



AED LEGISLATION



AEDs are lifesaving in times of emergency, but do you know who can use them? What is the process for buying them? And is there a way in your country to locate nearby defibrillators?

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1 | INTRODUCTION

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) play a lifesaving role in emergency response. When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, artificial circulation must be restored as soon as possible. Survival dramatically decreases by approximately 10% every minute without intervention.¹ As detailed in EENA's document [AED Mapping and Emergency Response](#), survival rates rose up to 65% when lay people began CPR with an early defibrillation by an AED.² AEDs for public use are therefore crucial in ensuring that people suffering from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest are given the maximum chance of survival.

Many countries are developing public defibrillator programmes, but it became clear to EENA that the national legislation regarding AEDs/defibrillators can differ greatly between country.³ This may relate to who is permitted to use an AED/defibrillator in a public place, the procedures for installing the device, as well as whether the device must be reported to an authority. There are also differences between countries regarding how the public or emergency services can locate the nearest AED/defibrillator in times of emergency. Significantly, in some cases, these factors can also differ depending on the region.

A lack of clarity over the rules regarding AED use could cause confusion in an emergency, leading to time being lost during the intervention. In order to address this issue, EENA has consulted 22 countries (19 in the Europe Union and 3 outside the European Union) in order to document the legislation, rules and recommendations in each country. The aim is for this document to serve as a reference point in order to inform the public of who can use an AED in times of emergency, as well as to highlight the differences between countries.

¹ Karch SB, Graff J, Young S, Ho CH. Response times and outcomes for cardiac arrests in Las Vegas casinos. *Am J Emerg Med.* 1998 May;16:249-53.4. and Kette F, Sbrojavacca R, Rellini G, Tosolini G, Capas-so M, Arcidiacono D, Bernardi G, Frittitta P. Epidemiology and survival rate of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in north-east Italy: The F.A.C.S. study. *Friuli Venezia Giulia Cardiac Arrest Cooperative Study. Resuscitation.* 1998;36:153-9.

² Page RL, Joglar JA, Kowal RC, Zagrodzky JD, Nel-son LL, Ramaswamy K, Barbera SJ, Hamdan MH, McKenas DK. Use of automated external defibrillators by a U.S. airline. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 2000;343:1210. and Valenzuela TD, Roe DJ, Nichol G, Clark LL, Spaite DW, Hardman RG.. Outcome of rapid defibrillation by security officers after cardiac arrest in casinos. *N. Engl. J. Med.* 2000;343:1206.

³ Some requirements relating to AEDs in the EU fall under the [European Medical Devices Directive](#) (93/42/EEC).

2 | KEY FINDINGS – SUMMARY OF DATA

All data below is taken from questionnaires filled out by relevant organisations in each country. Further details on each country and the relevant organisations can be found in Chapter 3. Countries have not been included if the appropriate information was not provided in the questionnaire.

Is there national legislation regarding AEDs? (use, installation, reporting)

Please note that all EU countries fall under the **European Medical Device Directive**. The below table therefore refers to additional national legislation

Country	Legislation?
Costa Rica	No
Croatia	Yes
Czechia	No
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	Yes
Ireland	No
Italy	Yes
Latvia	No
Lebanon	No
Luxembourg	Yes
Portugal	Yes (there is also regional legislation for the Azores archipelago)
Romania	Yes
Slovakia	No
Slovenia	Yes

Spain	Yes (some regions also have their own regional legislation)
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No

Is it obligatory to report public AEDs to an authority?

Country	Obligatory to report AEDs to authorities?
Austria	No (recommended)
Bulgaria	No
Costa Rica	No
Croatia	Yes
Czechia	No (recommended)
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	Yes (from early 2020)
Germany	No
Ireland	No (recommended)
Italy	Yes
Latvia	No
Lebanon	No
Luxembourg	No (recommended)
Portugal	Yes
Romania	No (recommended)
Slovakia	No

Slovenia	No (recommended)
Spain	Yes
Sweden	No (recommended)
United Kingdom	No (recommended)

Is training required in order to use a public AED?

Country	Training required to use AED?
Austria	No
Bulgaria	Yes (Non-medical persons may be prosecuted in case of harming health/life)
Costa Rica	No
Croatia	Yes
Czechia	No
Estonia	No
Finland	No
France	No
Germany	No
Ireland	No (Civil Liability Act 2011 protects those who assist in an emergency)
Italy	Yes (however, in the presence of cardiac arrest, there aren't consequences if an untrained person uses an AED)
Latvia	No
Lebanon	No
Luxembourg	No
Portugal	Yes
Romania	No
Slovakia	No

Slovenia	No
South Africa	No
Spain – Asturias	Yes (unless in exceptional circumstances under certain conditions: please see country profile)
Sweden	No
United Kingdom	No

Are public AEDs mapped?

