Finnish RC's basic and advanced training courses. About 100 of them work on international assignments every year.

### Development assistance

The Finnish RC focuses mainly on capacity building, disaster prevention and preparedness (DPP) and health.

Examples of co-operation with other national societies (2002): Amazonas, Southern Africa, Liberia, Somalia, Angola, Mozambique, Pacific, Cambodia, Mongolia, Central Asia, Armenia, Russia and Estonia.

### Mapping of international activities

Finnish RC's geographical areas of special interest for international assistance (i.e. permanent activity, particular expertise, etc.) are north-west Russia (cross-border areas), the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

Co-operation between the Nordic Red Cross Societies is close and long established.

### International solidarity

➔ **19.576 million Euro spent on international work (2002)**

➔ **85 delegate contracts (2002)**



## Mission

The mission of the French Red Cross is to prevent and alleviate all human suffering, and contribute to all efforts related to protection, social welfare, prevention, education and health care.

## Legal basis

- **1864:** Creation of the French RC, recognised in 1907 by the ICRC.
- **1919:** French RC is a founding member of the League.
- **1940:** Its present structure recognised by decree, following the merger of three former societies – the Society for the Relief of the Military Wounded, the Association of French Ladies, and the Union of Women in France.
- **January 2000:** New statutes and rules of procedure come into force, changing the composition of the governing board (now 31 instead of 46 members, public authorities may only advise).
- **June 2002:** last general assembly

## Constituency

Under the new statutes, local branches have now become local delegations and the role of departmental delegations has been strengthened. The structure comprises:

- 1130 local delegations
- 102 departmental delegations
- 22 regional delegations

This structure reflects the country's administrative divisions and enables the society to cover the entire national territory, including overseas departments and territories.

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 15,000.
- **Volunteers:** 60,000; although the number of volunteers is quite high, small local delegations often have difficulty in recruiting, integrating and retaining volunteers. For the past three years, the French RC has run a volunteer programme designed to help the local and departmental units to manage volunteer human resources.
- **Training:** According to its statutes, the French RC must spend at least 1.5% of what it pays in salaries on training for its employees. Each establishment manages its own training programme, encompassing a broad range of activities (i.e. management, development and technical training). Training for paid staff at HQ includes computer training, foreign languages, administration and management. Volunteers are also trained according to the activities they have chosen to become involved in and their degree of responsibility within the society. In 2000, an introduction course on the French RC was offered to all volunteers.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 59.5 million**

**GNP per capita: € 23,478**

**Life expectancy: 78.1 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.5‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1957**

## French Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

French Red Cross domestic activities are managed by the *Direction of solidarity activities (DOS)*, based at HQ in Paris, which is responsible for the following fields of activity:

- **Disaster relief** and preparedness (domestic and international)
- **First aid**
  - Training for both the public (1 out of 2 persons is trained by the French RC) and volunteers
  - Rescue services
  - Secretariat for the European Centre of Reference for First Aid Education (CEREPS)
- **Social welfare** (focused on the most vulnerable)
  - Social welfare reception centres
  - Literacy campaigns
  - Grocery stores
  - Second hand clothes shops
  - Medicalised social welfare reception centre
  - Health reception centres
  - Care for the homeless
  - Care for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers
  - Activities for prisoners
  - Activities in sensitive areas
- **Health prevention and promotion**
  - Work with vulnerable people
  - Health education programmes for children
- **Psychological support**
  - Toll-free support telephone service
  - Psychological support training
  - Secretariat of European Psychological Support Network (RESP)

The *DOS* is charged with implementing the Governing Board's decisions in its various activities and with supporting French RC regional and local branches (around 1,300 both domestic and overseas).

## Health and social services

- **267 hospital and care units** (hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, special care units for the handicapped, elderly, children)
- **188 training schools** (nursing, social services...)

## Leadership

The national governing structure comprises the National President, the Secretary General, the National Bureau (which meets once a month) and the Governing Board (which meets at least five times a year).

At the local, departmental and regional levels each unit has a board and a bureau made up of volunteers elected by the members and approved by the national bodies. Under powers delegated by the national president, the unit presidents manage their volunteers and the paid staff.

## Organisation/planning

**New plan of action:** The French RC orientates future actions according to its mid-term strategic plan. The last mid-term strategic plan was adopted by the general assembly in June 2002.

### International activities

The grants for international aid have gone from 2.5 million euros in 1997 to 13.3 million euros in 2001. The main external sources of funding for international operations are ECHO (34%) and public donations (24%). Generally speaking, the French RC devotes 80% of the budget to emergency aid, 10% to rehabilitation and 10% to development projects.

#### Areas of activity

Three focus areas:

Health: the French RC has created health mobile centres in Africa to treat AIDS victims. The French RC supports also health community programmes.

Water and sanitation: infrastructures and educational programmes.

Relief: Response to international crisis, first aid training, and disaster preparedness programmes.

**Paid staff:** In 2002, the international services employed 16 persons compared to 10 in 1990. In 2002, the French RC had 62 delegates working in the field, 6 of which worked with the IFRC and 21 with the ICRC.

#### Mapping of international activities

The French Red Cross focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on activities in areas historically linked to France (West and Central Africa, Indian Ocean, Caribbean and Indochina). It is, however, also working in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans. Close relations are maintained with French-speaking Red Cross societies and those with which France has historical ties, for example in Central and South America. The French RC is member of the Association of African French-speaking Red Cross Societies (ACROFA) and it participates in the meetings of the Mediterranean national societies.

### International solidarity

➔ **13.3 million Euro spent on international work (2001)**

➔ **62 field delegates (2001)**



### Mission

The mission statement was adopted in September 1995 and published in all internal publications. In Germany, social welfare provision is based on the constitutional principle of subsidiarity, which means that NGOs, and also the German Red Cross, are responsible for providing social services even though the state is responsible for the financing.

### Legal basis

- **1863:** creation of the first medical service association in Württemberg
- **1921:** unification of the societies to create the German RC
- **1922:** the German RC joins the League
- **1950:** Statutes of the German RC adopted
- **1951:** German RC recognised by decree as a national society in West Germany
- **1952:** Decree establishing the Red Cross in former East Germany
- **1991:** Recognition of the German RC nation-wide after reunification
- **December 2000:** most recent update of the statutes
- **November 2002:** most recent General Assembly
- **December 2002:** most recent elections

### Constituency

- **Regional level:** 19 regional branches, which roughly correspond to the Federal Länder, and the Federation of German Red Cross Nursing Association consisting of 35 associations.
- **District level:** The regional branches are sub-divided into 525 district branches (corresponding to political districts).
- **Local level:** 5,110 local chapters.

### Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 75,000 employees.
- **Volunteers:** 345,000 active volunteers. The challenges that German RC faces to increase the number of volunteers are to find new models of voluntary service, in particular attracting young people, and competition with other organisations. Voluntary and paid work are viewed to be complementary.
- **Training:** German RC offers courses in various areas for its volunteers and paid staff and carries out activities to inform the public about the society's work.

### National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 82 million**

**GDP per capita: € 23,411**

**Life expectancy: 77.3 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1957**

### Challenges

Unemployment is a key issue, affecting approximately 10% of the workforce. In former East Germany, which remains poorer and less productive, unemployment is double that in the west, at over 17% in 1999.

### German Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Relief

In its role as auxiliary to the authorities, the German RC carries out activities in the following fields:

- Disaster preparedness and civil protection
- First aid training for members and the general public
- Water and mountain rescue services
- Aid for victims of natural disasters and other emergencies
- Prevention and alleviation of human suffering arising from disease, injury, disability or disadvantage
- Promotion of health and welfare

### Ambulance Service

German RC is the biggest provider in the German ambulance service system. With a network of 1,444 ambulance car posts and 4,666 ambulances more than 2,3 Mio. Emergency transports and more than 3 Mio. patient transports were carried out in 2001. About 30,000 qualified staff members and volunteers working with the most advanced medical and technical equipment form the core of the largest non-governmental ambulance service organisation in the world.

### Blood

There are 9 blood transfusion centres, with 36 institutes and 170 mobile teams. They collect about 3.5 million of whole blood donations per year. The German RC covers about 80% of the country's blood needs, in large part thanks to 2 million voluntary and unpaid blood donors, 3,700 qualified full-time staff and 200,000 volunteers at local and district branches. German RC tasks include:

- Encouraging the public to donate blood
- Collecting, testing and processing the blood
- Advanced training of doctors and medical assistants in blood transfusion services
- Haematological research

### Social Welfare

The main services target the following groups and areas:

- **Migrants** including refugees, migrant workers and "Aussiedler" (=former ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe and C.I.S.): The German RC has built up a network of social advice and reception welfare centres for immigrants across the whole country that offer reception facilities, orientation and support ranging from administrative matters to language courses, legal advice, and psycho-social care. Approximately 1,000 volunteers and staff members work in about 200 institutions, mainly advice and reception centres.
- **Care for the elderly:** Around 400 inpatient senior citizens facilities with about 40,175 places, employing approximately 20,000 full time staff; 38 academies for geriatric nursing with around 1,900 training places. German RC also runs about 700 day-centres, 250 emergency services and 220 meals-on-wheels centres, a home nursing service, homes for the elderly and tele-alarm services (approximately 32,400 people are involved in carrying out these activities).

## Leadership

➔ The **General Assembly**, the highest body, is composed of representatives of the regional branches, who have 125 votes, delegates from the Federation of the German RC Nursing Associations and the German RC President, as well as members of the Presidential Committee in an advisory capacity. Its main functions include:

- Receiving reports from the Presidential Committee,
- Approving the annual accounts,
- Deciding on the formal approval of the Presidential Committee's action,
- Approving budget proposals,
- Fixing the subscription rates of the member branches,
- Issuing financial rules,
- Approving regulations for the communities, which are organised at national society level.

➔ The **Presidential Committee** is the Board within the meaning of §26 of the German Civil Code (BGB) and directs the German RC. It also promotes the activities and co-operation of its member branches and implements the decisions of the General Assembly. It is composed of 6 elected members and five *ex officio*. The board meets about 10X/year and its performance is regularly assessed.

➔ The **Presidential Council** is the German RC's federal body. It promotes the society's work by sharing experiences and making proposals; it also advises the Presidential Committee. The Council is composed of the presidents of the regional branches and the President of the Federation of the German RC Nursing Associations. Committees of the Communities and Specialist Committees are formed to advise the presidential Committee.

## Domestic activities (2)

### Social Welfare (2)

➤ **Outpatient welfare services:** German RC is represented in approximately 800 outpatient welfare services and employs around 19,600 staff members in this field. Services include social welfare centres, home and family care centres, community nurse centres and mobile welfare. The services focus on assisting those in need of care as well as their relatives, to help ensure that those requiring care and attention can remain at home for as long as possible.

➤ **Mobile social services:** This programme aims to help the physically and mentally disabled and the chronically ill to remain as independent as possible at home. It offers roughly the same services as provided for outpatients.

➤ **Clothing distribution centres:** German RC volunteers collect clothes donated by the public and distribute them at local centres. The main beneficiaries are the homeless, the unemployed, recipients of social benefits, low-income families, asylum seekers and immigrants.

➤ **Health education, prevention and rehabilitation services:** The society seeks to promote healthy living by offering a range of courses such as yoga, water gymnastics and child development.

➤ **Children and young people:** To help disadvantaged young people to find their way in society and develop their full potential, German RC runs 60 homes for young people in the transition phase between school and vocational training, and employment. Young people also have the opportunity to volunteer for the Red Cross.

➤ **Youth and family services:** German RC offers advice services (E.G. for pregnant women and debtors), self-help groups and family education centres for families.

➤ **Voluntary service year:** a social project for young people between about 17 up to 27 years, covering practical work for the needy and disadvantaged. Some 22,000 young volunteers have taken part so far.

### Youth

The Red Cross Youth, founded in 1925, is an independent youth organisation within the Red Cross, with a particular educational mandate in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. Over 100,000 members, organised in some 5,500 groups, and 5,500 leaders are involved in health and first aid training, social commitment, and campaigns – for example against violence and racism (2001-2002) and training volunteers and leaders in youth work skills.

## Organisation/planning

➔ **Strategic plans:** Since 1997, working groups comprising representatives of all levels of the Society have developed strategic plans, which were then adopted by the Presidential Committee. The plans are then carried out at each level of the Society. Regular assessments are carried out; the last one dating from January 2002.

➔ **German RC memberships:** German RC is a member of the Association of Welfare Institutions, which is a common lobby association of the major welfare institutions within Germany.

### Care in the air

Each year the German RC's Air Ambulance Service carries out more than 500 emergency evacuations, bringing home accident victims and the seriously ill from abroad.

### Domestic activities (3)

#### Tracing Service

German RC Tracing Service provides advice and assistance at all branch levels in four ways:

- The tracing service supports the **reunification of families** of German origin who are from East and South-East Europe, as well as the former Soviet Union. They receive help and advice, particularly on legal matters, if they want to live in Germany.
- German RC also has an **assistance and advisory service** that assists people in need in East and South-East Europe, as well the former Soviet Union in getting material, financial or medical help.
- The tracing service still provides **help in cases from WW II**, for example ex-prisoners of war, missing soldiers and civilians.
- The German RC **disaster and conflict information services** support the re-establishment of contacts between victims of natural disasters or conflicts and their relatives in Germany. Since 1966 German RC has built up a National Information Bureau (NIB) providing help in cases of conflicts or other events with political background on behalf of the German government.

## International activities

In 2001, German government contributions represented about 30% of the society's international expenditure and the EU's contributions about 20%. German RC expenditure for international activities had been divided as follows: disaster relief activities 35%, rehabilitation projects 25%, and development 13%, health and care 27%.

- **Staff:** about 35 permanent staff, and 162 field delegates in 2001.
- **Areas of specialisation:** basic health care relief (ERU), water and sanitation (ERU), institutional development, disaster preparedness, rehabilitation, food.

## Emergency Response Unit (ERU)

1 water (including mass water, 1 mass sanitation, 2 specialised water, 2 trucking and distribution), 1 referral hospital, 2 basic health care units, 2 technical support units, as well as search and rescue teams with dogs.

## Mobile relief unit

This unit is deployed to provide humanitarian aid in the event of disasters and emergencies, both at home and abroad. It is divided into ten units, nine of them assigned to the regional branches, while the central unit (which also has a 210-bed field hospital) is under the responsibility of the German RC Presidency. Each unit consists of:

- Unit management
- Welfare service team (food supply, accommodation, and the welfare service units)
- Medical unit (equipped with a large number of ambulances)
- Logistics team (workshop and technical unit)

**Staff:** 3,802

**Main tasks:** to provide up to 30,000 people a day with food and shelter and, as far as possible, to meet any other needs.

## Disaster relief

German RC has developed a module system for international relief operations, which provides standardised equipment and relief goods in the areas of medicine, shelter, water, hygiene and logistics. Disaster relief, which also includes food aid, is generally conceived as short-term intervention, but German RC tries to take into account long-term needs and the possible link with infrastructural development.

Assistance to victims of war has been and remains one of the most important tasks in the field of disaster relief.

## Development co-operation

For many years German RC has run development programmes in co-operation with national societies in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. The aim is to help local structures improve activities to meet the specific needs of the country. The work focuses principally on:

- Primary health care (i.e. medico-social programmes)
- Disaster preparedness
- Rehabilitation after disasters
- Institutional and organisational development.

## International solidarity

➔ **44.8 million Euro spent on international activities (2001)**

➔ **162 field delegates (2001)**

## Mission

According to its statutes, the Hellenic Red Cross is an auxiliary to the government in times of war and of major disasters in the fields of public health, nursing, first aid and of international activities. A new form of co-operation between Hellenic RC and the Greek government was established in 1999 for the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

## Legal basis

- **1877:** The Hellenic RC is established by royal decree as an entity under private law and is recognised the same year by the ICRC and joins the League in 1919.
- **1965:** Most recent review of the Hellenic RC statutes.

