

SAVING LIFE THROUGH TEACHING FIRST AID SKILLS AND RULES OF THE ROAD

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Background and Aims: Prevention of accidents is one of the most important socio-economic problems for the development of the country, the life and health of people. In traffic accidents knowledge and skills on giving first aid is critical for saving the life and health of individuals. This study was carried out within the project "Saving life through teaching first aid skills and rules of the road" of the European Commission in partnership with the Dutch Red Cross. The aim of the study was to assess educational activities on road safety and first aid skills in traffic accidents.

Methods: Statistical data and reports on accomplished road safety projects in the country were reviewed. 500 respondents from 7 regions were surveyed on first aid giving in traffic accidents.

Results: Traffic accidents were found to be steadily increasing and associated with a high level of mortality and injury. Review of activities in various projects on road traffic safety showed that they are directed primarily at reducing the number of traffic accidents through promoting road safety measures. 7 training centres on first aid skills and road safety rules have been established to provide training to the population on a regular basis using modern educational methods.

Conclusions: The campaign on raising the first aid and road safety awareness covered a considerable number of young people (13,000 persons). State authorities and NGOs were involved in the project. The investigation of opinions of the population showed high efficiency of the educational methods and strategies used. 88% of respondents gave correct answers about first aid and road safety rules that should be observed for personal safety and the safety of people near you.