Country	Are AEDs mapped?
Austria – Lower Austria	Yes (for emergency services and the public)
Austria - Vorarlberg	Yes (for emergency services)
Bulgaria	No
Costa Rica	No
Croatia	Yes (for emergency services and the public)
Finland	Yes (accessible by public)
France	Yes (from early 2020, mapped for emergency services, some information to be made available to the public via third parties)
Ireland	Yes (a register for emergency services, not accessible by the public)
Italy	Yes (for emergency services)
Latvia	No
Lebanon	No
Luxembourg	Yes (accessible by public)
Portugal	Yes (for emergency services)
Slovakia	No
Slovenia	Yes (for emergency services, database and app under development for public)

Spain - Asturias	Yes (for emergency services and the public)
Spain - Galicia	Yes (for emergency services and the public)
Spain - Valencia	No
Sweden	Yes (for emergency services and the public)
United Kingdom	Yes (for emergency services)

COUNTRY PROFILES

3.1 | EUROPE



Bulgaria⁴

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- There is no regulation regarding who can buy and install an AED.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only medical personnel can use an AED.
- Those using an AED without medical training could be prosecuted in case of harm to the health or life of the person involved.
- Regulations regarding AEDs apply to both public and private places.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- Defibrillators do not need to be reported to an authority.
- AEDs are not mapped.

⁴ Information provided by the Bulgarian Red Cross



Croatia⁵

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Any legal or private entity can buy and install an AED.
- The device should be purchased from an authorised medical device dealer.
- There are specific requirements for AEDs in public places:
 - automatic heart rate analysis,
 - electric shock delivery button only active when the device permits,
 - must disable the user from delivering electric shock independently of the device's recommendation,
 - have voice & text instructions in Croatian language.
- Only automatic defibrillators are allowed in public places.
- Only AEDs in public places are regulated. Those in private places are not.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only qualified people can use an AED. This includes people who may not have a medical education, but who are trained for the implementation of basic life-support measures using an AED.
- Training is required according to the Ordinance on Conditions for Implementation of the Program of Publicly Available Early Defibrillation (Official Gazette 120/2013).

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs in public places must be reported to the Croatian Institute of Emergency Medicine.
- Required information:
 - exact address and place,
 - name and address if the owner is a legal entity or name, surname and address if the owner is a private entity,

⁵ Information provided by the Croatian Institute of Emergency Medicine.

- model, type and serial number of AED, and information about the vendor,
- information about the authorised service,
- the date when the AED was placed on exact address,
- data on the ability of workers to carry out basic life-support measures using AED.
- AEDs are mapped for both emergency services and the public.
 - This refers only to AEDs in public places in the programme of publicly available early defibrillation.
 - These AEDs are registered by the Croatian Institute of Emergency Medicine which publishes a list of addresses and locations of AED devices in Croatia.
 - The list is available on the webpage of the Croatian Institute of Emergency Medicine (www.hzhm.hr).
 - This is an obligatory process for AEDs falling under the criteria above.

AED facts

- The legislation covering AEDs in Croatia is: Ordinance on Conditions for Implementation of the Program of Publicly Available Early Defibrillation (Official Gazette 120/2013).
- There are 346 AEDs installed in public places in Croatia.
- There are approximately 1-2 uses of public AEDs annually.



Czechia⁶

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- There is no regulation as to who can buy and install an AED.
- Currently, many villages, banks and sports resorts do so.
- There are no official requirements for AEDs, but local emergency services try to educate people to buy AEDs with compatible electrodes. If the AED is placed in a public place in special box that can be opened by code, it is almost always in consultation with emergency medical services.
- Only semi-automatic external defibrillators are in use in Czechia.

⁶ Information provided by Aplikace Zachranka, z.u.

- The same regulations apply to both public and private AEDs in Czechia.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody nearby an emergency can use an AED; training is not required.
- Efforts are ongoing to train people how to use AEDs in case of emergency, e.g. via mobile app.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- There is no regulation for reporting an AED to the authorities, but there are efforts to educate people to report the device to the emergency medical services.
- Required information:
 - telephone number of the contact person,
 - time when the AED is available,
 - AED type,
 - place and radius where the AED can be used by first responders.
- 98% of AEDs are currently reported to the emergency services.



