DEVELOPMENT OF BILINGUAL SETTING OF PBLs/PALS PAEDIATRIC BASIC AND ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT COURSES IN SOUTH-TYROL (ITALY) (1998-2006) AND SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EPLS EUROPEAN PAEDIATRIC LIFE SUPPORT COURSE (ERC) IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

AIM: Completion of chain of Teaching for PBLs and PALS in both official southtyrolean mainlanguages (Italian/German).

Material and methods: First Italian PBLs- and PALS-courses started in South-Tyrol in 1998 in Italian. 2000: Italian PBLs in German in South-Tyrol, 2002 Germany, 2003 Austria/Switzerland. As small region there was the need to import german speaking PALS-instructors from Germany/Austria, searched between 2000-2002. 2002: ERC-officials from both countries confirmed the absences of PBLs/PALS-courses in their countries and asked for italian-spanish co-operation. In 2002 under the leadership of the coordinator of the ERC paediatric working group, Rodriguez A, decision to work inside the frame of the new EPLS-course with roots in Italy, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia, Portugal and UK. First EPLS-Provider course for german speaking area: dec. 2003 Bruneck/Südtirol. Following the Italian experience, 15 day PBLs-course prior EPLS is mandatory. EPLS: 2 days only PALS. Recommended course-organisation: in cooperation with structures of EMS and Neonatal / Paediatric Intensiv Care Units.

Results: I) dec. 2003 - dec. 2005: 23 EPLS-provider-courses, 550 participants. 5 new EPLS-Trainingcenters in Italy, Spain, Belgium, Slovenia, Portugal and UK. First EPLS-Provider course for german speaking area: dec. 2003 Bruneck/Südtirol. Following the Italian experience, 15 day PBLs-course prior EPLS is mandatory. EPLS: 2 days only PALS. Recommended course-organisation: in cooperation with structures of EMS and Neonatal / Paediatric Intensiv Care Units.

Conclusions: Aim to offer Paediatric Advanced Life Support courses in both official mainlanguages in South-Tyrol, German and Italian, was reached. As side-effect there was structured introduction of the EPLS-course in Germany and Austria.

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