## Constituency

- **Branches:** the Hellenic RC has 75 branches in big cities, whose members are all volunteers. The branches are run by boards appointed by the society's Central Administrative Board. The administrative boards of the branches consist of 7-11 members.
- **Committees:** the Hellenic RC has 42 committees in smaller towns in all regions of the country. The branches and the committees have volunteer nurses, social welfare volunteers and Samaritans (first-aiders). The administrative boards of the committees consist of 3-5 members.

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 593 at national HQ, 95 at provincial level (the majority are women)
- **Volunteers:** 3,000 at national HQ, 5,059 in the branches and committees (the majority are women). The volunteers are mainly involved in the fields of health, social welfare and disaster response activities. Their role is to support programmes run either by the headquarters or by the regional branches.
- **Training:** Volunteers and staff-members receive training in specific areas of expertise, such as nursing, social welfare, first aid, computer skills, basic training course for international delegates and business administration. There are also seminars, courses and workshops to update knowledge and to contribute to their general understanding of the issues they are dealing with, such as public health, accident prevention, social problems, disaster relief, international humanitarian law and youth. The number of active volunteers has fallen in recent years, mainly due to young people not having enough spare time and insufficient promotion of voluntary work through the media.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 10.623 million**

**GDP per capita: € 15,389**

**Life expectancy: 78 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 6.6‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1981**

## Challenges

The number of migrants has been increasing since the beginning of the 1990s, reaching 800,000. Greece must now face the question of integration and inclusion of these immigrants within society.

## Hellenic Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Telephone help-line

This programme offers direct help in case of emergency 24 hours a day to lonely, elderly and disabled people. Depending on the gravity of the situation, the service contacts family or neighbours, the police or paramedics. The staff of 14 is based in Athens and Thessalonica.

### Home assistance

The aim of the programme is to enable elderly and disabled people to maintain their autonomy and to encourage them to be active in the community. To this end, it offers transport and escort services. 16 paid employees and 15 volunteers are involved. They are based in Exarchia and Kolonos and they cover the areas of Athens.

### Centre for social support and integration of refugees

This centre promotes the integration and participation of refugees in Greek society, through language courses, support classes for children, a child day care centre, tracing services, etc. Staff: 10 paid employees and 7 volunteers.

### Health education programme

The health education programme has trained 380,000 people since 1952. It aims to promote health awareness and to train people to face emergencies (accidents, natural disasters) through courses such as first aid, mother-and-child care, homecare for the sick, nutrition, disease prevention, trauma care for accident victims. Staff: 50 paid employees and 12 volunteers.

### Health care programme

This programme is delivered through health centres, the gerontology service and the Hellenic RC home nursing service. An estimated 100,000 people benefit every year from this programme which provides home nursing for the chronically sick, the elderly, patients returning home from hospital but still in need of care, and public hygiene. Staff: 58 paid employees and 25 volunteers.

### Youth

The main activities of this section are: promotion of the Fundamental Principles in schools, provision of support to needy families, and environmental programmes such as reforestation and beach cleaning. The Hellenic RC has an estimated 3,000 youth volunteers and 200 youth leaders involved in these activities.

### Social services

The Hellenic RC offers a wide range of social services:

- Disaster relief and preparedness
- Rescue services
- First aid training courses
- Nursing training programmes
- Dissemination of IHL and Red Cross Principles
- Assistance to HIV/AIDS sufferers
- Psychological supports
- Medical loans

## Leadership

➔ **General Assembly** (2,500 members) is the governing body of the Hellenic RC; it meets every two years and elects the 25 members of the Central Administrative Board.

➔ **The branches / committees department**, based at national HQ, is the link between the branches/committees and the HQ. It receives their proposals or requests and presents them to the Central Administrative Board, which has the decision-making power.

➔ **The Central Administrative Board**, which is elected by the General Assembly and meets once a month, and the Executive Committee, comprising members of the Central Administrative Board, form the leadership of the Hellenic RC.

## Organization/planning

➔ **Development plan:** Although there is no formal development plan, Hellenic RC's departments and services closely follow the needs and trends of the population and introduce proposals for new programmes and activities to the Central Administration Board.

The last overall evaluation was carried out in 1987, with the support of the International Federation, which concluded that the Hellenic RC should update some of its structures (including its statutes) and functions.

➔ **Co-operation schemes:** The main fields of co-operation are: disaster response, refugees, health and social issues and dissemination of IHL, international aid and youth. In the region, the Hellenic RC co-operates closely with the national societies of Europe, the Balkans and the Mediterranean.

### International activities

In 1998, 53% of the society's international budget of 1.1 million Euros came from Government funds, and 37% from the EU. In the previous year, the main sources were individual donations (58.8%). In 1998, 63% of the budget was dedicated to rehabilitation activities, 33% to disaster relief and 4% to development

**Staff:** 9 permanent staff (2003), and 7 delegates in the field (2002).

**Projects:**

- ERU: water and sanitation
- Relief supplies
- Development/co-operation

### Programme areas seeking external support

The Hellenic RC is interested in exchanging information with other European National Societies which implement programmes for refugees, national minorities, socially excluded groups, voluntarism, primary health care, health education, first aid, disaster preparedness, etc.

It seeks external support to develop programmes in the following fields:

- Disaster preparedness and relief
- Refugee integration programme
- Integration of socially vulnerable groups

### Mapping of international activities

Although the Hellenic Red Cross tries to extend its co-operation to all regions facing problems, it gives priority to geographically close areas -The Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region-. Cooperation in these areas is also vital since a common understanding, attitude and problems form a concrete basis for constructive discussion and regional strategy.

### International solidarity

➔ **783,800.44 Euro spent on international work (2001)**

➔ **7 field delegates (2002)**



## Mission

To fulfil the objectives of the Irish Red Cross as prescribed by the statutes and to be Ireland's premier community service organization, the society strives to ensure:

- Implementation of the Red Cross Charter
- Prevention and alleviation of human suffering
- Protection of life and health
- Respect for the human being by continually delivering a high quality humanitarian service at home and abroad

To achieve this goal, the society has traditionally co-operated with the government in areas such as refugee services, health care and rescue services.

## Legal basis

- **1938:** The society is established under the Red Cross Act
- **1939:** Irish RC is subsequently formed and recognised by the ICRC
- **1945:** Irish RC joined the League of Red Cross societies.
- **1999:** The Irish Red Cross Society (Amendment) Order came into operation in February 1999, amending membership requirements. The most recent elections were held in May 1999.

## Constituency

There are 115 branches located throughout the state.

## Human resources

- **Paid Staff:** 16 at HQ, of whom 12 are women.
- **Volunteers:** 2,879 volunteer members (approximately 45% men and 55% women). All work conducted by branches around the country is done on a voluntary basis; no volunteers work at national HQ. There has been a general fall in the number of people undertaking voluntary work, which is the greatest limitation on attracting and retaining volunteers.
- **Training:** All members joining the Irish RC undergo a programme of induction training including child protection, ideals of the Red Cross, leadership training, etc. Thereafter, members may undertake a series of training courses in subjects relevant to their activity. These courses include first aid, caring services, mountain rescue. Overseas training is provided by the ICRC and the IFRC.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 3.917 million**

**GDP per capita: € 27,050**

**Life expectancy: 76.5 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.5‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1973**

## Challenges

Ireland's inflation rate in 2003 is forecast to rise to 5.1% according to the state-funded Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). After a period of sustained growth, with rising employment, unemployment is now growing and is forecast to be 5.5% at the end of the year. Growth rates will be between 3 and 4%. Immigration is rising while emigration is declining, leading to a population increase of 1.5% last year.

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## Domestic activities

### Programmes for the public

The following training courses are offered:

- basic first aid
- cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- caring for the sick
- occupational first aid
- safe lifting/manual handling
- public access defibrillation
- cosmetic skin camouflage

### Community service

Community service activities provided by Irish RC include:

- first aid (including cardiac response) at public events
- local transport service for older people in rural areas
- visiting services, including Therapeutic Hand Care, to older people in their own homes and in nursing homes
- training professional healthcare providers in some regions
- support of family carers & provision of a carer resource directory
- auxiliary ambulance service in all regions
- civil protection/disaster relief and preparedness (both national and international)
- mountain rescue
- dissemination of Humanitarian Law and Red Cross principles
- tracing and Red Cross message services
- management of government funds for flood victims
- EU road safety campaigns
- back-to-back community employment schemes
- involvement with major emergency planning

### Youth

The society runs the School Safety Squad programme, which gives guidance to schoolchildren on how to avoid accidents and some basic first aid advice. Other activities for young people include cadet membership of First Aid units, an annual youth camp for teenagers and an entertainment troupe, which provides entertainment to sick children in hospital.

### International Activities

To date in 2003 and since the start of 2002, the Irish Red Cross provided € 1,543,822 to support international operations. This figure does not include delegate costs. This figure includes public donations to 11 different overseas appeals and an Ireland Aid (Irish Government) donation of € 1 million.

## Leadership

➔ **President of Irish RC:** the Irish Red Cross is a statutory organisation; the President of Ireland, by virtue of his/her position, is President of the society.

➔ The society's **Central Council** is the main governing body. It meets twice a year to formulate policy and in the intervening period delegates powers to a 12-member Executive Committee.

➔ The **Executive Committee** is composed of voluntary members and government appointees, and meets once a month.

➔ There are five other **standing committees** (known as working groups): finance, central unit control, medical advisory, youth, overseas and community services. The society's staff and/or volunteers discuss plans with the respective working groups and recommendations may then be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

## Organisation/planning

➔ **New development plan** was introduced last year, following consultations with both volunteers and staff.

➔ **Co-operation with other societies:** partnership with other national societies is conducted mainly through the government's Agency for Personnel Overseas (APSO), which sends skilled people to work on relief projects in areas of need throughout the world.

## International solidarity

➔ **EUR 1.54 million funding for overseas appeals in 2002 and the first quarter of 2003.**



# CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

# Italy

## Mission

The mission of the Italian Red Cross is to improve the lives of vulnerable people, both nationally and internationally, especially in the fields of relief, health, social care and youth. The Italian government contributes almost a third of Italian RC's operating budget through contracts for the provision of services.

## Legal basis

- **1864:** Italian RC is founded, recognised in 1886; in 1919 it becomes one of the five founding societies of the League
- **1997:** Major update of the statutes, which restructure the Italian RC on a regional basis and introduce democratised structures at the local, provincial, regional, and national levels
- **November 2000:** Most recent update of the statutes allowing for elected governance at local level and representation of local boards on the General Assembly
- **February 2001:** Most recent General Assembly

## Constituency

The structure covers all regions and is present throughout Italy:

- **102 provincial committees** with a board of directors elected from among its members
- **20 regional committees** with a board of directors elected from among its members
- **432 local committees**

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 3,025 (336 at HQ, 2,689 in branches)
- **Volunteers:** 201,483 (all at branches) in 1999. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the programmes, from conception to decision-making at management level, to implementation and evaluation. Italian RC faces problems in keeping volunteers because of competition from other organisations, and due to the obligation for volunteers to undergo training.
- **Training:** aims to improve management of the Italian RC with courses on law, IT, foreign languages, reform of the administrative structure in Italy and safety in the workplace. Training for volunteers is a requirement before they can take part in Red Cross activities: volunteers have to complete courses lasting up to two years, as well as a compulsory 6-month training period. Volunteers may also receive training in rescue skills, management of volunteers, knowledge of the Movement and international humanitarian law.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 57.503 million**

**GDP per capita: € 22,012**

**Life expectancy: 78.2 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.6‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1957**

## Challenges

Youth unemployment (32% in 1999) is one of the key issues facing the government.

Italy has one of the lowest gross birth rates in the EU, and old-age pensions and survivor benefits account for the majority of social protection expenditure.

## Italian Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### First aid/ambulance service

3,953 ambulances operated by 50,000 first-aid and relief workers and volunteers; 217 of whom are nurses and 200 doctors. In 2001, almost 500,000 people benefited from these services.

Under an agreement with the Ministry of Health, the Italian RC provides first aid services and assistance at 31 Italian airports

### Rescue services/civil protection

Civil protection - 500 actions conducted on behalf of 10,000 persons

Beach and sea rescue – 4,000 actions conducted on behalf of 2,500 people

### Social welfare

The social assistance programme relies on the work of the national women's committee (30,000 volunteers); 70,000 people benefited from services including assistance in hospitals, assistance in hospices and home care.

### Blood programme

The Italian RC has a central blood bank in Rome, and collects blood throughout the country. In 2001, the society collected more than 35,000 units of blood that were supplied to 12,500 people. The Italian RC has set up a blood-donor recruitment programme.

**Staff:** 241 employees and 145 volunteers in the central blood bank.

### HIV/AIDS and drug dependence

The Foundation Villa Maraini, based in the Rome branch, offers assistance to substance abusers (alcohol and drugs), as well as HIV/AIDS patients. The foundation also carries out research in these fields. The foundation is linked to the ERNA network for HIV/AIDS, of which its director is President. In 2001, almost 3,000 people benefited from these services.

**Staff:** 100 paid employees and 85 volunteers (including medical personnel).

### Social services

- Visiting programme for the elderly and isolated people
- Transport and escort of the elderly
- Assistance to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers – including a tracing service
- Primary health care and health promotion
- Loans of medical equipment

### Youth

The Italian RC youth activities include peace education, health education (including HIV/AIDS prevention), first aid courses and dissemination of IHL. **Volunteers:** 20,000 youth volunteers and 300 leaders.

### IHL dissemination

The Italian RC disseminates IHL and the Fundamental Principles to volunteers, the armed forces, universities and the general public.

## Leadership

➔ The **General Assembly** is composed in part by the presidents of the boards of directors from the regions, the provinces and the local committees, and elected directly in part by the Italian RC's members. The Assembly meets 1-2 times a year.

➔ The **National Management Board** is elected by the General Assembly. The board is also composed of representatives of the voluntary sections, a staff representative and the General President. The Board meets approximately 8 times a year.

➔ The **National Management Committee** is composed of 4 members, elected by the National Management Board from among its members, and comprises the General President, the Vice President, and two members. The Management Committee meets once a week.

➔ The **General President** is elected by the General Assembly from among its members. Ministry representatives are not eligible for election to the Management Committee or the Presidency.

## Organization/planning

➔ **Development plan:** The society is preparing a strategic work plan, which will seek to align its activities with the International Federation's *Strategy 2010*, focusing particularly on the four core areas identified in the document.

➔ **Partnerships with other national organisations:** The Italian RC co-operates with other organisations in the areas of civil defence, international assistance, health services, and social services.

### International activities

**Staff:** 15 people at national HQ, who focus particularly on construction, blood and food security programmes.

**Delegates:** 14 in 1998 and 26 in 1999 (5 with the International Federation, 4 with ICRC, and 17 on bilateral projects).

#### Areas of activity:

- Development co-operation
- Food security

### Co-operation with other national societies

The Italian Red Cross works in partnership with:

- The Spanish Red Cross on relief operations in Western Sahara,
- The French Red Cross on the Mediterranean Conference 2000,
- The German Red Cross on fund-raising techniques.

The Italian RC is interested in sharing information and expertise in the areas of volunteer recruitment, management, social activities, fund-raising, image building and HIV/AIDS and blood collection programmes.

### Mapping of international activities

- **Rescue/international development:** especially in Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Mauritania, Albania, Central America, Latin America, Turkey, Former Yugoslavia
- **Blood programmes:** Bangladesh, Honduras
- **Youth**
- **Institutional development**

**Priority areas** include Eastern Europe, Central America and Africa.

### International solidarity

➔ **2.52 million Euro spent on international work (2001)**

➔ **26 field delegates (1999)**



# Luxembourg

## Mission

The mission and objectives of the Luxembourg Red Cross are defined in the law of 1923, which establishes its legal status, and in its statutes. The document states that the Luxembourg RC must assist the government in evacuating and treating the wounded in time of war, while in peace-time it is responsible for preparing its services, taking steps to combat transmittable diseases, providing services for youth, and assisting victims of natural disasters or accidents.