Estonia⁷

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Devices must be installed and maintained according to the instruction manual provided by the producer.
- All medical devices installed and used in Estonia must be in accordance with EU requirements. Now the requirements come from directive 93/42/EMÜ and from 26 May 2020 from the Regulation 2017/745.
 - AED devices should be CE signed and they should also be marked with which authority is informed, the name of the producer of the device, and the address.

⁷ Information provided by the Estonian Ministry of Interior

- Since most of the AED devices on Estonian market are produced outside the EU, the information about the authorised representative must also be available (name and address).
- The same regulations apply to AEDs in both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody who feels comfortable with the device is permitted to use an AED.
- All first aid courses in Estonia teach how to use AEDs, so people are becoming more familiar with the device.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- There is no longer a requirement to report an AED to an authority.

AED facts

- Apart from the EU directive, there is no additional legislation regarding AEDs in Estonia.
- AEDs are not currently mapped.



Finland⁸

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- There is no regulation as to who can buy and install an AED.
- AEDs must abide by the EU technical medicinal devices regulation.
- Regulations are the same regarding AEDs in public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Everyone can use an AED in time of emergency; no training is required.

⁸ Information provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland

- The Red Cross, among other organisations, arranges training for volunteers.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- There is no obligation to report an AED to an authority.

AED facts

- The relevant legislation regarding AEDs is: Medicinal devices EU regulation in Finland (Laki terveydenhuollon laitteista ja tarvikkeista)⁹
- AEDs are mapped by the Red Cross and other volunteer organisations, accessible by the public through <https://defi.fi/>.
 - Registration of a device on the database is on a voluntary basis and applies to both public and private AEDs.
- The voluntary register currently counts 2742 devices, which probably represents around 70% of the total number of devices.



France¹⁰

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED in France. Those installing AEDs in public places are those in charge of the building or space.
- Since 19 December 2018, a new law has been voted in regarding AEDs. It is now mandatory for public access building to have an AED.
 - Depending on the location's size and attendance, the AED requirement must be fulfilled by January 1 2020 (categories 1-3), January 1 2021 (category 4) or 1 January 2022 (category 5).
- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

⁹ <https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2010/20100629>

¹⁰ Information provided by AEDMAP and Permis de Sauver

- As far as private companies are concerned, it is not compulsory to install an AED, but due to a common interpretation of the labour code, many private companies install AEDs.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED in France; no training is required.
 - This is according to a decree published on May 4 2007 and applies to both automatic and semi-automatic defibrillators.
- An untrained person who uses an AED to help a person suffering from cardiac arrest cannot be sued if the victim dies.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- The new (abovementioned) law has created a national public AED database.
 - It will become obligatory to report public AEDs to the Ministry of Health from early 2020.
 - The process of registration is currently being drafted. The procedure is expected to be released during Quarter 1 of 2020.
 - The database is still under construction but will be up and running in early 2020.
 - The database will be operated by the Ministry of Health.
- Information required for registration:
 - location name,
 - opening hours,
 - AED brand and model,
 - serial number,
 - pads and battery expiration date,
 - detailed info regarding AED access,
 - etc.
- The database will serve as a platform for emergency services and will include AEDs in both public and private places.
- Information regarding the location of AEDs will be shared to the public by third parties; the Ministry of Health does not plan a tool for the public.
 - Data provided to the public will not be as detailed as for the emergency services.

AED facts

- The main laws and decrees concerning AEDs in France are as follows:
 - Concerning public access buildings: A law published in the Official Journal dated 21st of December 2018, text 29 of 261, Decree Number 2018-1186 dated 19th of December 2018 relating to AED and Public Access Buildings.¹¹

¹¹ <https://www.defibril.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/dcret-erp-2018.12.19.pdf>

