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# Resuscitation

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## Letter to the Editor

### **KIDS SAVE LIVES implementation in Europe: A survey through the ERC Research NET**

Sir,

Recently, we conducted a survey on key principles of CPR training implementation in school-curricula, known as KIDS SAVE LIVES (KSL) program. As reported, in 2015 the World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed KSL, a joint statement from the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), the European Patient Safety Foundation (EPSF), the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA).<sup>1,2</sup> This statement recommends two hours of CPR training annually from the age of 12 years in all schools worldwide. In order to evaluate the current implementation of the KSL program throughout Europe, the Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC) and the German Resuscitation Council (GRC)—developed an online survey in collaboration with the ERC. It was launched to all National Resuscitation Councils (NRCs) at the General assembly of the ERC on May 17th, 2016 by mail. The survey covered several topics: knowledge of KSL statement, CPR education of schoolchildren, legislation about CPR training, etc. Until August 3rd, 2016 we received 27 responses on 34 countries, representing a response rate of 79%. All the responding NRCs know that the WHO has endorsed KSL statement, and 81% know statement details. Seventy-eight percent of NRCs declared that education of schoolchildren is a recent topic in their country. The education in CPR is a legislation in five

countries (19%) and a suggestion in sixteen countries (62%). Forty-seven percent of responders declared that 12 years of age is the starting age of CPR training, with a median of 2 h per years. Only 7% of the nations have established CPR training annually. In nineteen of the countries, the CPR training is provided by school teachers. In countries that established CPR training by legislation, main topic of education is cardiac arrest (CA). In countries without an established legislation, CA is the topic suggested. The main focus for education in countries with legislation is: primary schools in 40%, secondary schools in 20% and primary/secondary schools in 40% cases. In countries without legislation the preferred target are primary schools in 45%, secondary schools in 32% and primary/secondary schools in 14%. The equipment used for practical CPR-training is mainly a low-fidelity manikin (26%), an AED trainer (21%) and an inflatable CPR manikin (21%). It is not common to give homework about CPR training (7%). KSL has been chosen to be the main topic during the European Restart Heart Day on October 18th, 2016, and 63% of nations declared to organize events specifically dedicated to this topic. The 10 ERC principles – increasing survival with KSL – described in the ERC Position Statement are felt to be the best way to implement nationwide campaigns.<sup>3</sup> Our survey gives a brief photograph of Europe (Fig. 1) at the very beginning of the most important cultural implementation of schoolchildren education in CPR. All details of our survey can be found at [www.erc.edu](http://www.erc.edu). We are very thankful to all participants. We are confident to pave the way for the “next generation” of lifesavers to sustainably increase long term survival after CA.

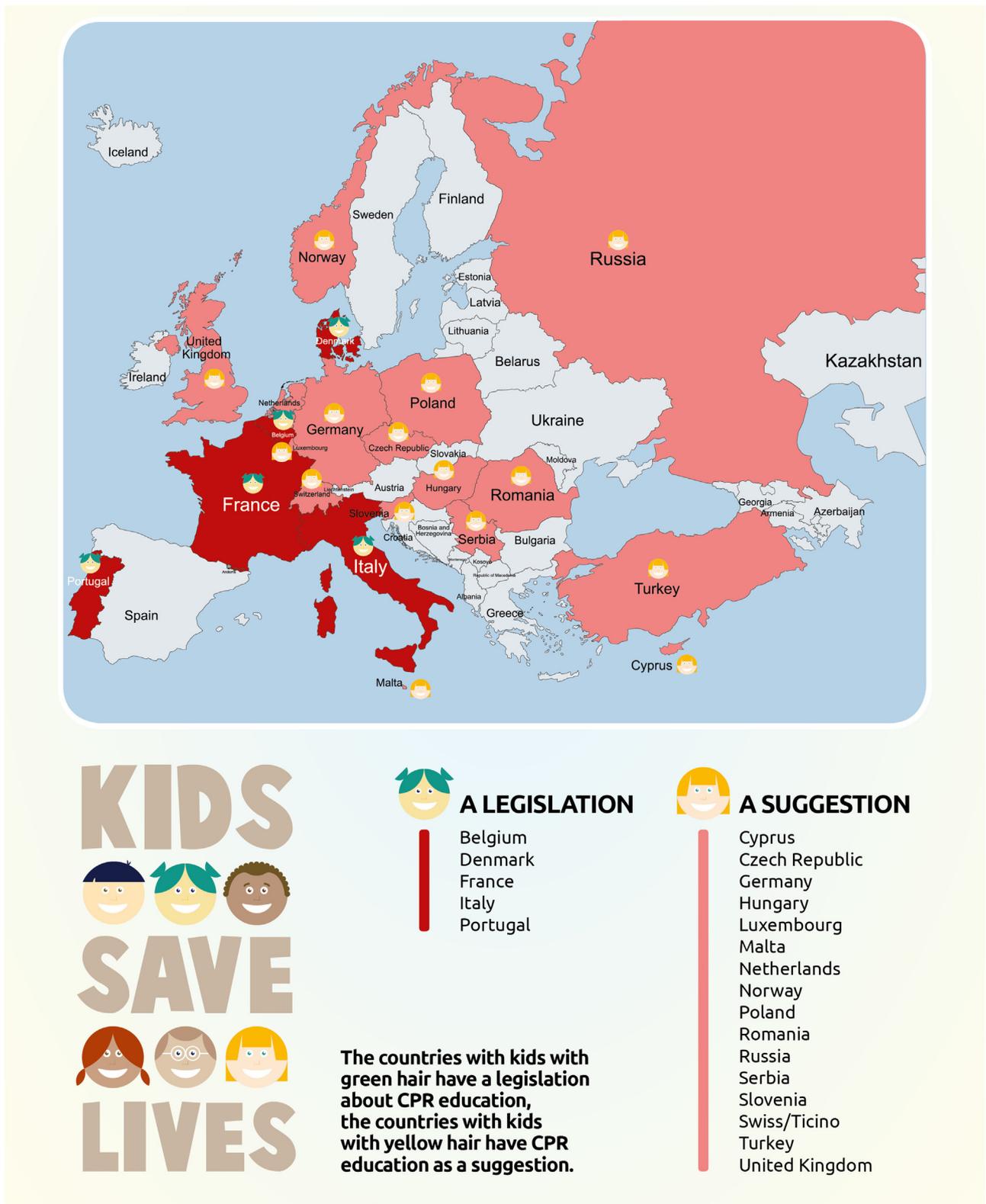


Fig. 1. "KIDS SAVE LIVES"—European map of CPR education. The countries with kids with green hair have a legislation about CPR education, the countries with kids with yellow hair have CPR education as a suggestion.

### Conflict of interest statement

Federico Semeraro is Chairman, Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC).

Sabine Wingen, Daniel C. Schroeder and Hannes Ecker have no conflict of interest.

Andrea Scapigliati is Vice-Chairman, Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC).

Giusepppe Ristagno is Scientific Coordinator, Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC)

Bernd W. Böttiger is ERC Board Director Science and Research; Associated Editor, European Journal of Anaesthesiology; Speakers honorarium from Medupdate, FoMF, Baxalta, Bayer Vital; Chairman, German Resuscitation Council (GRC); Board Member, German Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine (DGAI); Board Member, German Society of interdisciplinary Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine (DIVI); Associated Editor, Resuscitation, Professor and Head of the Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, University Hospital of Cologne, Germany.

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