In accordance with agreements between the Luxembourg RC and the government, the authorities contribute to the operating expenses of various social services provided by the society.

## Legal basis

- **1914:** Foundation of the Luxembourg RC
- **1922:** Luxembourg RC is recognised by the ICRC, and joins the League the same year
- **1923:** Luxembourg RC is recognised in law as a public-interest organisation; at the same time, the society's statutes are adopted (last modified in 1939)

## Constituency

The structure covers:

- **38 local branches** (most members are women), covering the whole country – they are administered at the local level by a committee in conjunction with the Executive Committee
- **3 sections of first-aid ambulance drivers** (most of whom are men)
- **1 Youth Section**

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 401 (69 men, 332 women) in the various sections.
- **Volunteers:** two at HQ and 50 working in other sections; approximately 2,000 volunteers are involved in the activities carried out by the local branches, first aid and ambulance workers, Luxembourg RC youth section.
- **Training:** Luxembourg RC provides in-service training for first aiders and ambulance workers on a regular basis.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 442,000**

**GDP per capita: € 46,643**

**Life expectancy: 77 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 6.6‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1957**

## Luxembourg Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Home care

Home care assistance is offered in 34 communes throughout the country, providing 164,915 para-medical services, and 257,230 instances of treatment. Luxembourg RC has 30 baby clinics located throughout the country, staffed by doctors, social hygiene workers and a nurse.

### Blood transfusion service

Active donors (2001): 13,925 (35% women, 65% men)

The mission of the blood transfusion service is to cover national blood-product requirements and to provide services associated with blood transfusion. The service offers training courses for its personnel, as well as courses for hospital and medical staff.

### Ambulance and first aid services

The ambulance service is operational 24 hours a day. In 2001, it provided 233 services abroad, 1,559 services in Luxembourg and was on duty at 170 cultural, sporting and other events. Luxembourg RC provided these services with the help of 4 ambulances.

The first aid department has a canine section, specialised in retrieving people buried in ruins after a disaster or explosion. This department offers twice-weekly training to its first aid workers, as well as joint training with first aid-ambulance drivers. In 1999, Luxembourg RC organised 43 first aid courses and 13 refresher courses, for a total of more than 679 people.

### HIV/AIDS programme

The objectives of this programme are to defend the rights of HIV sufferers and their families, respond to their specific needs, tackle discrimination, offer support and psychological assistance. Among the 270 persons who visited the Luxembourg RC advice centre in 2001, 115 were HIV/AIDS patients.

Volunteers play an increasingly important role in this department - 17 participate regularly in the support group and 6 offer individual help and psychological support to HIV-positive people. Due to the great demand for volunteers to assist HIV/AIDS patients and to the constant development of treatment, the Luxembourg RC (together with the organisation "Stop Aids Now") runs courses at least once a year to provide further training for volunteers.

The programme also focuses on prevention - volunteers help by:

- Distributing leaflets and condoms at public events and in bars
- Installing condom vending machines upon request
- Giving presentations in schools
- Running stands at public events to offer advice and information

## Leadership

➔ At the national level, the Luxembourg RC is administered by the **Executive Committee**, composed of members of the **Board of Directors**. Both the members of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Directors are volunteers, nominated by the Grand Duke. The Executive Committee establishes policy and sets the society's objectives.

➔ The Luxembourg RC's **Director** is responsible for daily management, carried out in accordance with decisions taken by the Executive Committee.

## Foster parent programme

A foster parent programme arranges for children who are unable to live with their own families for whatever reason, usually following a juvenile court order, to stay with a host family. When possible, contacts between children and parents are maintained, either through visits or extended stays.

In 2001, 70 children were placed in 50 foster homes. The department ensures regular supervision of these children.

## Domestic activities (2)

### Fondation Emile Mayrisch

The Emile Mayrisch Foundation – a residential and convalescent centre - provides a physiotherapy service and rooms for disabled people usually cared for by their families, so that the carers can have a break.

In 2001, 35,531 days of stay at the centre were reported.

### Youth section

The Luxembourg RC Youth has forged relations with its counterparts in the Hungarian Red Cross, and invited a group of its regional leaders to come to Luxembourg for training. In 2001, the society had 594 youth volunteers and youth leaders. Other youth projects include:

- **Holiday activities** for youngsters (aged 4 to 17) in Luxembourg, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Switzerland, and Hungary (828 participants in 2001)
- **Psychological support** for young people aged between 12 and 22. In 2001, 197 youth contacted this service.
- **Dissemination of IHL and Red Cross Principles**
- **The Steinsel youth centre**
- **Support for refugee children**

### Social welfare

The social welfare department offers a wide range of services:

- **Hospital care:** information and guidance for patients and their relations, either during or after hospital stays. Luxembourg RC workers can assist by preparing a patient for their return home or by finding a suitable rest home.
- **Debt management:** between 1993 and 1998, this service responded to nearly 2,000 requests for assistance and guidance from people in debt.
- **Dispensaries for prostitutes:** staffed by a nurse and a social worker, these centres provide health care and advice, as well as showers and a cafeteria where visitors can drop in for a chat.
- **Meals on wheels:** every day of the year, this service provides hot meals to sick or elderly people. In 2001, 61,652 meals were distributed.
- **Second-hand clothes shop:** located in the basement of national HQ and staffed by volunteers, the shop offers clothes to people in vulnerable situations and sends clothes abroad for victims of disasters.

## International solidarity

### ➔ 562.464 Euro spent on international work (2001)

Due to its small size and budgetary constraints, Luxembourg RC does not have a permanent international department, but co-operates actively with the Belgian Red Cross in this area. Luxembourg RC regularly launches appeals for funds to finance the Movement's activities.

#### ➔ Refugee Assistance

The refugee reception centre houses 300 Albanian, Russian, and ex-Yugoslav refugees, mainly families and single women with children. This service is responsible for the reception of new refugees, finding jobs and lodgings, and helping refugees cope with administrative procedures.

#### ➔ Tracing and messages

In cooperation with the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency, the Luxembourg RC strives to locate people that have disappeared in armed conflict. This service also provides assistance in re-uniting families, tracing and sending Red Cross Messages.

## Mission

The mission and statement of the Netherlands Red Cross goals are set out in its strategic document “*Zorg voor elkaar*” (“Care for Each Other”), approved in 1995 and updated and reconfirmed in “Focus on Assistance” (2003).

The Netherlands RC is responsible for tracing and specific tasks within disaster relief co-operation at a national level. The national government provides subsidies for activities carried out by the Netherlands RC that includes home care assistance and social welfare for war victims and their relatives. The state also provides funds for international co-operation, both for relief and development operations.

## Legal basis

- **1867:** The Royal Decree establishing the Netherlands RC is passed; the society is recognised by the ICRC in 1868
- **1919:** The Netherlands RC joins the League
- **1988:** Activities with government involvement are redefined
- **1 January 1999:** Last update of the statutes of the Netherlands RC, dealing mainly with the new governance structure

## Constituency

The society’s branch structure covers the entire country:

- Approximately 380 **local branches**, each an independent legal entity, are committed to participate within the district and national structure in carrying out specific humanitarian tasks in accordance with the Fundamental Principles
- At a higher level, branches co-operate within approximately 75 **districts**; many of them are in the process of merging into larger branches and districts. Within the national general assembly, each district holds one vote

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 160 at national HQ (72 men, 88 women), 143 (35 men and 108 women) at district and branch levels
- **Volunteers:** at branch level, approximately 34,000 active volunteers (70% women and 30% men), mainly active in providing services; additionally, 2,500 unpaid professional staff, mainly active within branch governance and administration. Recruitment and retention of volunteers has been designated as a specific core task at district and branch level
- **Training:** sessions are offered to both paid staff and volunteers

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 15.93 million**

**GDP per capita: € 23.903**

**Life expectancy: 77.9 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 4.6‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1957**

## Challenges

- ➔ Many people still depend on social benefits covering unemployment, incapacity and sickness, despite high economic growth and one of the lowest unemployment rates in the EU (about 4%).
- ➔ The ageing of the population is expected to be an increasing burden on the social security system, as the number of over-60s is likely to account for over 60% of the population by 2020.

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## Domestic activities

### Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers

➤ **Tracing:** The Netherlands RC is active in “social tracing” (reuniting long-lost relatives who have been separated by conflict) and in tracing (re-establishing contacts and exchanging messages between relatives who have been separated as a result of a conflict). The main target group is refugees, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants. An estimated 150 volunteers are involved in these activities, with eight paid staff at national HQ.

➤ **Unaccompanied minors:** These programmes are designed for unaccompanied, underage asylum seekers. Activities are provided at reception centres as well as at accommodation in which these youngsters live together, pending a decision on their asylum application. The aim is to stimulate integration with children of their own age and provide social and other useful skills.

### First aid and disaster response and preparedness

The activities of this unit aim to complement the national disaster-response programme and to develop small specialist teams to support statutory authorities. There are three major components:

➤ **Medical assistance:** Netherlands RC teams assist municipal ambulance and mobile medical teams. 13 full-time staff members and an estimated 2,200 volunteers are involved.

➤ **Care and assistance:** this unit covers medical and social assistance. The medical assistance staff is also responsible for organising and co-ordinating care and assistance programmes. The number of volunteers is estimated at 4,000.

➤ **Registration and information:** Netherlands RC assists the authorities in registration and provision of information in times of disaster or major accident.

### Blood

The Netherlands RC has a limited role in this area. The society is a member of the board of the Central Blood Donation/Transfusion Authority. In small branches, blood-donation sessions are organised over a few days each year.

### Social services

- Visiting programme for the elderly
- First aid training, health promotion campaigns
- Dissemination of IHL and Red Cross Principles
- Youth activities
- Psychological support
- Vacation substitute for informal carers

### Youth Section

The main activities consist in:

- International Humanitarian Law dissemination programme,
- Asylum seekers programme,
- First aid courses,
- Social participation programme
- International exchange programme

In 2001, this section had 5,000 youth volunteers and 200 leaders

## Leadership

➔ **At national level,** the National Executive Committee (or National Board) keeps monthly meetings, while the General Assembly is held every six months.

➔ **At district level,** covering one or more branches, district boards are composed of representatives from the boards of the branches concerned. The boards usually convene between six and eight times a year.

➔ **At branch level,** members elect their representatives to the board. All board members are non-paid staff, except in large branches.

## Organisation/planning

➔ **New plan of action:** The new plan consolidates activities carried out at national level (mandated by HQ) and at district level. The plan is produced annually, with active participation of staff at national and district levels.

➔ **Structure of Netherlands RC:** The structure of the society was revitalised by merging local branches into districts, reducing and reorganising staff at HQ, and restructuring the board in line with the core work sectors.

## Special holidays

The Netherlands RC offers services to people who are no longer able to go on holiday independently due to long-term dependency on extended physical, mental and/or social care. Netherlands RC holiday accommodation (two hotels and a ship) offers care services and assistance, and provides facilities matching those at home. Beneficiaries contribute to the costs.

### International activities

In 2002, out of the total **expenditure** for international work:

- 30% was spent on bilateral activities
- 50% went through the International Federation
- 12% went through the ICRC
- 8% went through other channels

Total expenditure amounted to 18.2 million €. The main sources of income in 2001 were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, Netherlands RC fund and joint public campaigns, mainly for emergency relief.

### Staff

- 26 staff at national HQ
- 59 delegates in the field (International Federation – 20, ICRC – 16, bilateral – 23)

To implement its new policy on international assistance, the Netherlands RC is developing more specialised knowledge and skills in disaster preparedness and advocacy (IHL and Fundamental Principles), and is focusing on a limited number of countries for long-term assistance programmes. Furthermore, it has set up an International Red Cross Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, focusing on raising awareness, advocacy, and activities that contribute to the mitigation of the impacts of extreme weather conditions due to climate changes.

### Core areas of activity

- Development/cooperation in the four core areas,
- Capacity and institution building

Support to relief projects accounts for 34% of the society's international expenditure (2001), 28% is spent on rehabilitation projects, and 38% is dedicated to long-term assistance.

### International solidarity

➔ **18.2 million Euro spent on international work (2001)**

➔ **59 delegates in the field (2001)**

### Cooperation at EU level

Netherlands RC has established co-operation relationships with the Belgian RC (Flemish section), Russian and Suriname Red Cross Societies.



## Mission

The mission statement is contained in the Portuguese Red Cross statutes, updated in 1993. The new statutes are the result of consultations between the three levels of the National Society (local chapters, district branches and HQ). After official approval, regional information meetings were held in order to explain new approaches. The field offices then informed the membership of the new statutes.

## Legal basis

- **1868:** Portuguese RC is created by Royal Charter.
- **1919:** Portuguese RC joins the League.
- **1993:** Adoption of the current statutes; at the most recent General Assembly in September 1997 it is decided that the statutes should be amended to take into account the structure at field level. No deadline is set for this change.
- **1999:** New elections; the statutes are under review.

## Constituency

The society is based on three levels of geographical responsibility, which cover the entire country:

- **National Headquarters**
- **25 district branches** (with district assemblies and district directorates)
- **155 local chapters** (local assemblies and local directorates)

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** 218 at HQ and 498 in the branches and chapters. All levels of governance and management (Secretary General and Secretaries) are based on membership with no restriction relating to population groups, gender or age (other than the minimum age requirement of 18 years).
- **Volunteers:** about 5,000 at branch and chapter levels; the recruitment of more volunteers is hampered by the limited capacity of the national society to develop more activities.
- **Training:** paid staff and volunteers are provided with training courses related to the activities or programmes they are directly involved with. About 85% of the training is focused on volunteers.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 10.33 million**

**GDP per capita: € 16,108**

**Life expectancy: 75.2 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 6.6‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1986**

## Portuguese Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

Through its 25 branches and 154 chapters, the Portuguese RC provides services and care to 900,000 direct beneficiaries.

### Health program

This programme represents 22% of Portuguese RC activities, and consists of:

- Relief stations
- Clinic services
- Rehabilitation projects
- Health community projects
- Relief units

### Social action program

This represents 45% of Portuguese RC activities, consisting of social intervention projects for vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities, the homeless and drug addicts.

- Support and orientation: 48%
- Homecare for the elderly and dependent people: 28%
- Support to children and youth: 9%

### Educational and training programs

The aim is to offer people courses in professional and social fields as well as scholarship certificates.

### Youth Section

The main activities consist in:

- Social counsellors for handicapped youth
- Dissemination of Red Cross Principles in schools
- First aid training in schools
- Social activities

In 1997, the youth section had 700 volunteers and 500 leaders.

## Leadership

- ➔ General Assembly
- ➔ Supreme Council
- ➔ National Directorate

### Financial resources

In 1999, Portuguese RC's total income was 4.5 million Euros, compared to 4.7 million in 1998.

## Organization/planning

➔ **New development plan:** A new building for HQ has been purchased, and was operational by early 2001. In several delegations improvements have been made and a few are preparing new installations.

## International solidarity

➔ **417,748 Euro spent on international work (2001)**

Most of the Portuguese RC's international work is funded by national sources (commercial companies, the government and public donations).

The society works primarily in the areas of disaster relief and rehabilitation. It has nursing personnel working in countries such as Angola and Guinea Bissau (financed by ECHO). The Portuguese RC has also sent relief supplies in response to appeals by the ICRC and the International Federation. The society has developed a strategy that promotes co-operation with other EU national societies, such as the German and the Spanish Red Cross societies, primarily in Portuguese-speaking African countries.

## **Mission**

The objectives of the Spanish Red Cross are defined in its statutes, while the general assembly updates the mission and operational objectives of the society every four years. The updated objectives are relayed to the local, provincial and regional committees, so that they can adapt their work plans accordingly.

Relations between the society and the Spanish government are conducted through the protection board, chaired by the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs and with representatives of the ministerial departments concerned with the objectives and activities of the society.