- Concerning AED mapping: A law published in the Official Journal of 28th December 2018, text 34 of 197, Decree Number 2018-1259 of 27 December 2018 on the national database of AEDs.
- Concerning AED maintenance - According to the classification rules of Annex IX of Directive 93/42/EEC, AEDs are Class 2b medical devices. Therefore, the government has clearly stated that AEDs are subject to compulsory maintenance.
 - Decree n° 2001-1154 dated 5 December 2001, relating to the obligation to maintain and undergo quality control of medical devices seen in article L.5212-1 of the Public Health Code.
 - Order (Arrêté) dated 3 March 2003 detailing the list of medical devices with an obligation for maintenance and quality control mentioned in Articles L. 5212-1 and D. 665-5-3 of the Public Health Code.
- Concerning the use of AEDs: According the decree ref. 2007-705 dated 4th of May 2007 (Official Journal 5th of May), any person, even non trained, is authorised to use an AED to help a victim in cardiac arrest. This person can not be sued even in case the victim dies.¹²
- Law n° 2018-527 dated 28 June 2018 concerning defibrillators.¹³
- There are roughly around 100,000-150,000 AEDs installed in France, although obtaining an accurate figure is difficult and these are unofficial estimates.
- It is estimated that a third of all AEDs are installed by public bodies.

¹²<https://www.defibril.fr/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Bonnefoy-2009.pdf> and <https://www.defibril.fr/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Arr%C3%AAt%C3%A9-minist%C3%A9riel-06.11.2009-Formation.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000037116260&dateTexte=20180701>



Germany¹⁴

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED in a public place.
- There are no specific requirements in Germany regarding the features of the installed AED.
- The regulations regarding AEDs are the same in both public and private places.
- The Björn Steiger Foundation can advise private entities on the purchase of AEDs and can provide financial support.
- Devices should be in a suitable AED wall box and should be accessible to anyone without obstruction.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED in times of emergency; training is not required.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs are not required to be reported to an authority.

AED facts

- The legislation regarding AEDs in Germany is the Medical Device Directive (MPBetreibV).
- The Björn Steiger Foundation manages 40,000 AEDs. The total number of AEDs installed in Germany is unknown.

¹⁴ Information provided by the Björn Steiger Foundation



Ireland¹⁵

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- There are no regulations as to who can buy and install an AED.
- There are no specific requirements regarding the features of the AED.
- Regulations for AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; the Civil Liability Act of 2011 protects those who assist in an emergency.
- People are encouraged to undertake a CPR course, but this is not mandatory.
- There is dispatch-assisted CPR in Ireland and even the untrained are encouraged to start CPR and use an AED if one is nearby.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not obligatory to report AEDs to an authority.
- AEDs are mapped for emergency services after being registered (voluntarily) with the National Ambulance Control Room.
 - The register is not complete and work is in process to develop it.
 - The register is not accessible by the general public.

AED facts

- In Ireland, there is an 80% bystander CPR rate. Some of this high response is attributed to training, but the rest is attributed to dispatch-assisted CPR. In a third of cases, defibrillation is done pre- ambulance arrival.
- There is no national legislation regarding AEDs in Ireland.

¹⁵ Information provided by the Irish Heart Foundation.

- HIQA (Health Information and Quality) did do a health technology assessment on 2013 around a Defibrillator Bill.
- An estimate of the number of AEDs installed in Ireland in 2013 was 11,000-13,000.
- The Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Register is a useful resource.¹⁶



Italy¹⁷

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can buy and install an AED.
- There are no compulsory requirements regarding the installed AED.
- In Italy, there are only semi-automatic defibrillators.
- The regulations are the same for both public and private AEDs.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only those have undertaken a BLS/D course are permitted to use public AEDs.
- However, in the presence of a cardiac arrest, there aren't any consequences if an untrained person uses an AED in a public place.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs in public and private places must be reported to the authorities. The relevant authority coincides with the emergency dispatch centre.

¹⁶<http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/collegeofmedicinenuisnghealthsciences/disciplines/generalpractice/files/OHCAR-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>

¹⁷ Information provided by Dr. Fulvio Kette, Past Coordinator of the Regional Early Defibrillation Program, Dr. Luigi Blarasin, Present Coordinator of the Regional Early Defibrillation Program. FVG, North East Italy and Dr. Guido Francesco Villa, AREU.

- Required information:
 - location,
 - model,
 - brand,
 - AED serial number,
 - pads' expiry date.
- AEDs are currently mapped for emergency services organisations via a database accessible by emergency operators. This refers to AEDs in both public and private places.

AED facts

- Legislation relating to AEDs in Italy is: Law 120/2001 and subsequent modifications.
- There are approximately 35.000 AED in Italy.
- Each AED is used 1 time per year on average.
- 80% of AEDs are privately owned, accessible to public citizens.
- In the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia:
 - There are 800 AEDs installed.
 - Public AEDs are used approximately 15 times per year.
 - 40-60% of public AEDs are installed by government/official bodies.



