



# European Resuscitation Council

## Statement about ERC courses

15 May 2007

Approved by the International Course Committees of the European Resuscitation Council

The European Resuscitation Council (ERC) is the Interdisciplinary Council for Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine in Europe. The mission of the ERC is to preserve life by improving standards of resuscitation in Europe and to coordinate the activities of European organisations with a major interest in resuscitation medicine and emergency medical care. These objectives are pursued by two main activities: producing guidelines and recommendations appropriate to Europe for the practice of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and by designing standardised teaching programmes suitable for all trainees in Europe, ranging from the lay public to the qualified physician. Other important activities of the ERC are audit of resuscitation practice, promoting awareness of the problem of cardiac arrest, promoting research and providing scientific advice.

The Executive Office of the ERC is located in Belgium. However, the main activities of the ERC take place through the European network of the "National Resuscitation Councils". These are multidisciplinary scientific organisations representing scientific, professional and training organisations on a national level. Representatives of the National Resuscitation Councils meet regularly as the Executive Committee of the ERC.

The European Resuscitation Council published updated Guidelines for Resuscitation in November 2005 in its official journal "Resuscitation". These guidelines are now being adopted and implemented all over Europe and beyond.

For many years the ERC has promoted resuscitation training programmes in collaboration with the National Resuscitation Councils. The courses are aiming at training healthcare professionals (e.g. Advanced Life Support, European Paediatric Life Support) but also basic rescuers (e.g. Basic Life Support and Automated External Defibrillation). New courses are being developed, such as Immediate Life Support, Neonatal Life Support and the interdisciplinary European Trauma Course. Training programmes for both providers and instructors are available. All providers and instructors are registered in a unique European database (called the Course Management System - CMS) which produces certification online. Guidelines and course manuals are translated and distributed in collaboration with the National Resuscitation Councils, guaranteeing wide distribution and uniformity. The main advantage of this European approach is that the training guarantees a uniform standard throughout Europe, both regarding content (the medical information provided) and the educational methods used. Because of this standardised approach, certification is valid throughout Europe and instructors can be exchanged between organisations and countries.

The ERC believes that this approach will improve the quality of resuscitation training. It is hoped that the European network of National Resuscitation Councils, CPR providers and instructors will contribute to the prevention of cardiac arrest and the increased survival of victims.