## **Legal basis**

- **1864:** Spanish Red Cross founded
- **1893:** Spanish RC recognised by the ICRC, and joins the League in 1919
- **1997:** update of the statutes, and the rules of procedure in 1998
- **1999:** General Assembly

## **Constituency**

Spanish RC's structure is based on the administrative divisions of the state and covers the whole country. The society is composed of:

- **912 local regional branches,**
- **50 provincial committees,**
- **17 regional committees** (one in each autonomous community plus the national committee).

All the governance and management bodies are elected from among the members and volunteers through a legislative procedure carried out every four years.

## **Human resources**

- **Paid staff:** 7,136
- **Volunteers:** 145,358 (who can be assigned to any duties provided they have the appropriate professional skills).
- **Training:** the training centre provides courses for volunteers in different areas of activity. A training programme for paid staff has also been implemented through FORCEM (a fund for vocational training to which all the workers contribute).

## **National context**

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 39.4 million**

**GDP per capita: € 18,141**

**Life expectancy: 78.1 years**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.7‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1986**

## **Challenges**

➔ **High unemployment:** Despite strong economic growth since its accession to the EU, Spain has the highest unemployment rate in the Union.

➔ **Ageing of the population:** Spain's birth rate has slowed over the past two decades, with the result that the country's population growth has slipped from being one of the highest in Europe to one of the lowest.

## **Spanish Red Cross**

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## Domestic activities

### The elderly

In recent years, the Spanish RC has developed services that allow elderly people to continue living in their own homes while benefiting from essential care and security. Its programmes also provide support and relief for those who look after the elderly. In 2001, the Spanish RC provided services to more than 164,000 elderly people.

### Drug abuse

The Spanish RC runs assistance centres for drug addicts and their families. These provide emergency help and psychological assistance, provision of meeting places and shelters, social integration classes, assistance in finding accommodation, treatment for drug addiction, recreational centres, and mobile methadone units. Special focus is given to assisting minors. In 2001, the Spanish RC provided assistance to more than 38,000 people.

### People living with HIV

The Spanish RC is actively involved in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS through health education. It provides health care, psychological and social support with a view to improving the quality of life. It also offers home care services, psychological support for HIV-infected minors, support for the families of HIV sufferers, self-help groups, and AIDS/HIV awareness classes... In 2001, the Spanish RC provided services to more than 10,200 people.

### Refugees and Migrants

Migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons constitute Spanish RC's main target groups. The society is active in terms of reception, social integration, protection of rights and tracing services. In 2001, the Spanish RC provided help to 4,826 refugees or asylum seekers and 134,401 migrants.

### Youth Section

The Spanish RC addresses the needs of minors with special needs. It provides care for hospitalised children, accommodation for problem children (to avoid detention), residences for children and teenagers, day nursery for children up to 3 years of age, foster families, help for children and families in financial need, centres for psychological diagnosis and treatment. In 2001, the youth section had 39,353 volunteers and 7,500 leaders.

### Disabled

The Spanish RC has services specifically: transportation adapted to their needs, additional home care, technical assistance, a centre for children suffering from neurological paralysis, and social integration.

### Vulnerable women

The Spanish RC either manages or runs reception centres designed for abused women and their children and offers information and guidance to women at risk. These centres not only meet basic food and accommodation needs, but also provide psychological help as well as advice on social integration and on obtaining employment.

## Leadership

→ The society's leadership is entrusted to the president, the vice president, the national committee, the secretary general and the general co-ordinator. There is also a professional central management team.

→ The **national committee** meets at least three times a year.

→ The members of the various governing bodies are volunteers.

## Organisation/planning

→ **Strategic work plan:** The strategic work plan is based on decisions adopted by the general assembly; the last was adopted in March 2003. The work plans and budgets are approved on a yearly basis.

→ **Memberships/partnerships:** The Spanish RC is interested in exchanges of information and experiences in relation to working with the elderly, substance abusers, migrants and refugees, as well as on employment issues.

## Volunteer grannies

This project brings together children who are alone most of the day, and elderly people who are Red Cross volunteers. The aim is twofold: to contribute to the prevention of social and educational problems among children, and to improve the social integration of elderly people and their personal development through their active participation in a worthwhile community activity.

## International activities

### Areas of activity

- Disaster relief and preparedness
- Development co-operation
- Capacity and institutional building
- Education for development

The international department has a staff of 56, with about 100 delegates in the field in 2001.

### Financial resources

The main sources of finance for Spanish RC development co-operation projects are the national, regional and provincial authorities, as well as other entities and private companies. For emergency aid, the European Union (ECHO) is the society's major source of finance. In 2001, the Spanish RC received over 5.91 million Euros for humanitarian aid and rehabilitation projects.

### Fields

- 53% development co-operation,
- 25% humanitarian aid,
- 22% institutional development.

### Geographical priorities

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Africa
- Central and Eastern European countries
- Asia

## International solidarity

➔ 199 million Euro spent on international work (2001)

➔ +/- 100 field delegates (2001)

### Cooperation plan

Spanish RC's international cooperation plan was drawn up on the basis of the Movement's criteria and guidelines, tailored to the society's own circumstances.

The document establishes the Spanish RC's position, priority areas of action and orientation and closely follows the lines of the International Federation's *Strategic Work Plan*.

## Mission

The Swedish Red Cross has a clear mission statement, adopted by the Central Board in June 1999, which refers to its five key areas: protecting life, promoting human dignity and human rights, protecting health and people, developing social security and developing the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

## Legal basis

- **1865:** Swedish Red Cross was founded
- **1919:** The Swedish Red Cross joins the League of Red Cross Societies
- **1999:** General Assembly, national elections and revision of statutes
- **2000:** Since January 2000 the Swedish RC has had two decision-making levels (previously three) and the composition of the General Assembly has changed
- **June 2002:** Last General Assembly

## Constituency

**Branches:** The Swedish Red Cross has 1,500 local branches throughout the country, supported by 100-150 paid advisory officers that are close to local committees. The committees are supported by staff at ten new regional offices, co-ordinated from headquarters, which acts as back up for the local level.

## Human resources

- **Paid Staff:** 530 paid employees, 150 of them at headquarters (65% women).
- **Members and Volunteers:** 305,000 paid-up members of whom 40,000 are volunteers involved in activities carried out by branches. Red Cross Youth has almost 3,500 members, many of whom are active as volunteers. Swedish RC recognises that it needs to become more professional in recruiting new volunteers. There is a need for all volunteers to be able to exercise professional skills.
- **Training:** As part of the society's major organisational reform, leadership training is offered at all levels. This covers both governance and management, emphasising the different roles played by each. Several general training programmes are also offered to volunteers.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 8.9 million**

**GDP per capita: € 22,620**

**Life expectancy: 79.3**

**Infant mortality rate: 3.5‰**

**Accession to the EU: 1995**

## Challenges

➔ **Social security benefits:** In October 2000, unemployment reached 4%, (up from 1.7% in 1990). The social security system seems to have succeeded in softening the effects of higher unemployment rates (Sweden devotes 34.8% of its GDP to social security, the highest in the EU).

➔ **Ageing population:** The number of elderly has increased, the most significant growth being among those aged 85 and over. 18% of the population are aged over 65.

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## Domestic activities

### Protecting life

- **Total defence:** The Swedish RC recruits and trains men and women for the voluntary defence programme, financed by the government. There are currently 5,000 medical orderlies, half of them women.
- **First aid training:** The Swedish RC trains approx. 1% of the Swedish population in First aid and CPR.
- **First aid teams:** 100 First aid teams carry out preparedness activities and respond to emergencies.
- **Mobile emergency units:** Mobile emergency units (MEU) are deployed in the event of a major accident to give first aid and prepare victims for evacuation to hospital. Each MEU consists of a doctor, three nurses, four volunteer orderlies and 2 volunteer drivers.
- **Municipality-based preparedness project:** The programme focuses on psychosocial support for traumatised persons.
- **National Information Bureau:** In case of war, the Swedish RC has the responsibility assigned by the government for setting up the National Information Bureau.

### Promoting human dignity and human rights

- Support to asylum seekers,
- Tracing and reuniting families separated in emergencies,
- Dissemination of the Fundamental Principles, International Humanitarian Law and human rights,
- Voluntary repatriation support for refugees planning to return home,
- Advocacy of policy issues regarding human rights for asylum seekers and refugees; contacts with authorities and political figures,
- Participation and consultation in committees for official and parliamentary reports, public statements and communications.

### Protecting people's health

Health is an integrated part of most national programmes. One specific project is the Noah's Ark Foundation, a care centre where volunteers offer support to HIV/AIDS sufferers and their families.

### Developing social security

- **Visiting services:** Volunteers visit lonely and isolated people, mostly the elderly, at home. Visits are also made to detention centres and prisons, and to patients in hospitals and other institutions.
  - **Carers' support:** Professionals are trained to lead support groups for carers; together with volunteers they organise various activities to lighten the carers' load.
  - **Telephone help line:** Specially trained volunteers answer calls from people needing advice and support.
  - **Psychological first aid:** The Swedish RC offers training for trainers and volunteers in psychological first aid.
- Various other activities are carried out, including campaigns against violence. The Swedish RC also has approximately 250 second-hand shops that not only provide needed items cheaply but also provide an informal environment for people who feel like socialising.

## Leadership

- ➔ The **General Assembly** now consists of 370 representatives elected at the local level (previously there were 74 representatives from district level). Representatives are elected a year before the next General Assembly in order to participate in consultations with Headquarters on issues related to improving transparency and democracy within the Swedish RC. The participating representatives will follow up at the local committee level.
- ➔ The **Central Board** is composed of 11 members, the President, and two members of the Youth Red Cross who do not have voting rights. The Central Board is the highest decision-making body after the General Assembly, which meets every third year. This board is responsible for defining the strategy and activities of the volunteers, while paid staff is responsible for management.
- ➔ The **Executive Committee** meets eight times a year.
- ➔ All branches have **local boards**.
- ➔ **Co-operation councils** will be set up in each community, to contribute to the development of activities at branch level and create a stronger Red Cross identity at the grass roots level.

## Youth in action

The Swedish Red Cross Youth mostly works with activities against racism and xenophobia. They also work with girls groups in a gender aspect. Help line and twinning projects are other important activities.



## International activities

In 2002, the Swedish RC supported international work with 23,26 million EUR, of which:

- 90% went to humanitarian assistance and development
- 10% to emergency appeals.

More than half the amount came from government funds.

The Swedish RC supports the International Federation's global appeals, country as well as regional assistance, and emergency appeals. The society also supports the ICRC, partly with government funds and partly with its own, for delegated projects.

An important part of the society's contribution is in providing delegates, with special emphasis on management, health, water and sanitation, ID/RD and finance.

The Swedish RC works within the core areas of the International Federation's Strategy 2010 and takes special interest in community-based health care, first aid, disaster response and preparedness, water and sanitation/ERU, capacity building, branch capacity building through twinning, and mine awareness.

Of the society's 72 delegate missions (December 2002), 21 were with ICRC, 42 with the Federation.

The Swedish RC has Emergency Response Units immediately available for water and sanitation actions.

Swedish RC takes an active part in developing the Federation's Field Assessment Coordination Teams (FACT).

## Organisation/planning

In June 1999, the Swedish RC General Assembly adopted a plan aimed at securing **"Vision, Mission, Methods and Organisation for the year 2005"**. This followed consultation throughout the society, focussing on improving the organizational structure and working methods, so as to use resources more efficiently and promote greater democracy.

With the implementation of the new structure in 2000, the society has sought to integrate national and international activities. From now on Swedish RC work at home and abroad will focus on five core areas, which correspond to those of the International Federation.

## International solidarity

➔ **23,26 million EUR spent on international work (2002)**

➔ **72 field delegate missions (2002)**

## **National Red Cross Societies of the candidate countries of the European Union**

### **A Profile of the Red Cross**

#### *Facts and Figures*

- Czech Red Cross
- Estonia Red Cross
- Hungarian Red Cross
- Latvian Red Cross
- Lithuanian Red Cross
- Malta Red Cross Society
- Polish Red Cross
- Slovak Red Cross
- Slovenian Red Cross



# Czech Republic

## Mission

- The Czech Red Cross does not have a mission statement but the Fundamental Principles are clearly stated in its statutes and, in the 1990s, the society operated in accordance with the International Federation's *Strategic Work Plan*.
- Cooperation with the government is good, as demonstrated during the floods in 1997.
- The Czech RC does not have a clearly identified profile in the country, but good relations are being developed with the national media in order to strengthen the public image of the society.

## Legal basis

- **1919:** recognition as the Czechoslovak Red Cross.
- **1993:** After the creation of the new Czech Republic, the Czech RC was recognized by the ICRC and joined the International Federation the same year. A Red Cross law was passed in 1992 but amendments are yet to be adopted by the government. The statutes were approved at the first constitutional congress in 1993.
- **April 1997:** The last general assembly and national elections took place.

## Constituency

There are 76 branches throughout the country, which are independent and self-regulating.

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** In 2001, the society employed 211 staff (176 at local branches and 35 at headquarters).
- **Members and volunteers:** There are around 20,000 active volunteers who are involved in its basic programmes. Membership comes mainly from the more affluent people in Czech society and recruitment of new members is a challenge. Youth recruitment in rural areas is easier. The society has 108,348 members including 1,400 youth volunteers.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 10.26 million**

**GDP per capita: € 13,059**

**Life expectancy: 74.3**

**Infant mortality rate: 5.8 ‰**

## Challenges

The Czech Republic was formed in 1993 following a split with Slovakia. **The country is generally stable**, both politically and economically, following successful stabilisation policies. **Unemployment is very low and inflation is controlled, but living standards remain low.** There has recently been an increase in racial violence against minority groups such as the gypsies. **The country suffers from air and water pollution and is affected by natural disasters such as floods.**

## Czech Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Health

- Help to children who suffer from **respiratory illnesses** caused by air pollution.
- The **HIV/AIDS** programme is closely associated with the youth organization and uses literature and videos from abroad translated into Czech.
- **First-aid training** is provided for teachers and nurses.

### Blood

A programme for blood-donor recruitment is run in close conjunction with the government authorities. The society plans to play a major role in recruitment in the future to compensate for a national lack of blood.

### Social welfare

Assistance is provided to the elderly, drug users and people affected by HIV/AIDS. A health centre for children also provides assistance to children with disabilities and other children in need.

### Youth

Youth leadership training is of a high standard but a lack of financial support limits the effectiveness of the work of the 102 youth groups. Projects include help for migrants, first aid, human rights, baby care and HIV/AIDS prevention.

### Dissemination

Seminars on international humanitarian law have been organized for the society's staff and will be extended to the general public.

## Leadership

➔ The **executive council** has six regular sessions every year.

➔ The **assembly of delegates** meets once a year.

Management training has been provided to branch staff with support from the German Red Cross and English-language training through the International Federation.

## Organization/planning

The society has a **medium-term development plan**, which was adopted in 1993. The plan focuses on development of blood donation, first-aid training, social welfare, home care, disaster preparedness and youth activities. The National Society, at its general assembly in 2001, approved the new strategy for 2001 to 2004.

## Partnerships

The German Red Cross



EESTI PUNANE RIST

Estonia

## Mission

- The Estonian Red Cross has established a mission statement, which is in line with the Fundamental Principles. The International Federation's *Strategy 2010* is used as the basis for planning the further development of the society's work.
- The general relationship between the society and the government is positive and a Red Cross law is being prepared which will recognize the Estonian RC's role and its activities. Branches have agreements with local government for local projects.

## Legal basis

- **1919:** foundation of the Estonian RC,
- **1993:** recognition of the Estonian RC by the Movement as an independent society following the breakup of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.
- **1999:** registration as one organization. The emblem and title are not protected and are often misused by ambulances and the medical establishment. However, there is less misuse of emblem now, thanks to efficient dissemination work.
- **May 2000:** The last general assembly and national elections took place in May 2000, with the next one scheduled for May 2003.