Latvia¹⁸

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- There are no regulations as to who can buy and install an AED.
- Regulations are the same for AEDs in both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Who can use an AED depends on the institution or company's regulation.

¹⁸ Information provided by the State Emergency Medical Service

- There are no specific consequences if an untrained person uses an AED.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not required to report an AED to an authority.
- AEDs are not mapped.

AED facts

- There is no national legislation covering the installation and use of AEDs in Latvia.
- There are currently 6 known AEDs installed in Latvia in 3 different places: shopping centre, hotel and airport.



Luxembourg¹⁹

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can buy and install an AED.
- Support and recommendations can be provided by scientific associations (SLC- Society of Cardiology of Luxembourg, LRC- Luxembourg Resuscitation Council, etc.), emergency medical services (112, CGDIS, professional and voluntary fire brigade) Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, health structures services (hospitals, external health services), representative of AED firms, etc.
- The ERC - LRC recommendation is of semi-automatic AEDs with accessories (1-2 manual shaver, 10 x 10 compress, Pocket Mask, scissors, face-shield) in a specific case with AED -ILCOR sign, accessible in public and private areas, with an alarm or elaborate system of survey (WiFi) depending on the budget and the place where the AED will be used.
- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

¹⁹ Information provided by the Society of Cardiology of Luxembourg (SLC) & the Luxembourg Resuscitation Council (LRC)

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is not required.
- Training is recommended and is offered by specific training facilities.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- Is it recommended but not obligatory to report AEDs to an authority: the Luxembourg Resuscitation Council.
- AEDs are mapped for the public via the www.reagis.lu webpage.
 - This refers to both public and private AEDs which are registered on a voluntary basis.

AED facts

- The legislation regarding AEDs in Luxembourg is: Règlement Granducal dated 19 November 2008.
- There are 558 AEDs installed in Luxembourg.



Romania²⁰

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Any local authority, governmental/non-governmental association or other authority can buy and install an AED.
- After installation, the owner must respect Order no. 308 of 17 March 2015, by periodical checking the medical devices put into service and in use.²¹
- Installation is carried out on the basis of protocols concluded with public space administrators.
- The AED must communicate via wi-fi to enable AEDs to be managed across single or multiple locations.

²⁰ Information provided by Dr. Cristian Grasu, Romania

²¹ Issuer: Ministry Of Health, published in: Official Monitoring No. 194 of March 24, 2015.

- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Any citizen can use an AED in times of emergency.
- Training is not required, but it is recommended.
 - Courses are conducted by specialised authorities, foundations and volunteer associations.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not obligatory to report an AED to an authority, but it can be notified to the SNUAU 112 administrator.

AED facts

- Relevant legislation: Order no. 2.021 of December 12, 2008 for the approval of the Methodological Norms for the application of Title IV "National Emergency Medical Assistance System and Qualified First Aid" of Law no. 95/2006 on health reform.²²
 - Regards defibrillation programmes: the set of measures, means and protocols necessary to implement, operate, maintain and control the functioning of defibrillators.



Slovakia²³

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

²²Issuer: The Ministry Of Public Health Nr. 2.021 of December 12, 2008, Published in Official Monitor no. 896 of December 30, 2008

²³ Information provided by Operational Center of the Emergency Medical Service of the Slovak Republic (Operačné stredisko záchrannej zdravotnej služby Slovenskej republiky)

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is not required.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not required to report AEDs to an authority.
- AEDs are not mapped.

AED facts

- There is no national legislation regarding AEDs in Slovakia.
- There are approximately 1077 public AEDs installed in Slovakia.
- In 2019, there were 85 uses of public AEDs.



Slovenia²⁴

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- The AED needs to be acknowledged by the ERC (European Resuscitation Council) and have standards for their usage.
- It should be easy to use and have instructions in Slovenian language.
- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is not necessary, but is strongly recommended.
- It is obligatory to train in AED use during the first aid course needed to achieve a driving licence.

²⁴ Information provided by the Slovenian Red Cross

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not necessary to report an AED to an authority.
 - However, it is recommended to provide information of the location of the AED to the regional 112 centre. The centre provides the data to the Ministry of Health once a year.
- AEDs are mapped for emergency services organisations.
 - This is done by the Centre for Information/Emergency Number 112 and healthcare emergency dispatchers.
 - Health care professionals can access the information via computer.
- There is currently an AED database under development for the public, as well as a free mobile app.
 - Registration of AEDs is done on a voluntary basis via a form.

