

## **Development of a drowning prevention and water rescue curriculum using the Competences-Resources-Model and the Drowning Chain of Survival**

Christoph Meier<sup>1</sup>, Eva Heinemann<sup>2</sup>, Marc Audeoud<sup>1</sup>, Reto Abächerli<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Swiss Lifesaving Society, Sursee, Switzerland. <sup>2</sup>b-werk bildung gmbh, Bern, Switzerland

In Switzerland, minimum qualifications for the prevention, early detection and treatment (incl. rescue) of drowning accidents are prescribed for the practicing of various functions / jobs in, on and around water bodies. Be it as a standard or as a legal regulation.

The Swiss Lifesaving Society coordinates a national modular education and training system to obtain and maintain all these qualifications.

In order to enable a better coordination between all stakeholders, the SLRG has developed a curriculum using the competency-resource model (CoReModel) (1). A "competence" is considered as the ability to successfully face a set of situations. The resources needed are intended in the form of declarative knowledge, procedural knowledge and attitudes.

The development of the curriculum was conceived as a project and took around 1.5 years.

First, a proof of concept was developed. This provided information on whether the CoReModel is applicable for a curriculum in the field of drowning prevention and water rescue. In particular, it was clarified how the different target groups (individuals, persons with supervision duties, persons with surveillance duties, emergency response units) and types of water bodies (pool, lake, river) can be mapped and whether the Drowning Chain of Survival could be helpful to do so (2).

Subsequently, an authoring group was formed to create the content of the curriculum. The group consisted of selected, qualified representatives of the various target groups. The results of the work were validated by an expert panel (agreement with drowning incidents in Switzerland; no obvious contradictions with currently available scientific evidence).

We found that a) the CoReModel is an appropriate method to develop national or even international framework curricula in the field of drowning prevention and water rescue and b) that the "Drowning Chain of Survival" is a suitable basis for the development of a curriculum.

The development and existence of a framework curriculum fertilizes the cooperation between the different actors in drowning prevention and water rescue.

### **References**

(1) Ghisla, & Bausch, Luca & Boldrini, Elena. (2008). CoRe – Kompetenzen-Ressourcen: Ein Modell der Curriculumentwicklung für die Berufsbildung.. Zeitschrift für Berufs- und Wirtschaftspädagogik. 3. 431-466.

(2) Szpilman, David & Webber, Jonathon & Quan, Linda & Bierens, Joost & Morizot-Leite, Luiz & Langendorfer, Stephen & Beerman, Stephen & Løfgren, Bo. (2014). Creating a Drowning Chain of Survival. Resuscitation. 85. 1149–1152. 10.1016/j.resuscitation.2014.05.034.