## Constituency

- There are **16 branches** and further organizational coverage is being developed.

## Human resources

- **Paid Staff:** A total of 43 employees work at the Estonian RC. Headquarters employs 11 staff, of whom six are programme officers. There is one secretary in each branch. The society has difficulties attracting staff since opportunities are now plentiful in Tallinn for English-speaking professionals.
- **Members and Volunteers:** The society has approximately 300 active youth volunteers and 200 active adult volunteers; the latter are mostly women involved in the social programmes and governance. Volunteer activity is mainly related to youth work and other volunteer activities are developed. In the field of disaster preparedness, multi skilled units staffed by volunteers have been created. The society is trying to make the concept of voluntarism better understood. Human resource policies are still to be developed.
- **Training:** Headquarters staff is being trained in information technology and English, and training is planned for branch managers. Training in institutional development, disaster preparedness and first aid is carried out with the assistance of the International Federation's regional delegation.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 1.377 million**

**GDP per capita: € 9,395**

**Life expectancy: 70**

**Infant mortality rate: 11.1‰**

## Challenges

Estonia, the most northerly of the Baltic states, declared its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and established a multiparty political system. During the 1990s, the country underwent a **transition to a market economy**; the traditional industrial and agricultural sectors have declined whilst commerce and services now account for an increasing proportion of Estonia's gross domestic product. Today, accession to the European Union (EU) has been one of the main goals for all Estonian governments and for the main political forces represented in the parliament.

## Estonian Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Health

- The number of HIV-positive people has soared in Estonia. The Estonian RC has taken a role in **HIV/AIDS prevention** among schoolchildren.
- The **fight against tuberculosis (TB)** is becoming another priority area. In local branches, the general information is available for lungs control possibilities. In cooperation with lung hospitals, the regular lung-control is provided for vulnerable groups visiting the soup kitchens. At present, the society provides supplementary food to families affected by the disease. The Estonian RC is participating in the elaboration of the European health plan to identify areas where it should be more active.

### Disaster preparedness

Since 2001, disaster preparedness has been the new priority for the society. In cooperation with the Finnish and Norwegian RC, seven **multi skilled units staffed by volunteers** have been established at local branches. The idea is to provide the Estonian rescue board, whenever necessary, with well-trained units able to assist in search-and-rescue operations, first aid and psychological support.

### First aid

First-aid training is currently being adapted to European standards. The society has trained 284 Estonian-speaking and 36 Russian-speaking trainers. First-aid courses are also marketed to the public and to companies. The PsFA is included into basic FA curricula.

### Blood

The Estonian RC carries out blood-donor promotion activities, including proposing active blood donors for state awards. There is some cooperation with government blood departments. The Estonian RC gives a pin to every first-time non-remunerated blood-donor and provide informative materials.

### Social welfare

Assistance including distribution of free meals is provided to elderly people, families in need, ex-prisoners and chronically ill.

### Youth

Activities include youth camps, day-camps for children from vulnerable families during school holidays, first-aid instruction, dissemination, environmental awareness (cleaning beaches), youth “friendly visitors” to elderly people, contact with disabled youth, peer educators on HIV/AIDS prevention in schools, HIV/AIDS information at youth events and discos. A great deal of work is done in schools and in kindergartens. Youth have also been actively involved in the campaign “Happy First School Day”.

### Dissemination and information

Dissemination activities at the branch level are being strengthened. Special courses of basic IHL are provided for different audience (medical, pedagogical staff,...). The society continues to develop its relationship with the media.

## Leadership

The Estonian RC's structures have undergone significant changes.

- ➔ **Secretary general:** management and coordination.
- ➔ The **executive board** has eight members and meets every month for decision-making and monitoring.
- ➔ The society holds its **general assembly** every three years and council meetings twice a year.
- ➔ **Branch secretaries** meet 3 to 4 times a year.

## Organization/planning

The main focus of the society's work is **capacity strengthening and the development of the local branches**. The Estonian RC's ability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable is limited due to financial constraints, but it is taking positive steps to improve this situation. Priority programmes are disaster preparedness, first aid and youth, while the priority for institutional development is the strengthening of branches. There are also plans for better cooperation between the branches. Headquarters supports branches with salaries and some programmes, but branches are also seeking new local funding sources.

## Partnerships

- ➔ The Norwegian RC,
- ➔ The Finnish RC,
- ➔ The German RC,
- ➔ The British RC,
- ➔ The Icelandic RC.





# Hungary

## Mission

- The Fundamental Principles are clear in the mission statement of the Hungarian Red Cross, which was revised at the society's last congress held in May 2000. The International Federation's *Strategy 2010* was accepted as the basis of its development activities.
- The Hungarian RC has a positive relationship with the government, especially the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Legal basis

- **1881:** Foundation
- **1882:** Recognition by the ICRC.
- **1993:** Following the transition to democracy, an act on the Hungarian RC was accepted and has been in force. The Hungarian RC is now totally independent from the government.
- **2000:** last updates of the statutes, which are fully respected, with a view to harmonizing them with the NGOs' law by having a yearly general assembly and elections every fourth year.

## Constituency

- There are **20 district branches** covering all the country.

## Human resources

- **Members and Volunteers:** A total of 30,000 local volunteers. Representation is based in residential, work place and youth organizations. The society covers all of the territory of Hungary and has approximately 320,000 members. Most categories of the population are represented among the membership.
- **Training:** Since 1999, a training course is held for volunteers engaged in social welfare activities both inside and outside the Red Cross. Traditionally, training is provided in home care and baby care. Leadership training is carried out for some 1,000 young people involved in the youth section all over the country each year.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 10.152 million**

**GDP per capita: € 11,591**

**Life expectancy: 70.7**

**Infant mortality rate: 9.6‰**

## Challenges

- ➔ Since 1989, Hungary has been a leader within central Europe in the **transition to a market economy**. Hungary is now a **stable parliamentary democracy**.
- ➔ Formerly high unemployment and inflation rates are gradually decreasing. There is a problem with **new poverty** in the cities and a rise in the number of homeless people. **Although living standards are improving, the gap between the poorest and the richest in society is growing.**

## Hungarian Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Relief and preparedness

In response to the floods in recent years both in Hungary and in neighbouring countries, a disaster preparedness duty service was created at headquarters. As part of Strategy 2010 a national disaster plan was adopted in 1999 and a network of regional DP/DR warehouses created in 2000. Hungarian RC runs and/or supports 48 search and rescue teams integrated by 750 volunteers.

### Social welfare

- The society runs **soup kitchens**, shelters for abused women and children, as well as for homeless families and individuals. **Rehabilitation programmes** have been initiated for the inhabitants of such shelters.
- Assistance is also provided to **convicts and ex-convicts**.
- Summer holidays are organized for chronically sick **children**, an activity that started over 20 years ago.
- Programmes for the **elderly** include hospital visits, health services, excursions, clubs and holidays.
- A national network of **medical loan services** is also provided. Social aid is provided to more than 500,000 beneficiaries a year in addition to nearly 4,000 refugees and asylum seekers.

### Blood

The society has been actively involved in the recruitment of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors since 1949. For a safe blood supply Hungary needs 500,000 units a year. The recruitment of nearly 90 per cent of all blood donors is provided by the Hungarian RC. In 2000 a yearly cooperation agreement was concluded between the Hungarian RC and the National Blood Transfusion on planning, training and terms of cost contribution.

### First aid

Training is carried out for individuals, including applicants for driving licences. There are almost 94,500 candidates a year for the Hungarian RC first-aid examination. There are free training courses in both primary and secondary schools.

### Youth

This area is considered a **high priority** within the Hungarian RC. The Red Cross youth section (RCY) holds local, branch and national competitions on first aid and baby care. RCY clubs and groups are engaged in health promotion activities. A RC Reference School program was launched in 2001 to enhance RC activities within schools by means of testing new methods and exchanging good practices. Voluntary teachers facilitate the program while the Hungarian RC provides training courses and consultations for teachers in FA, VNRBDR, social welfare and dissemination. At present, more than 40 schools have joined the program.

### Tracing

The society receives about 1,255 requests in 2002 and has a success rate of one in four.

## Leadership

- ➔ The **general assembly** meets every four years and the **national assembly** for election of the office-holders (the congress), every fourth year.
- ➔ The 27 members of the **national board** elected by the congress meet quarterly and are responsible for decision-making.
- ➔ The 20 branches of the society are led by **branch secretaries**, and branch and town branch governing bodies meet regularly throughout the year.

## Organization/planning

The Hungarian RC has a ten-year development plan (Strategy 2010) and annual operational plans. Current priorities include blood-donor recruitment, social welfare, fund-raising, institutional development, first aid and youth activities.

## Partnerships

- ➔ The Central European Forum for Cooperation, which includes the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian and Hungarian Red Cross, and with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.
- ➔ The Hungarian RC also enjoys a close relationship with the International Federation's regional delegation.
- ➔ The German RC since 1989.
- ➔ The Austrian RC,
- ➔ The Belgian RC,
- ➔ The British RC,
- ➔ The French RC,
- ➔ The Italian RC,
- ➔ The Luxembourg RC,
- ➔ The Netherlands RC,
- ➔ The Norwegian RC,
- ➔ The Swiss RC
- ➔ The Swedish RC.



## Latvia

### Mission

The strategy of the Latvian Red Cross has four main directions:

- Humanitarian values and the Movement's Fundamental Principles;
- Health and social care;
- Disaster preparedness and disaster response;
- Volunteers and youth.

### Legal basis

- **November 1918:** Foundation of the Latvian Red Cross.
- **1991:** the Latvian RC became member of the International Federation.
- **April 2001:** The present revised statutes were adopted by the society's congress. (The previous statutes had been adopted in 1996). The Latvian RC adopted its strategy for 2001-2004 during its congress in April 2001.
- **May 2001:** The Red Cross law has not yet been adopted. Several versions were presented to parliament but rejected. A new draft was submitted to parliament in May 2001.

### Constituency

The Latvian RC has:

- One head office,
- **37 district and town committees,**
- **521 local branches** (previously called primary organizations).

In the last five years, 73 new local branches have been formed.

### Human resources

- **Paid staff:** There are 13 members of staff at headquarters, ten project coordinators and their assistants. There is one secretary/chairperson per branch, some of whom are paid while others are volunteers. In total, there are 134 paid employees, plus 57 nurses.
- **Members and Volunteers:** The Latvian RC has about 2,000 active volunteers out of 25,000 members. There are 200 youth members.

### National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 2.406 million**

**GDP per capita: € 6,577**

**Life expectancy: 69.6**

**Infant mortality rate: 15.6‰**

### Latvian Red Cross

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## Domestic activities

### Medical and social assistance

A total of 57 **paid visiting nurses** (2000) take care of about 2,000 elderly, lonely people. In 1999, 117 **volunteer nurses** performed 38,000 home visits and 40,545 home visits in 2000. The Latvian RC has 37 **health centres** or rooms where doctors and nurses work. The society also has three **soup kitchens** in Riga, Latgale, and Tukums.

### Home care project

This project is supported by the German Red Cross and 1,186 people were trained in 1999 in different seminars.

### Social help and humanitarian aid

The Latvian RC is involved in **distributing shipments** – mainly used clothes and hospital beds – from the United States' Lutheran Church (Orphan Grain Train) and the RC Societies in Germany, Italy, Norway and Sweden. In 2000, 80 aid shipments were received. They are distributed to vulnerable people.

### First-aid training and competitions

This is carried out with the support of the German Red Cross.

- Twenty certified first-aid instructors are qualified to run **first-aid courses** to the public (20 courses were carried out in 2000). About 10,000 people are trained each year.
- There are also first-aid demonstrations and seminars.
- National **first-aid competitions** were held for schoolchildren in 22 districts (2000). The first national first-aid competition for adults was held in 2001 in three districts.
- The Latvian RC participated in the **European first-aid day** activities in September 2000 and 2001.

### Dissemination of IHL and Red Cross ideas

This project benefits from financial support of the ICRC's Budapest delegation.

- Organisation of **seminars** on IHL and on the RC
- The Latvian RC is not yet involved in work with **refugees**. However, a project is being drafted.
- **Publications** of books, booklets and posters.
- An "**hours of humanity**" project (supported by the Soros Foundation, based on material from the Macedonian RC) about tolerance and integration is aimed at schoolteachers. In 2000, three seminars involved 60 teachers and a further ten seminars for 200 teachers are planned.

### Youth

The YRC has its own statutes and holds a congress every year. It has several educational ("Do you see what I see?"), conflict and tolerance and HIV/AIDS programmes. It also participates in the ERNA network. Two projects were supported by the Italian Red Cross in 2001. A project called "Internet indirect interview with HIV-positive people" was developed.

## Leadership

The president and the vice president were elected in April 2001. The society also has a **secretary general** and an **international coordinator**. Governance institutions at national and district level are similar (Latvian RC council and LRC board). The Latvian RC's congress is now held every three years (under the old statutes, it was held every five years).

## Organization/Planning

### Nordic-Baltic work plan (NBWP)

A new NBWP 2000-2004 was signed on 18 August 2000. **Cooperation is planned in three core areas: financial resource development and management; human resource development; and disaster preparedness.** As regards resource development, financial management and fund-raising, a finance management assessment was held in December 2000 by the Swedish Red Cross, which recommended that a finance system development programme and training for bookkeepers be put in place, and an accounting programme purchased. A fund-raising programme is planned (a fund-raising officer has been employed since January 2002). A disaster preparedness/logistics project and psychological first-aid training are planned for 2002.

## Domestic activities (2)

### Training of trainers

➤ A **three-year educational project** is supported by the Swedish RC and the Swedish government's international development agency (SIDA). After preparations, interviews and selection of trainers in 1999, five teams of three trainers each were set up in 2000. These teams have already conducted ten three-day seminars, resulting in 200 people being trained.

➤ **Information:** The Latvian RC has four quarterly newsletters (2000) and a magazine (VITA). In 1999, it sent 365 press releases to the media and distributes a special postage stamp (the power of humanity in Latvia).

### Volunteers project

This project benefits from the support of the German RC, NGOs and the university volunteers' centre. Its aim is to establish a volunteer coordination and training system and to have trained volunteer coordinators in 25 districts (out of 37).

➤ Its main area of work is **preparing volunteers for home visits**. Through new programmes such as "Helping the elderly", volunteers visit the elderly in old people's homes. A handbook and regulations have been developed.

➤ The **International Year of Volunteers (IYV2001)** was one of the 2001 activities. The result of this activity will be discussed during a Nordic-Baltic meeting in Finland.

➤ **Information:** A database of existing volunteers was set up and a booklet about the volunteer programme and IYV2001 was published in May 2001.

➤ In 2001 and 2002, organisation of **Thank you days** for volunteers and staff with the support of the Finnish Red Cross and the ICRC.

### Blood donors

28 district committees are still implicated in the recruitment of voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors. In 2000, there were 22,345 blood donors. 14,441.42 litres of blood were donated.

➤ Implication in **World Health Day's safe blood activities** (2000)

➤ Organisation of **lectures on blood donation** (2001)

➤ Elaboration of a **youth Red Cross project** on the recruitment of blood donors.

### Tracing service

This service receives support from the ICRC. In 2000, the LRC received 137 cases (76 cases in Latvia, 61 from abroad and 76 requests for burial places). The majority of cases date back to the Second World War. In 2000, 13% of the cases were unresolved. The society can positively answer about 50% of requests about the cases. In the last five years, the LRC has received a total of 2,663 requests, 224 RC messages were delivered and the society dealt with its first case of refugee family reunion.

## Partnerships

➔ The German RC: eight Latvian branches cooperate with the German Red Cross

➔ The Swedish RC: six Latvian branches cooperate with Swedish Red Cross branches,

➔ The Norwegian RC: two Latvian branches cooperate with the Norwegian Red Cross.

➔ The society is also involved in the Baltic work plan

➔ The Italian Red Cross (Youth Red Cross).