AED facts

- Legislation regarding AEDs in Slovenia is covered by the Rules on Emergency Medical Service (Ur. l. RS, št. 81/15 in 93/15 – popr.).
- There are approximately 2193 AEDs installed in Slovenia.
- In 2018, 785 people had heart attacks in Slovenia. 466 people survived thanks to successful resuscitation. However, there is no data regarding how many of these resuscitations involved use of an AED.
- Additional data can be found on the website of the National Institute for Public Health: <https://www.nijz.si>



United Kingdom²⁵

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can buy and install an AED.
- Regulation regarding AEDs in the UK is the same for both public and private places.
- The local NHS Ambulance Service is available for help and advice on buying/installing AEDs.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can use an AED; training is not required but is recommended.
- The NHS Ambulance Service provides awareness sessions about how to use defibrillators.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs should be reported to the local NHS Ambulance Service (voluntary).
- AEDs are mapped for emergency services organisations by the Local NHS Ambulance Service.
 - This refers to AEDs in both public and private places.
 - When a member of the public calls 999 for sudden cardiac arrest, they will be given information on how to access a nearby AED.

AED facts

- There is no national legislation regarding AEDs in the UK.
- There are guidelines from local NHS Ambulance Services and local governments.
- In the West Midlands, there are about 5000 AEDs installed.
- In the West Midlands, public AEDs are used between 1 and 5 times per week.

Further useful information regarding AEDs in the United Kingdom can be found through the publication of The Resuscitation Council: [CPR, AEDs and the Law](#)²⁶

²⁵ Information provided by West Midlands Ambulance Service

²⁶ <https://www.resus.org.uk/cpr/cpr-aeds-and-the-law/>

3.2 | REGIONAL EXAMPLES

In order to explore whether legislation differs between regions, three countries – Austria, Portugal (Azores region) and Spain – were given separate questionnaires per region. Examples per region have been included below. A third country – Sweden – has been added to the regional example section given that the answers to the questionnaire represented differences between regions.



Austria

Lower Austria²⁷

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
 - In Lower Austria, AEDs are already installed by many different types of organisation including fire departments, municipalities, companies, etc.
- Regulation regarding AEDs in the same in both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; no training is required.
- During the first aid training required to obtain a driving licence, participants must learn how to carry out CPR, both with and without an AED.
- Non-automatic defibrillators can only be used by emergency physicians.

²⁷ Information provided by Notruf Niederösterreich

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not obligatory to report AEDs to an authority, it is nevertheless recommended.
 - AEDs can be voluntarily reported online.
 - The virtual platform is available at <https://definetzwerk.at/>.
- AEDs are mapped for emergency services organisations and the public through www.144.at/defi.
 - This provides both a webpage and an app for finding the location of nearby AEDs.
 - Registration is voluntary and the map refers to both public and private AEDs.

AED facts

- Legislation regarding AEDs in Austria is: Medizinproduktegesetz - Medical Devices Act (abbreviated MPG), which refers to the national implementation of the European Directives 90/385 / EEC for active implantable medical devices, 93/42 / EEC for medical devices and 98/79 / EC for in vitro diagnostic medical devices.
 - There is no other legislation regarding AEDs.
- There are about 5000 AEDs mapped in Austria, 1600 of them are in Lower Austria.

Vorarlberg²⁸

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- If desired, the Red Cross can advise on buying and installing an AED.
- Only AEDs are used in public (non automatic defibrillators are used only by medical professionals).
- Regulation regarding AEDs is the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can use an AED; training is not obligatory but is offered as part of first aid courses (e.g. those run by the Red Cross).

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not necessary to report AEDs to an authority.
- AEDs are mapped for emergency services organisations via Lage und Informationsystem.

²⁸ Information provided by Office State Government Vorarlberg

- This is a computer tool for active operational support, preparation and follow-up for the organisations of the Red Cross, Fire Department, Mountain and Water Rescue, Crisis Intervention Team and authorities.

AED facts

- There are approximately 500 public AEDs recorded in Vorarlberg.
- Approximately 100 are installed by government/official bodies.



