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Letter to the Editor

Learn to drive, learn CPR: Advancing road safety and life-saving skills across Europe



To the Editor

We share findings from a recent European survey assessing whether the Basic Life Support (BLS) course is mandatory for obtaining a category B driving license as part of driving school curricula, two years after our first survey.¹ This study expands on efforts by the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) and the European Driving Schools Association (EFA) under the “Learn to Drive. Learn CPR” initiative, which created a song and video to promote the campaign. These materials were shared widely on platforms like YouTube and social media. The project has gained international recognition, winning awards at the Global Road Safety Film Festival,² the CIECA Conference,³ and the ISMA Silver Award in 2024.⁴ The recent survey revealed that 19 out of 49 (39%) European countries require a BLS course to obtain a category B driving license (Table 1). We received 252 responses, though inconsistencies in answers required further analysis (Supplemental Material). Subsequently, after collecting and analysing the data, an additional online search was conducted using browser search engines and AI tools, along with an evaluation of all national websites regarding the national regulations for acquiring a driver’s license (Supplemental Material). In countries where CPR training is mandatory, the curriculum often includes adult and paediatric BLS and managing airway obstruction. Typically, this training is part of broader first aid courses, but reports indicate insufficient focus on CPR in some cases. For example, non-urgent skills are emphasized excessively, leaving CPR underrepresented. The ERC urges stakeholders to address this gap by ensuring comprehensive BLS courses are prioritized alongside general first aid training. The collaborative initiative between the ERC and EFA continues to demonstrate the value of integrating lifesaving education into everyday systems. Research shows that around 90% of drivers and riders worldwide receive driving training from driving schools, making driving schools an effective way to also spread awareness and training in BLS across Europe.⁵ Recently, with advocacy activities of ERC and EFA, the European Commission has proposed a revision of the Driving License Directive with a focus on improving road safety ([https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0127)

[?uri=CELEX:52023PC0127](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0127)). Last year, the European Parliament included mandatory CPR training for new drivers in its position on the Driving License Directive. As tripartite discussions (Parliament, Council, and Commission) negotiations continue, the ERC is working to ensure this provision remains in the final version, given that the Council did not include it. Ahead of the next session in late February, the ERC is engaging with member states’ transport attachés to emphasize the lifesaving benefits of CPR training. We urge policy-makers and stakeholders to further support this effort and endorse the European Resuscitation Council’s BLS training standard across Europe. In conclusion, this updated survey reaffirms the importance of innovative approaches to empower potential bystanders in saving lives. Through persistent advocacy and targeted interventions, the “Learn to Drive. Learn CPR” initiative holds the potential to transform outcomes in cardiac arrest emergencies.

Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process

During the preparation of this work, the authors utilised ChatGPT-4 and Gemini Advanced to research information on driving school license legislation across European countries, focusing on the integration of CPR training within each country’s course curriculum. Subsequently, the authors reviewed and edited the content as necessary, taking full responsibility for the accuracy of the publication.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Lorenzo Gamberini: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Methodology, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.
Sebastian Schnaubelt: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Methodology, Writing – original draft, Writing – review &

Table 1 – Basic Life Support certification in Europe and in the UK mandatory to acquire a driving license.

Country	Is Basic Life Support (BLS) training mandatory to obtain a category B* driving license?
1. Albania	Yes ⁺
2. Andorra	No
3. Armenia	No
4. Austria	Yes ⁺
5. Azerbaijan	No
6. Belarus	No
7. Belgium	Yes ⁺
8. Bosnia Herzegovina	No
9. Bulgaria	Yes ⁺
10. Croatia	Yes ⁺
11. Cyprus	No
12. Czech Republic	Yes ⁺
13. Denmark	Yes ⁺
14. Estonia	Yes ⁺
15. Finland	No
16. France	No
17. Georgia	No
18. Germany	Yes ⁺
19. Greece	No
20. Hungary	Yes ⁺
21. Iceland	No
22. Ireland	No
23. Italy	No
24. Kazakhstan	No
25. Kosovo	No
26. Latvia	Yes ⁺
27. Liechtenstein	Yes ⁺
28. Lithuania	Yes ⁺
29. Luxembourg	No
30. Malta	No
31. Moldova	No
32. Monaco	Yes ⁺
33. Montenegro	Yes ⁺
34. Netherlands	No
35. North Macedonia	No
36. Norway	Yes ⁺
37. Poland	Yes ⁺
38. Portugal	No
39. Romania	No
40. San Marino	No
41. Serbia	Yes ⁺
42. Slovakia	No
43. Slovenia	Yes ⁺
44. Spain	No
45. Sweden	Yes ⁺
46. Switzerland	No
47. Turkey	No
48. Ukraine	No
49. United Kingdom	No

* Category B driving license allows an individual to drive a motor vehicle with a maximum authorised mass not exceeding 3500 kg and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver.

⁺ The BLS is often part of a broader first aid course.

editing. **Manuel Picardi**: Supervision, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Federico Semeraro**: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal analysis, Methodology, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Koenraad G. Monsieurs**: Supervision, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: LG is a member of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Resuscitation Council. SS is an ILCOR EIT Task Force member, ERC Advanced Life Support Science and Education Committee member, and Vice Chair of the Austrian Resuscitation Council. MP is the Vice-President of European Driving Schools Association (EFA), FS is the Chair of the European Resuscitation Council, an Emeritus member of the ILCOR BLS Working Group, and a member of the Italian Resuscitation Council Foundation, KGM has no conflict of interest.

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary material to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resuscitation.2025.110526>.

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5. CIECA-RUE Road User Education Project at <https://www.efa-eu.com/projects/rue-report> (accessed 26th January 2025).

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