# Lithuania

## Mission

The Lithuanian Red Cross Society has an overall mission statement. During the society's general assembly in 2000, its strategic plan for 2001-2004 and activity plan for 2001-2002 were accepted. The public image of the Lithuanian RC is generally positive, but there is some misuse of the emblem by medical establishments.

## Legal basis

- **1919:** Foundation of the Lithuanian RC
- **1923:** recognition of the Lithuanian RC by the ICRC
- **1991:** Following the break-up of the Soviet Union and Lithuania's independence, the society was admitted to the International Federation.
- **2000:** A Red Cross law was accepted by parliament. The statutes were adopted in 1991 and revised in 2000. The last general assembly was held in October 2000.

## Constituency

The Lithuanian RC covers the whole territory of Lithuania. The structure consists of:

- **41 local Red Cross committees.**

## Human resources

- **Paid staff:** There are a total of 74 employees in the society, including one full-time officer at headquarters. Each of the 41 branches has a paid secretary and there are 38 certified first-aid trainers, 269 first-aid volunteer trainers who work in schools and ten youth trainers at the Lithuanian RC's 33 youth clubs. It is not easy for the society to attract and retain staff due to the low level of salaries.
- **Members and Volunteers:** Volunteer recruitment was reactivated in 2000. The Lithuanian RC has approximately 10,303 members and 1,498 volunteers, of whom 3,070 are youth members. Women account for 90 per cent of all members and the governing bodies have a balance of women (50 per cent). Most categories of the population are represented at all levels of the society.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 3.689 million**

**GDP per capita: € 6,635**

**Life expectancy: 71,4**

**Infant mortality rate: 10,7‰**

## Challenges

➔ Lithuania is situated on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea. Since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the country has made steady progress towards developing a market economy.

➔ It is encountering difficulties in restructuring the economy and industrial output has declined. The economic transition has also impacted on Lithuanian society and has led to increasing social inequalities. The main foreign policy objectives of the current government remain the promotion of membership for Lithuania in the European Union (EU) and NATO.

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## Domestic activities

### Social welfare

The Lithuanian RC has a visiting nurses programme with 32 nurses, which targets vulnerable groups such as elderly, lonely sick people and the disabled. The society has social centres and distributes food, clothes and medicine to the most vulnerable.

### Refugees

Since 1996, it has been providing humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers and refugees. Its social workers implement social psychological support programmes at the refugees centre and outside. Special attention is provided to the children of refugees. Since 1997, the society has also been providing legal assistance to this group, including legal counselling and representation of asylum seekers in appeal procedures.

In 1999, it became a member of the European Council for Refugee Exiles (ECRE), an umbrella organization for cooperation between European NGOs concerned with refugees. The society also works in partnership with UNHCR, UNDP and IOM.

### First aid

The society has 269 first-aid trainers who teach schoolchildren and 38 first-aid instructors who teach drivers and the wider public. More trainers are needed to cover the whole country.

### Tracing

There are about 553 requests each year for this service, which covers tracing people's relatives and arranging visas to visit the graves of deceased relatives abroad.

### Youth

There are 33 youth groups participating in social work, educational work and first-aid training. About 1,000 youth volunteers take care of handicapped children at home and in state institutions, train their contemporaries to render first aid, participate in international summer camps, seminars, arrange summer camps for street children, provide leadership training courses and participate in HIV/AIDS and social integration projects for refugee children and teenagers.

### Information and dissemination

The Lithuanian RC uses the national media to help improve its image. Seminars have been held for key volunteers, and brochures about the Fundamental Principles and a quarterly magazine have been published. Each year the society carries out information and dissemination campaigns. In 1998, it established an international humanitarian law department, which is supported by the ICRC. The main task of the department is to disseminate knowledge about IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

### Disaster Preparedness

The Lithuanian RC has started DP program. It established three DP units in three places Kaunas, Vilnius region and Silute. Each unit consists of 17 members that are trained in first aid, psychological support and search and rescue. They participate in the exercises organized by Civil Security Department.

## Leadership

→ A **general assembly** is held every four years. The last one was held in October 2000 and approved the new structure of the society. It elected a president, a secretary general and the executive board of 15 members and four candidates.

→ The **executive board** meets every two months. Each year, an assembly is organized in which the secretary general reports on the year's activities and presents the budget for the following year and the Lithuanian RC's activity plan.

→ Board decisions are implemented by the **secretariat**.

## Organization/planning

The Lithuanian RC has a strategic plan for 2001-2004 and an activity plan for 2001-2002. Each Red Cross committee has a one-year activity plan adopted by local board members.

## Partnerships

The society has 22 branch-to-branch agreements in place with

- The Danish RC,
- The German RC,
- The Norwegian RC
- The Swedish RC.

A Nordic-Baltic partnership work plan for 2004 has been agreed. The society has participated in International Federation programmes such as the diphtheria, TB campaigns.

Support has been received from

- The British RC,
- The American RC,
- The Canadian RC,
- The Danish RC,
- The Finnish RC,
- The German RC,
- The Icelandic RC,
- The Norwegian RC
- The Swedish RC.

## Mission

The objective of the society is to **prevent and alleviate suffering with complete impartiality and without discrimination as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class or political opinion, which form the basis of the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles**. The Malta Red Cross Society has placed *Strategy 2010*'s mission statement, "to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity", into the local context so that the mission of the Malta RC becomes: "to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of Maltese society".

## Legal basis

- **24 October 1991:** Foundation of the Malta RC
- **19 June 1992:** legal recognition
- **October 1993:** Recognition by the ICRC. It became the 165<sup>th</sup> National Society in the Movement.
- **2001:** Amendments to the statute were presented for approval of the annual general assembly in 2001 with the purpose of making the society more effective and transparent. The most important amendment is the one establishing the Gozo branch that the Malta RC intends to make fully self-sufficient.

## Constituency

A branch of Malta RC will be established in Gozo by a series of internal regulations within the statutes of the Malta RC. The Gozo branch will be responsible for all activities and services provided on the island of Gozo. It will inform and coordinate all services and activities with the training and operations coordinators of the Malta RC. The Malta RC will supply all necessary equipment for the training, services and activities, as it deems fit according to circumstances.

## Human resources

Not given

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 392,000**

**GDP per capita: € 13,326**

**Life expectancy: 77.6**

**Infant mortality rate: 7.7‰**

## Challenges

➔ Malta consists of three islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino, strategically positioned in the Mediterranean between Sicily and the North African coast, a fact which has played a major role in the history of Malta.

➔ One-third of the working population is government employees. Unemployment is low. The level of public health care is high and is well organized. Medical treatment is free of charge. The most vulnerable in Malta are the elderly, lonely people, single parents, people dependent on drugs and/or alcohol and others having social problems.

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## Domestic activities

### First aid

The Malta RC's aim is that all active volunteers have undertaken basic first-aid training. The basic first-aid instructors committee monitors and evaluates the present situation regarding the course as it is offered at present. The Malta RC will standardize and upgrade its courses in accordance with guidelines laid down by the European reference centre for first-aid education. It will ensure that basic first-aid instructors will receive regular training. The society hopes to begin psychological support training for the general public. It also intends to give training in basic life support and ambulance training to active volunteers who have already undergone basic first-aid training.

### Land/water rescue teams

Malta RC hopes to give active, trained volunteers the possibility to undertake training to become part of the land and water rescue teams. Lifeguard training is to target training to pool attendants in hotels and specific beach areas. Coordination with the civil protection department will enhance this important activity.

### Community welfare

The community welfare team leaders, with the help of the director general and training programme coordinator, will determine how to identify the most vulnerable people in Malta. Immediate help to the most vulnerable, especially the lonely, elderly, immigrants and refugees, will be given in the shortest time possible. Initiation of a research programme to identify the most vulnerable and the best way to help those identified is a medium- to long-term aim of the society. The University of Malta and the ministry of social services will be contacted to help in identifying the most vulnerable people.

### Public relation committee

This committee will work with the director general to promote the best interests of the Malta Red Cross Society. The society hopes to establish good relations with the media in order to promote the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and the society and its activities.

## Leadership

The Malta RC is administered by a **governing council**, which, together with the **general assembly**, is the central core of the Malta RC.

➔ The **governing council** is responsible for setting directions for the Malta RC. Its members are elected by the general assembly.

➔ The **general assembly** meets each year in ordinary session and/or for extraordinary session(s). A president ensures the general supervision of the society's administration and the carrying out of decisions taken by its committees and commissions.

➔ The Malta RC **director general** has important functions such as the coordination of volunteers, employees, professional service providers and other Red Cross societies and branches to deliver quality services to the society's clients.

## Organization/planning

Having outgrown its previous development plan, the Malta RC has established a detailed framework; its business plan 2001-2003, within which it can best promote, the ideals of *Strategy 2010*.

## Partnerships

- ➔ The International Federation
- ➔ The British RC,
- ➔ The German RC,
- ➔ The Italian RC
- ➔ The Spanish RC.



## Poland

### Mission

The Fundamental Principles are well known in the Polish Red Cross and are applied throughout the country. The Federation Strategy 2010, as well as the Strategy of the Movement were translated and disseminated among members, volunteers and staff in the whole National Society. In year 2002 The National Council of Representatives adopted the Polish Red Cross Strategy to year 2010. Following this, respective strategies / programs were adopted (Volunteering Strategy to 2010, Youth Policy to 2006), when others are in preparation i.e. communications, dissemination, health, social welfare etc. The Polish RC cooperates with several departments of the state administration within the scope of the goals and tasks set by the Movement. Polish RC branches cooperate with local administrative authorities, which commission them to execute tasks, mainly in the area of community relief.

### Legal basis

- **1919:** foundation of the Polish Red Cross and recognition by the ICRC the same year.
- **1964:** The current Red Cross law was put into effect.
- **1996:** The statutes, amended in 1995, were approved by the government in 1996.
- **2001:** The latest reporting and electoral campaign was carried out for the four years period.

### Constituency

The Polish RC covers the whole national territory. It has its **headquarters** in Warsaw, **16 district committees** and **318 branch committees**, but not all of these are active.

At the end of 2001, the society adapted its structure to the country's new administrative structure, implemented since the beginning of 1999. This involved the reduction of the number of districts and respective committees to 16.

### Human resources

- **Paid staff:** The Polish RC has about 600 staff at headquarters, in district and local branches. In addition, there are 1,110 "PLRC nurses".
- **Members and volunteers:** There are 180,000 members, including 140,000 children and youth. Moreover, 290,000 volunteers are involved in all core Red Cross activities, in particular in welfare, relief, health promotion, first aid, rescue and blood donation. The number of volunteers has fallen over the last five years whilst the need for Polish RC assistance has risen. The strongest ranks are youth and blood donors, who being integral parts of the National Society, have their own structure and election procedures.

### National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 38.577 million**

**GDP per capita: € 8,453**

**Life expectancy: 72.8**

**Infant mortality rate: 10‰**

### Challenges

➔ Poland is a central European country with a democratic system of government. The post-Second World War period saw heavy industrialization in what was historically an agricultural country. Transformation to a market economy is advanced, with a significant amount of foreign investment in the country. Inflation in 2001 was 5.5 per cent (down from 9 per cent in 1998), while the rate of unemployment amounted to 18.1 per cent.

➔ The country suffers high levels of air and water pollution, although this decreased in the 1990s.

➔ Poland was officially admitted into NATO in 1999 and there are ongoing negotiations concerning admission to the European Union.

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## Domestic activities

### Social welfare

Due to situation in the country Polish RC gives priority to social welfare activities. In 2002 we gave off-hand relief for about 300,000 people (worth app. 1.8 million Euros). We provide assistance through food program, delivering of clothes and hygiene parcels, offering shelter, in special support centres, holding summer camps for needy or disabled children. Polish RC conducts national campaigns like "School Equipment" - app. 40,000 beneficiaries, "Red Cross Christmas" - app. 70,000 beneficiaries or "Fighting against hunger" - app. 30,000 beneficiaries. A big support is given thanks to our fundraising program "Polish RC Care Partners Network".

### Relief

The Polish RC distributes relief items both in Poland and abroad. We take part in the international relief operations, as well as cooperate with National Societies basing on bilateral agreements. In 1997 and in 2001, huge relief operations were implemented for the victims of flooding in southern and western Poland.

### Disaster preparedness

There are 13 central and 21 branch disaster preparedness warehouses. The Polish RC is strengthening its cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of disaster preparedness and the involvement of branches in this area is increasing.

### Health

Education promoting a healthy lifestyle is targeted at children and young people. A special program "Super Squirrel" aims at children in kindergartens and early classes of primary schools (app. 140,000 members of Squirrel clubs). Since 11 years we conduct national competitions of healthy life style, involving each year thousands participants. Polish RC takes part in International Federation's campaign "True about AIDS. PASS IT ON". Polish RC is the only institution in Poland that provides first aid training according to European standards. The first-aid programme trained 60,000 children and 10,000 adults in 2002 and several competitions are being held. We take part in the European Road Safety Campaign.

### Blood

The blood programme has 1,800 blood donors' clubs with over 180,000 members and volunteers in different social groups. Voluntary blood donors gave in 2002 more than 430,000 liters, which means covering 97% of the overall country's need.

## Leadership

→ The **council of representatives** meets twice a year and governs the society's activities. It has 56 members, of whom 49 are from the regional committees.

→ The 10-member central committee meets monthly.

→ Councils of representatives and committees are at all levels.

→ There are also **commissions** and **councils** at different levels.

## Organisation/planning

The Polish RC has its Strategy to year 2010 and respective strategies and programs. Each committee draws up an annual plan of action, taking into account the local situation. The common priority is providing assistance to the vulnerable, in particular to children.

## Partnerships

There is external cooperation with a number of European National Societies, the Central European Forum for Cooperation and the International Federation and ICRC regional delegations. Partnership cooperation with governmental institutions involves attending conferences, seminars and training courses.



## Domestic activities (2)

### Youth

The youth programme is very strong and its activities include children's summer camps, information on health, hygiene, Red Cross Principles and values, first aid and technical workshops. The youngest learn the basic Red Cross issues already in "Squirrel Clubs" and continue it in School Circles, Youth Leaders or First Aid groups. Members acquire first-aid skills, and knowledge on how to organize seminars and training events on most issues as well as language courses. Polish RC Youth organizes annual a "Red Cross Song Festival" in Krajenka. Polish RC Youth, being the biggest component of National Society, takes part in all Polish RC activities. This programme enjoys a positive image, which helps a further recruitment.

### Dissemination

The Polish RC has IHL dissemination and emblem protecting commissions. Together with the ICRC we hold an annual international summer school, having also its Polish edition. Training and lectures for journalists at the universities are organized, as well as, special competitions of Master's and Doctor's theses on IHL issues. Young people are also targeted with dissemination workshops. Information is spread in different ways in order to raise the population's awareness of the Red Cross ideal and purpose as well as to promote activities aimed at protecting the emblem. As the dissemination tools we use as well our quarterly magazine and the website.

### Tracing

The Polish RC has a Tracing Office that only during year 2002 received more than 70,000 requests.





# Slovakia

## Mission

The Fundamental Principles have been adopted by the general assembly of the Slovak Red Cross and are clearly represented in the mission statement. The International Federation's *Strategy 2010* has been adopted and applied. There is good cooperation between the society and the government, particularly with the ministry of labour, social affairs and family, ministry of health, ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of defence and ministry of home affairs. The Slovak RC is well known in the country through its well-established activities for vulnerable people and has a positive public image.

## Legal basis

- **1919:** The society was originally founded,
- **1993:** Following the break-up of Czechoslovakia, the ICRC recognized the Slovak RC, which joined the International Federation the same year.
- **1994:** The latest version of the Red Cross law was adopted.
- **October 2001:** The statutes were last updated during the last general assembly and national elections took place.

## Constituency

The Swedish RC has a **headquarters** and **41 branches** (with 41 secretariats), which cover the whole territory.