Portugal²⁹

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can buy and install an AED.
- There is an obligation to install AEDs in certain publicly accessible locations, such as airports, shopping centers or passenger terminals.
- All AEDs must be included in Programs (with trained personnel, a responsible physician, an internal alert system and emergency medical activation via 112) with permanent quality control.
- After purchasing the equipment, the holder must request authorisation from the Instituto Nacional de Emergência Médica (INEM), which issues a certificate.
- Requirements for a public AED are as follows:
 - must be in Portuguese language,
 - have sound and visual warnings and must comply with the rules of INFARMED (Institute that certifies medical devices), as well as be registered in INFARMED.
 - Normally it should be semi-automatic (not fully automatic), this being only a recommendation, not an obligation.
 - It should also allow the analysis of the case of cardiac arrest, by downloading the case to a computer terminal where a doctor can analyse it.

²⁹ Information provided by Instituto Nacional de Emergência Médica I.P.

- Regulations and procedures regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only people who have a specific training in BLS-AED and who are authorised by INEM to use the device in that specific space can use an AED.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs must be reported to INEM.
 - The site plan or vehicle documents must be forwarded.
 - There must be a physician who instructs non-physicians how to carry out defibrillation.
 - There must be a specifically trained person with BLS-AED.
 - The AED must comply with INFARMED and European Resuscitation Council standards.
- AEDs in ambulances (INEM or bombeiros) are mapped for emergency services organisations.
- AEDs in public spaces are mapped, but not in full. Progress is currently being made in Portugal to make this information available to dispatch services.
 - The map is accessed in the medical emergency dispatch system.

AED facts

- Legislation regarding AEDs in Portugal is: Decree-Law 188/2009 and 184/2012. (Decreto-Lei 188/2009 e Decreto-Lei 184/2012)
- There are 2535 AEDs installed in Portugal.
- AEDs in public and private places are used around 50 times per year.
- There are about 8000 uses per year of AEDs by health professionals or technicians in emergency medical ambulances.

Azores archipelago (autonomous region)³⁰

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- A person/organisation wishing to install an AED must submit the request to the SRPCBA (Azores Regional Civil Protection and Fire Service) for approval.
- The programme must include user-trained personnel supervised by an attending physician.

³⁰ Information provided by Azores Regional Civil Protection and Fire Service (Serviço Regional de Proteção Civil e Bombeiros dos Açores)

- AEDs must have vocal instructions in Portuguese language and must be certified by Infarmed I.P.
- Only automatic equipment is allowed in the Azores region.
- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Training of at least 6 hours is required in order to use an AED.
- In case of use without training, the person could potentially face civil or criminal prosecution in case of harm to the patient.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs must be reported to the SRPCBA and the collected data of each use must be provided.
- The SRPCBA maps AEDs for the emergency services.
 - The map includes AEDs in both public and private places.
- AEDs are not mapped for the public.

AED facts

- The relevant legislation regarding AEDs in the Azores region is Decreto Legislativo Regional n.º 18/2013/A.
- There are around 100 public AEDs in the Azores region.
- Public AEDs are used on average twice a year.
- Defibrillators of the emergency services are used 90 times per year in the region.



Spain

Principality of Asturias³¹

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- There are no specific rules regarding the features of a public defibrillator, only that it is automatic and not manual.
- The regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only trained people can use AEDs, although there is always the possibility that an untrained person uses an AED in times of emergency.
 - The training consists of an 8 hour course, which is valid for 3 years.
 - The consequences of an untrained person using an AED are unknown, but given that regulations exist, legal consequences could be severe in case of death of the patient.³²
- Once used, the person must report this via a document to the health service.
- Manual AEDs are only used by trained medical professionals.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is obligatory to report an AED to the Asturian Health Service (Servicio Asturiano de Salud).
- Required information:

³¹ Information provided by Spanish Red Cross

³² Please see the following regulations:

<https://sede.asturias.es/portal/site/Asturias/menuitem.1003733838db7342ebc4e191100000f7/?vgnextoid=d7d79d16b61ee010VqnVCM1000000100007fRCRD&fecha=6/10/2016&refArticulo=2016-10409&i18n.http.lang=es>

- Model
- Location
- List of present persons trained to use the AED
- AEDs are mapped for both the emergency services and the public.
 - The map includes AEDs in both public and private places.
 - There is a mobile app from the non-governmental organisation.³³
 - There is also a map service provided by the Asturian health service.³⁴

AED facts

- The relevant legislation in Asturias is: Decreto 54/2016, of 28 September.
 - This legislation regulates the installation and use of external defibrillators outside of the health field, as well as the training and accreditation of the training entities.
- There are around 400 AEDs installed in the Asturias region, but the list is not up to date.
- Public AEDs are used less than once a year in Asturias.
- Less than 5% of public AEDs are installed by governmental and official bodies.

