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Norway – Data Collection

Saving 200 more lives from OHCA in Norway

Norway has a long tradition for CPR and first aid training, and a high bystander CPR rate. However, when comparing the national OHCA registries in Norway and Denmark, it turned out that although both countries report a little over 15% survival based on the Utstein template, for similar sized populations, 200 more OHCA victims were saved per year in Denmark. The explanation of this apparent paradox is a considerably higher proportion of attempted resuscitations in Denmark, 700 per m population compared to about 500 in Norway.

The Norwegian minister of health took personal interest in these findings and co-hosted in February 2017 with the Laerdal Foundation a full day workshop at the Utstein Abbey, with participation of over 30 stakeholders from all relevant first aid and emergency medicine organizations in the country. The workshop agreed to start a national program focusing on training in CPR and first aid at all stages of life (lifelong learning), improved communication between bystanders and the Emergency Medical Dispatch Center (EMDC), increased use of additional resources (e.g. first responders) and increased use of the National Cardiac Arrest registry in system improvements.

By April 2018, over 20 organizations, representing both public and private partners, as well as all relevant NGOs, have enthusiastically joined this initiative. New measures include a stepwise approach for training all school children in first aid and CPR through grade 1-10, a national AED registry and a smartphone app that automatically transmit the callers GPS position to the dispatch center, saving time to dispatch of the ambulance and initiation of telephone-CPR

Most of the funding of the campaign has been provided by a generous grant of over 6 million Euros from the Gjensidige Foundation, the main owner of the largest insurance company in Norway. The campaign is coordinated by the Norwegian Directorate of Health, supported by a strategy document and an advisory board.

FUTURE PLANS

In the years to come, the campaign aims at establishing more systematic training of high-school pupils, healthcare workers and minorities in accordance with the lifelong learning goal. Other projects relate to follow up and support of bystanders who perform CPR on OHCA victims and expanding the campaign to other time-critical events where the public can contribute to increased survival and prevent permanent damage to patients (stroke, myocardial infarction and severe traumas).



Health minister Bent Høie opens the national consensus meeting at Utstein Abbey