## Human resources

- **Paid Staff:** There are 114 staff members, of whom 31 work at headquarters. All headquarters staffs are professionals. A policy on recruitment and training is to be set up and will include appraisals.
- **Members and Volunteers:** There are approximately 130,071 members, including 3,493 youth members. The volunteer recruitment policy requires development, although the youth section is strong.

## National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 5.403 million**

**GDP per capita: € 10,503**

**Life expectancy: 72.8**

**Infant mortality rate: 8.6‰**

## Challenges

➔ Slovakia became an independent state in 1993 after the peaceful political split-up of Czechoslovakia. The country is a parliamentary democracy. The new government, elected in 1998, adopted hard economic measurements to stabilize the economy.

➔ Since 2000, the Slovak economy has stabilized.

➔ In 2001 and 2002, the privatisation process was extended (all banks and public gas monopoly). The economic constraints are relatively high unemployment rate (19.6 per cent), foreign trade deficit, budget deficit and growing foreign debt. The country aspires to become a member of the European Union (EU) and NATO.

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## Domestic activities

### Relief and preparedness

In the last three years following severe flooding, the NS was involved in distributing relief assistance to the affected communities. The society has also delivered different humanitarian items and financial contributions to other National Societies in response to different emergencies. Long-term plans are, in cooperation with the German Red Cross, to develop a better response to natural disasters through the disaster preparedness project. In 2001, a disaster preparedness project was set up, whose main tasks, to be achieved before the end of 2001, were to finalize the basic condition of the humanitarian units development (improving the number of trained first aiders) and to undertake a disaster evaluation of all of Slovakia's regions.

### Health and first aid

A number of programmes promote health education among the population. First-aid education targets the general public in institutions and at work, as well as primary and secondary school children. Four of the Slovak Red Cross first-aid courses have been approved by the European standards body and a European standards certificate can, therefore, be issued on completion of the course. Besides public education in 42 regional branches, the education of the trainees and first-aid instructors continued in 2001 at the first-aid central educational centre, established in the Slovak RC's national headquarters, under the supervision of ministry of health experts. Linked to first-aid activities is the water rescue service, which is organized in 15 centres, involving some 1,000 lifesavers. At the Almaty Conference (2001), it was decided that the ERNA secretariat, established in 1999 in Slovakia, should continue its activities.

### Blood

Non-remunerated blood-donor recruitment and donor education has continued. A system of awards exists for blood donors linked to specific campaigns throughout the year. Two mobile blood units, used by the Slovak Red Cross with Austrian RC support, are running in Bratislava metropolitan area. The Slovak RC will be prepared for future changes in the health care system, especially as regards blood transfusions.

## Leadership

→ The **supreme board** meets once a year at least and the **executive board** meets four times a year. The leadership structures of the Slovak RC are clearly defined with responsibility and accountability identified.

→ A **new secretary general** was appointed in 1998 and confirmed by the general assembly in 2001.

## Organization/planning

→ The Slovak RC activities are revised on a regular basis and consultations with branches are carried out regarding implementation. The latest concept document for activities was adopted by the general assembly in October 2001 for the period 2001 to 2005.

→ In the framework of three-year cooperation with the British Red Cross which ended in 2000, three new activities began at headquarters level: fund-raising, communication with the public and regular promoting of the Slovak RC in the media. The German Red Cross provided support for disaster preparedness program.

## Domestic activities (2)

### Social welfare

The Slovak RC runs social centres for elderly people (seven), disabled children (three), lonely mothers with children (four), and homeless people (three). It also operates home-care services involving 4,500 qualified caregivers and the community kitchens (13) with home delivery for immobile people, and 36 centres for material aid distribution. The society also runs projects to benefit the empowerment of Roma communities (education and empowerment of skills in the area of health and social field for Roma girls and women).

### Youth

The main youth activities are leadership training, dissemination, first aid and HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention. The number of volunteers and leaders is continuously increasing.

### Dissemination

The Slovak RC's dissemination project started in 1998 and continues to work in all regions of Slovakia. It is supported by the ICRC's regional delegation in Budapest.

### Tracing

This service is offered to help people who have lost contact with their closest relatives due to natural or industrial disasters, political or armed conflicts, or social and health conditions. Thanks to the international network of the Red Cross and Red Crescent tracing services and the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency, it is possible to search and obtain documentation about missing people, and to deliver messages from and to areas of armed conflict. Since 1993 the Slovak RC has dealt with 5,338 tracing requests and messages.

### Project of humanitarian aid

In 1998-1999, a humanitarian aid project for victims of national-socialist persecution was provided by the German government. The Slovak Red Cross was the coordinator of the project and offered information, a consultation service and administrative procedures services for the claiming of financial compensation to more than 6,000 applicants.

## Partnerships

There was close cooperation with:

- ➔ The Austrian RC,
- ➔ The British RC,
- ➔ The German RC

They are helping the society to increase and diversify its resource base, disaster preparedness programme, capacity-building programme and the pilot project of coordination centre of mobile units.

The Slovak RC continues to cooperate with its traditional partners, the National Societies in the central European region, particularly with:

- ➔ The Czech RC,
- ➔ The Hungarian RC,
- ➔ The Polish RC,
- ➔ The Slovenian RC.



## Slovenia

### Mission

The Fundamental Principles are clearly set out in the Red Cross law and the statutes of the Red Cross of Slovenia. During the 1990s, the International Federation's *Strategic Work Plan* was officially adopted by the society, and reports were made to the secretariat on its implementation.

There is some misuse of the emblem by medical establishments. The society's dissemination officer is conducting talks with the ministry of defence and other authorities concerning infringements. An inter-ministerial committee on IHL was established in 1999 whose chairman is also chairman of the Red Cross dissemination committee. It has a good relationship with the media in the country.

### Legal basis

- **1991:** Formerly part of the Yugoslav Red Cross, the society was re-established (having been initially founded over 130 years ago)
- **1993:** the Slovenian RC was recognized by the Movement. The new Red Cross law and the Slovenian RC statutes were adopted in 1993
- **2003:** the statutes have been revised. The last General Assembly took place in April 2003, with the next scheduled for 2004.

### Constituency

There are **56 district branches** and **991 local units**. Coordination between the branches and headquarters is satisfactory. Local municipalities provide some funding for branches.

### Human resources

- **Paid Staff:** The Slovenian RC employs over 100 people between headquarters and the branches. Several younger and well-educated people are now among the staff.
- **Members and Volunteers:** In 2002, the society had 209,070 members, including 55,866 youth members. There are a lot of active volunteers in the local units; however, volunteer recruitment needs to be strengthened, especially for the youth organization.

### National context

Source : Etat du Monde 2003

**Population: 1.985 million**

**GDP per capita: € 16,228**

**Life expectancy: 75**

**Infant mortality rate: 6.1‰**

### Challenges

➔ Slovenia is the most prosperous of the former Yugoslav republics. Following economic problems in the first years after the break-up of Yugoslavia, the country is now making a solid recovery and has joined membership talks for the first round of European Union expansion.

➔ Unemployment and inflation have been controlled, although inflation remains at around 7,5% (2002) with the unemployment rate around 11% (2002)..

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## Domestic activities

### Disaster preparedness and relief

Disaster preparedness is an important area due to the frequent natural disasters (flood, earthquakes, landslides, storms, drought) that affect the country and cause damage to property. Further development of this activity is planned to build on the existing capacity at branch level.

### Health

The society is the only organization in the country providing first-aid exams, which is a requirement for driving tests. Training courses are given by doctors, and there are first-aid teams in most branches. The Slovenian RC runs campaigns for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and hypertension as well as several programmes for the prevention of addictions (smoking, alcohol, drugs).

### Blood

Donor recruitment is the priority activity of the society, and a new strategy and systems are being developed. The Slovenian RC's role consists in promoting blood-donor membership, motivating and informing the public about the national blood programme and organizing recruitment drives.

### Social welfare

Assistance is provided to at least 52,000 social welfare cases.

### Dissemination

The society has an active dissemination committee, and is implementing a national programme in cooperation with other elements of the Movement.

### Youth

Summer camps and weekend camps are organized at the national and local levels, and organizational development work and youth leadership training is being provided to strengthen the programme. Different lectures and concerts are also organized.

## Leadership

The Slovenian RC's main governing bodies are the **general assembly**, which meets every year, the **national board** and the **executive board**. Positive branch-level initiatives have started and there are active institutional development and dissemination committees.

## Organization/planning

The society has developed annual plans based on cooperation between headquarters and branches that identify their priority activities, and a medium-term plan is being worked out.

## Partnerships

The Slovenian RC collaborates with the ICRC and the International Federation and has cooperated with the following National Societies:

- ➔ American RC,
- ➔ Austrian RC,
- ➔ Belgian RC (dissemination),
- ➔ Bulgarian RC,
- ➔ Croatian RC,
- ➔ German RC,
- ➔ Italian RC (blood programme),
- ➔ Central European National Societies
- ➔ The RC in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## International Organisations of the Movement

### A Profile of the Red Cross

#### *Facts and Figures*

- International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent
- RC/EU Office
- International Committee of the Red Cross





## Mission

Founded in 1919, the Federation directs and co-ordinates international assistance of the Movement to the victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes co-operation between National Societies, and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programmes.

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. Vulnerable people are those who are at greatest risk from situations that threaten their survival, or their capacity to live with an acceptable social and economic security level and human dignity.

## Mandate

- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 & Additional Protocols of 1977
- The Statutes of the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement

## Constituency

- Founded in 1919, the International Federation counts 178 member National Societies, a secretariat in Geneva and more than 60 delegations all over the world.
- The Federation's work is guided by *Strategy 2010*, adopted by the General Assembly in 1999.
- The **unique network of National Societies** - which cover almost every country in the world - is the Federation's principal strength. Cooperation between National Societies gives the Federation greater potential to develop capacities and assist those most in need. At a local level, the network enables the Federation to reach individual communities.
- The **role of the Secretariat** in Geneva is to coordinate and mobilise relief assistance for international emergencies, promote cooperation between National Societies and represent these National Societies in the international field.
- The **role of the field delegations** is to assist and advise National Societies with relief operations and development programmes and to encourage regional cooperation.

## Governance

➔ While the **Secretariat** is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Federation, the decisions on its direction and policy are made by the governing bodies. These bodies define a framework of purpose, policies, goals and programmes, and provide a mechanism for accountability and compliance.

➔ The **General Assembly** is the highest decision-making body of the Federation. It meets every two years and comprises representatives from all member National Societies. It last met in Geneva in November 2001.

➔ A **Governing Board** acts between general assemblies, meeting twice a year with the authority to make certain decisions. The board comprises the Federation's President and vice presidents, representatives from elected member Societies and the chairman of the Finance Commission.

The General Assembly is responsible for appointing the Secretary General, who is the chief executive officer of the Federation, directing the Secretariat and its delegations.

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**Web:** [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

## Strategy 2010

The Federation's goals for the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are contained in *Strategy 2010*, which defines the Movement's mission – “**to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity**” – and identifies three strategic directions to guide its actions.

Those **three strategic directions** are:

- National Society programmes that are responsive to local vulnerability and focused on the areas where they can add greatest value. The four core areas are:
  - ➔ Promotion of humanitarian values and principles
  - ➔ Disaster response
  - ➔ Disaster preparedness
  - ➔ Health and care in the community
- Well-functioning national societies, which can mobilise support and carry out their humanitarian mission, contributing to the building of civil society.
- The Red Cross and the Red Crescent and its supporters work together effectively through programme cooperation, long-term partnerships and funding, as well as more active advocacy.

In order to achieve the goals defined in Strategy 2010, the secretariat and its delegations made a certain number of changes.

The secretariat redefined its role to better support the Federation-wide implementation of Strategy 2010. A comprehensive restructuring was also undertaken in Geneva. It has currently **6 divisions**:

- Cooperation and development,
- Disaster management and coordination division
- External relations,
- Support service,
- Monitoring and evaluation,
- Governance and planning.

The change was necessary to meet the **new demands** on the Federation: continuing pressing needs, an increasing number of humanitarian organisations, restricted aid budgets, and more pressure from donors for efficiency, transparency, visibility and effectiveness.

As a result, more national societies have developed a capacity to engage directly in international operations. The secretariat and delegations responded to this development in 2000 by aiming to serve the new needs of national societies, namely:

- Strengthening National Societies to run responsive and focused humanitarian programmes,
- Providing coordination when there are many Red Cross Red Crescent actors in one country
- Continuously learning and sharing knowledge between all national societies,
- Taking the lead in such areas such as representing national societies in the international community, communications and global resource mobilisation.



## Red Cross/EU Office Bureau Croix-Rouge/UE

RC/EU Office

### Mission

The RC/EU Office represents and promotes the interests of its members as well as the policies and values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the EU institutions.

### Red Cross/EU Office members

➤ The 15 Red Cross National Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has an observer status.

### Functions

- Facilitate co-operation between Red Cross/EU Office members on activities and issues of common interest, focusing on EU proposals, policies and priorities,
- Assist in the formulation and implementation of projects of interest to its members,
- Promote and develop effective co-operation between its members and EU Institutions,
- Develop and present Red Cross common positions on relevant subjects discussed within the EU Institutions,
- Ensure contacts and exchange of information with NGO offices and Brussels-based international agencies.

### International Division

- Assists and represents the Red Cross/EU Office members in their relations with EU Institutions on all issues related to international operations in the fields of emergency assistance, rehabilitation, disaster preparedness and development,
- Ensures regular contacts with ECHO, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office.

### Intra-Community Affairs Division

- Priority areas in the EU: Refugees, Asylum seekers and Migrants; Civil protection; Youth; Elderly people; Volunteering and First aid.
- Assists members in obtaining funding, advises on European Commission procedures, and co-ordinates applications.
- Analyses and disseminates information on European Commission related policies, funding mechanisms, eligibility criteria and guidelines for intra-community and domestic programmes.

### EU Context

**Population (2000): 375.3 million**

**GNP per capita (2000): € 22,500**

**Life expectancy (1998)**

**Male: 75**

**Female: 81**

**Infant mortality rate (1997): 5 ‰**

### Leadership

➔ The **annual meeting** is the supreme body of the RC/EU Office, is composed of all members and meets once a year. Between meetings the coordination group is responsible for RC/EU Office governance.

➔ The **President** acts under the authority of annual meeting and the coordination group is elected for a one-year mandate.

➔ To facilitate its work the RC/EU Office has a Secretariat in Brussels, which is headed by the **Director** of the RC/EU Office.

### Red Cross/EU Office

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## Mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral, and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## Mandate

- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 & Additional Protocols of 1977
- The Statutes of the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement

## Constituency

The ICRC works throughout the world to ensure protection and assistance for the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts and internal violence.

It has 65 delegations, including more than 20 regional offices covering several countries.

Its **principal activities** are in the fields of:

- **Protection** – striving to uphold the physical and psychological well-being of prisoners & detainees and the affected civilian population (resident and displaced), particularly the most vulnerable; restoring contact between members of families separated by conflict
- **Assistance** – providing for essential needs during and, where necessary, after a conflict
- **Prevention** – seeking to ensure implementation of and respect for the rules of international humanitarian law
- **Cooperation** – working with partners in the Movement, both operationally and to contribute to strengthening capacity in terms of assisting victims, tracing, and dissemination

## Human resources

10,000+ paid staff (of whom about 800 at HQ); of the field personnel (who include staff seconded by national societies) more than 8,300 are employed locally.

## The ICRC in Brussels

The ICRC opened its delegation in Brussels in June 1999 and has a staff of six. It serves as the permanent point of contact with the European Union's institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament), as well as with NATO and its Parliamentary Assembly.

The delegation seeks to raise awareness of the ICRC's mandate and mobilise diplomatic and financial support for ICRC activities, to ensure that the victims of conflict receive the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under international humanitarian law.

ICRC Brussels also maintains contact with European national societies, offering cooperation and support particularly for the dissemination of IHL.

## ICRC Delegation

### in Brussels

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## European Networks of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### A Profile of the Red Cross in the European Union

#### *Facts and Figures*

- **ELSG** – European Legal Support Group
- **ENAV** – European Network of Red Cross Societies Against Violence
- **ERNA** – European Network of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies on HIV/AIDS
- **EPSG** – European Public Support Group
- **ENPS** – European Red Cross Societies Network for Psychological Support
- **European Working Group on First Aid Education**
- **PERCO** – Platform for European Red Cross Co-operation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants-
- **WEYRCN** – West European Youth Red Cross Network
- **WENDOV** – Western European Network on Volunteer Development

## European Legal Support Group (ELSG)

### Purpose

The European Legal Support Group (ELSG) is an informal forum for an exchange of information and views on international humanitarian law or international law, international matters of concern to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, EU legal issues and related topics. It consists of the relevant legal advisors from the National Societies of the EU and EU-candidate States, the ICRC and the International Federation. The Group meets at least once each year. The Secretariat of the Red Cross/EU Office participates in the meetings when relevant.

### Specific objectives

- Facilitate co-operation between members,
- Promote co-operation with the EU,
- Define positions on EU issues,
- Offer advice and assistance.

### Activities

Its most recent main activities have included:

- Red Cross and Red Crescent Emblem matters,
- Arms transfer / small arms and light weapons,
- CCW Review Conference,
- International Disaster Response Law,
- Cultural property protection: Experts' meeting on National implementation,
- People on War and Woman and War,
- Humanitarian intervention,
- Legal Questions concerning volunteers.

### Members

- ➔ The 15 Red Cross National Societies of the EU,
- ➔ The ICRC,
- ➔ The Federation Secretariat,
- ➔ The Red Cross/EU Office,
- ➔ The Norwegian and Swiss Red Cross National Societies as well as representatives of the candidate countries of the EU.

### Contact details

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# European Network of Red Cross Societies Against Violence (ENAV)

## Purpose

- Development of networking within the field of non-violence through, knowledge sharing on experiences, training strategies and best practice,
- Propose specific actions on local, national, regional level, when necessary, and at the European level,
- Spreading information in order to create awareness in relevant organisations, authorities and the general public.

## Specific objectives

- To favour the Network's continuity and development,
- To promote and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, good practices and strategies aimed to fight against violence,
- To promote the carrying out of specific actions throughout Europe at transnational, regional, national and local levels,
- To involve new National Societies and other organisations or institutions,
- To raise awareness on violence problems among the general public, organisations and authorities.

## Activities

- To foster the exchange of knowledge, information, experiences and the debate and adoption of practical methods,
- To compile concepts, methods, actions and specific training programs related with non-violence,
- Working on the elaboration of a common statement related to non-violence in accordance with the Red Cross Principles.

## Members

ENAV is composed of 6 RC Delegations:

- ➔ The Spanish,
- ➔ Swedish,
- ➔ Norwegian,
- ➔ Italian,
- ➔ German,
- ➔ Icelandic.

## Contact details

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## European Network of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies on HIV/AIDS (ERNA/RECS)

### Purpose

The efforts made by the group within the European Social Welfare Network and the discussions within the Federation resulted in the creation of the ERNA/RECS in February 1998. The aim of this network is to **strengthen prevention and education programmes, as well as those offering palliative care in the community and at home for people affected by the HIV virus.**

### Specific objectives

- To create or strengthen the existing system for the promotion of exchange of experiences, information and best practices among National Societies and with others to enable them to intensify their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.
- To promote the setting up of innovative initiatives and to reproduce them in other National Societies, by adapting them when necessary.
- To promote and facilitate concerted collaborative actions in the prevention of HIV/AIDS within UN agencies, EU, and other international and national organisations and within existing Federation networks.
- To give technical support and assistance to member national societies in areas where a gap of knowledge and skills exists, with the motive of fostering their operational capabilities.
- To emphasise gender perspectives in all interventions.

### Activities

Most member national societies are active in the following areas:

- Primary prevention of HIV/AIDS,
- Data collection allowing the understanding of existing risk behaviour and attitudes,
- Social support programmes,
- Reproductive health education, HIV/AIDS prevention education, voluntary counselling and testing, safer drug injecting education, condom promotion activities.



### Members

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Great Britain, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

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## European Public Support Group (EPSG)

### Purpose

This group, composed of communication and fundraising directors from European National Societies, is the result of a 1991 consultation between the British, German and French Red Cross. The group evolved into a forum of like minded directors for communications and fundraising that meets regularly to share experiences and failures, learn from each other and occasionally set up joint ventures open to all interested participating societies. In 1993, this group took on the name of European Public Support Group of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

### Specific objectives

Its objective is to act as:

- A clearing house for ideas and experiences,
- A forum where joint activities and materials can be developed,
- An opportunity for the ICRC and the Federation secretariat to consult,
- A European liaison meeting with the Communications Forum of the Movement.

### Activities

The group meets twice a year, with each national society participating in the group offering the practical organisation of the meeting on a rotating basis. In principle, every item linked to communications, fund raising, and sharing of experiences can be put on the agenda. At every meeting two or more workshops provide opportunities for an in depth discussion on certain subjects.

The following are regular items of the agenda:

- "Global fund raising" to enable the ICRC and the Federation Secretariat to report on on-going projects and to sound out new possibilities and to allow the other participants to comment on this,
- "Global campaigns" (i.e. landmines, Power of Humanity, etc.),
- "Communications Forum of the Movement" to prepare European stand points on issues discussed at Forum meetings and to provide feed back to participants of these meetings,
- News from national societies to present new ideas, material, activities and campaigns.

### Members

- ➔ The EU Red Cross National Societies (except Ireland),
- ➔ The Federation Secretariat
- ➔ The ICRC,
- ➔ The Norwegian, Swiss and the Icelandic Red Cross National Societies.

### Contact details

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# European Red Cross Societies Network for Psychological Support (ENPS)

## Purpose

The European Red Cross Societies Network for Psychological Support (ENPS) was established in autumn 2000, following an initiative of the French Red Cross, on the basis of recommendations of the Third International Conference on Psychological Support.

## Specific objectives

The ENPS provides a structure on the regional European level to implement the recommendations of the International Federation in order to have a coherent policy and developmental of promotional tools on psychological support.

The objectives of the ENSP are fully set-out in the Charter and are briefly as follows:

- To take an inventory and share experiences and practices in psychological support in the national European societies. This includes action and team training programmes adapted to cultural sensitivities.
- To establish and develop the specificities of psychological support in the Red Cross Movement at the European level.
- To set-up a co-operation between the NS, the authorities and the European institutions.
- To work in contact with the international RC/RC reference centre for psychological support based in Danish Red Cross

## Activities

- **Inventory:** in order to set-up and share the inventory of structures and resource persons in the European RC societies a questionnaire has been sent to each NS. Some replies have already come in and we hope eventually to publish these replies on this site.
- **Follow-up,** with the National Societies, of the recommendations coming out of the workshop « First Aid and Psychological Support » held in the RC/RC European Conference that took place in Berlin in April 2002. These recommendations can be found on the Federation's webpage: <http://www.ifrc.org/news/events/berlin02/index.asp>

## Members

At the moment the “ENPS” is driven by a steering committee, which consists of the Belgian, French, Hungarian, Netherlands and Swiss Red Cross Societies. The Secretariat is held by the French Red Cross.

## Contact details

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## First Aid European Network

### Purpose

The main goal of the network is to facilitate knowledge management with regard to First-Aid matters, in order to advocate and support implementation of related quality education programmes, and their harmonisation within the region.

### Specific objectives

The European Working Group is set up as a technical advisory group. First Aid experts meet once a year in order to discuss common problems, share experiences and propose initiatives that can assist in formulating an answer to specific regional health or training needs that have been identified by Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies or by other partners.

### Activities

- Recommendations and a proposed **plan of action** are drawn up at the end of each meeting. The National Society representatives are expected to present and discuss these in their National Society with the appropriate technical and management levels in order to pursue implementation.
- To prepare and follow-up its meetings the group created a **Steering Committee**. This Steering Committee is composed of five members of the European Working Group that are elected by the members for their expertise.
- Based on specific needs, different ad hoc Task Forces can be set up among the European Working Group on First Aid Education. These Task Forces develop specific tools to strengthen Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in the field of First Aid.
- To support regional networking and to further facilitate the sharing of information and experiences, the European Reference Centre for First-Aid Education was created in 1996 and has a central role in the mobilisation of the network capacity and in the improvement of the availability of related information. In January 2003, the Reference Centre has been moved to Paris under the supervision of the French Red Cross

In order to improve the sharing of information the Reference Centre launched a newsletter. A Newsletter Task Force was consequently set up in 1997 to further develop the publication of the newsletter. The Reference Centre now publishes twice a year a newsmagazine in English and French in collaboration with an Editorial Board (which the Newsletter Task Force evolved into). This newsmagazine is directed at First-Aid heads within National Societies. The Reference Centre also recently created a database of First-Aid education related material, which can now be consulted and supplemented, on-line.

### Members

This network is open to representatives of 52 European National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The head of the European Reference for First-Aid Education, the officer in charge of First Aid at the Federation Secretariat and a representative of the Red Cross/EU Office attend as observers.

### European Certificate

### First-Aid

The creation of the European First-Aid Certificate was the first achievement of the European Working Group. The certificate guarantees common core content and a certain educational standard. Thus, a person who has been awarded this certificate from a participating National Society has been trained to perform a certain set of lifesaving acts. The international aspect of the Movement is this way clearly illustrated and used to strengthen the Red Cross and Red Crescent position in relation to First Aid in the individual National Societies. The certificate aims also to increase the number of people trained in First Aid.

Since the creation of the certificate in 1992 the number of National Societies that have applied for this certificate has continued to increase. At present, 42 programmes from 25 National Societies have been awarded the certificate.

### Contact details

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## **Platform for European Red Cross Co-operation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO)**

### **Purpose**

The Platform for European Red Cross Co-operation on Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants (PERCO) was created in August 1997 on the basis of work done in 1995-1996 within the European Social Welfare Network. The aim of PERCO is to strengthen co-operation amongst European Red Cross national societies so as to improve the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Europe.

### **Specific objectives**

The objectives of PERCO are:

- To provide a framework to facilitate co-operation and networking amongst European National Red Cross Societies,
- To strengthen the advocacy role of European National Red Cross Societies in order to influence European policies and developments in the field of asylum and migration,
- To improve the capacity of European national societies and the Federation in work with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. To promote tolerance and fight against racism, xenophobia and social exclusion.

### **Activities**

From 1998 - 2000, PERCO implemented the EU-funded project "Join Forces for Integration in Europe". Objectives of this European-level project were:

- To improve the awareness and understanding of refugees and the importance of their integration,
- To improve the activities and co-operation of the European Red Cross National Societies and their partners,
- To analyse the situation of refugees in the work and activities of organisations within the EU.

A number of guidelines have been compiled over the past few years:

- Guidelines on the reception of asylum seekers – 2001
- Guidelines on family reunification – 2001
- Guidelines on repatriation - 1999

### **Members**

- ➔ Austrian Red Cross
- ➔ Belgian Red Cross
- ➔ British Red Cross
- ➔ Bulgarian Red Cross
- ➔ Croatian Red Cross
- ➔ Danish Red Cross
- ➔ Netherlands Red Cross
- ➔ Finnish Red Cross
- ➔ French Red Cross
- ➔ Hellenic Red Cross
- ➔ German Red Cross
- ➔ Icelandic Red Cross
- ➔ Italian Red Cross
- ➔ Lithuanian Red Cross
- ➔ Norwegian Red Cross
- ➔ Swedish Red Cross
- ➔ Swiss Red Cross
- ➔ Spanish Red Cross

The International Federation and the Red Cross/EU Office have observer status.

### **Contact details**

#### **PERCO coordinator for 2003**

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## West European Youth Red Cross Network (WEYRCN)

### Purpose

The Western European Red Cross Youth Network is an open network that invites all Red Cross Youth (RCY) organisations in Western Europe to participate in an informal platform for cooperation. It was initiated at the 2001 ECM (European Coordinating Meeting) in Budapest.

### Specific objectives

The network has no institutional structure. It is based on the activities and interests of the participating Red Cross Youth organisations. The aim is to establish closer cooperation between the organisations through annual meetings and regular communication.

The Red Cross/EU Office keeps the Network updated on Youth and EU issues and provides the members of the Network with information on calls for proposals, policies and other relevant concerns.

### Co-operation meeting

- The network meets annually in the different members states of the network,
- A coordination team including the RCY that will host the meeting, the previous host and other members interested are responsible for organising the network meeting. The members of the group are chosen at the network meetings.

### Communication in the network

- The network communicates through an e-group.
- Every participating youth organisation has/should have made (a short version) of their Internet site available in English.

### Members

The members of the Western European Red Cross Youth Network are Youth RC of: Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross – Flemish- and French-speaking communities, British Red Cross, Cyprus Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hellenic Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Portuguese Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross.

### Contact

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## Western European Network on Volunteer Development (WENDOV)

### Purpose

The Western European Network on Volunteer Development (WENDOV) is a forum for managers concerned with volunteering development. The primary aim is to share knowledge and discuss trends in volunteering in Western Europe. Furthermore, National Societies and the Federation should be able to obtain advice or input to specific challenges within the field of volunteering by contacting WENDOV and its members.

### Specific objectives

The aim of the network is to:

- Exchange information and experiences regarding volunteering issues,
- Spread knowledge and understanding about good practice, challenges, new developments and specific volunteering and volunteer programmes.

In doing this, the network hopes to act as a "think tank" that will influence the Federation by providing for benchmarking volunteer activity, to identify best practice, and key indicators on volunteering.

### Members

Participants are from Western Europe, which is defined as European countries not covered by the Budapest and Moscow Delegations.

This includes the following National Red Cross Societies:

Austrian, Belgian, British, Danish, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Hellenic, Icelandic, Irish, the Federation Secretariat (invited to attend), Latvian, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maltese, Monaco, Netherlands, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss and Italian Red Cross National Societies.

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## Glossary

<b>ARC</b>	Austrian Red Cross
<b>BRC</b>	Belgian Red Cross
<b>BrRC</b>	British Red Cross
<b>CRC</b>	Czech Red Cross
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Red Cross
<b>ELSG</b>	European Legal Support Group
<b>ENAV</b>	European Network of Red Cross Societies Against Violence
<b>ENPS</b>	European Red Cross Societies Network for Psychological Support
<b>EPSC</b>	European Public Support Group
<b>ERC</b>	Estonia Red Cross
<b>ERNA/RECS</b>	European Network of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies on HIV/AIDS
<b>ERU</b>	Emergency Rescue Unit
<b>FACT</b>	Field Assessment and Coordination Teams
<b>FiRC</b>	Finnish Red Cross
<b>FrRC</b>	French Red Cross
<b>GRC</b>	German Red Cross
<b>HRC</b>	Hellenic Red Cross
<b>HuRC</b>	Hungarian Red Cross
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>IHL</b>	International Humanitarian Law
<b>IrRC</b>	Irish Red Cross
<b>ItRC</b>	Italian Red Cross
<b>LaRC</b>	Latvian Red Cross
<b>LiRC</b>	Lithuanian Red Cross
<b>LRC</b>	Luxembourg Red Cross
<b>MRCS</b>	Malta Red Cross Society
<b>NRC</b>	Netherlands Red Cross
<b>NS</b>	National Society
<b>PERCO</b>	Platform for European Red Cross Co-operation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants
<b>PIRC</b>	Polish Red Cross
<b>PRC</b>	Portuguese Red Cross
<b>SkRC</b>	Slovak Red Cross
<b>SpRC</b>	Spanish Red Cross
<b>SRC</b>	Swedish Red Cross
<b>SveRC</b>	Slovenian Red Cross
<b>WENDOV</b>	Western European Network on Volunteer Development
<b>WEYRCN</b>	West European Youth Red Cross Network