Galicia Region³⁵

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- AEDs in public places must comply with the Royal Decree 1591/2009 and must be marked CE and have software which allows data to be extracted.
- Regulations regarding AEDs apply to both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only trained people can use AEDs: medical professionals and adults who have taken trainings in basic life support, CPR and the use of AEDs.
- In exceptional circumstances, an untrained person can use an AED when supervised by the Emergency Coordination Centre.
 - If the person is supervised by the Coordination Centre, there are no consequences in case of harm to the patient.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs must be reported to the Consellería de Sanidad.

³³ <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cuatroochenta.ariadna.enterprise&gl=ES>

³⁴ <https://www.astursalud.es/en/noticias/-/noticias/desfibriladores-externos-automaticos-fuera-del-ambito-sanitario-en-el-principado-de-asturias>

³⁵ Information provided by Fundación Pública Urgencias Sanitarias-061 (FPUS-061)

- The declaration should include a description of the location of the AED and means of access, documentation of the responsible person and geolocation data of the device.
- AEDs are mapped for emergency services through the Coordination Centre 061.
 - This refers to both public and private AEDs.
- AEDs are mapped for the public through the DESA register.
 - A map can be accessed through the app *Urxencias Sanitarias*.
 - This refers to both public and private AEDs.

AED facts

- Legislation concerning AEDs is: Decreto 38/2017, of 23 March.
 - This regulates the installation and use of external defibrillators outside of the health field, as well as the creation of a register.
- There are around 1500 AEDs installed in Galicia.
- 52% of AEDs are installed by governmental or official bodies.

Madrid Region³⁶

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- It is obligatory for certain establishments to have at least one defibrillator.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Training is required in order to use a defibrillator.
- In exceptional circumstances, an untrained person may use a defibrillator but only if they are in contact with the emergency services via phone. They must be supervised via phone throughout the intervention.
- Each use of the defibrillator must be preceded by an activation of the emergency services by calling 112. After the use of the AED, it must be notified to the authorities within 72 hours via a form.

AED facts

- Relevant legislation regard AEDs in Madrid: AED Decree of the Community of Madrid.

³⁶ Information extracted from AED Decree of the Community of Madrid

Region of Valencia³⁷

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- It is mandatory to install AEDs in public facilities (towns with population > 50.000), sports facilities with capacity >500, education centres (>1500 pax), any public establishment (capacity >1000 pax).
- AEDs must fulfil the requirements stated by the Royal Decree 1591/2009 and be properly marked with signs according the ILCOR recommendations. They must also have signs of 112 and the defibrillator user manual must be easily accessible.
- The regulations regarding AEDs are the same for public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Only trained people can use AEDs: medical professionals, people with official qualifications for CPR or having completed the appropriate training course in the EU, people with prior approval by the administrative unit with competence in training and teaching in the health field.
- In the absence of persons mentioned above, untrained people may use an AED in exceptional circumstances, if in direct telephone contact with the medical control room via the 112 number.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs must be reported to the regional ministry responsible for healthcare.
- AEDs are not mapped.

AED facts

- Relevant legislation: Decree 159/2017 of Generalitat Valenciana (regional government) regulates the installation and use of defibrillators in the Region of Valencia.
 - The Royal decree 365/2009 states the quality and safety requirements for both automatic and semiautomatic defibrillators in the Spanish state.

³⁷ Information provided by 112 Comunitat Valenciana - Agency of Valencia for Security and Response to Emergencies, Spain



Sweden³⁸

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- There are no specific regulatory requirements about the functions of AEDs, but the Swedish CPR Council (Svenska HLR-rådet) issued guidelines and recommendations in 2014 on what to consider when acquiring an AED, where to place it, how to train staff etc.³⁹
- In public places, there are only automatic or semi automatic defibrillators. Manual defibrillators are only used within medical contexts (e.g. in hospitals).
 - The majority of public AEDs are semi-automatic.
- The regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.
- There are local initiatives where a city/county/region may demand compliance in education and registration of AEDs, but this is not on a national level.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is not required.
 - Nevertheless, most employees ensure that their staff, or at least some, have undergone training.
 - The Swedish CPR Council also urges the public to attend a CPR course in connection with purchasing an AED.
- Most AEDs are sold and accompanied by a CPR course, but this is not always the case.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not obligatory to report AEDs to an authority, but it is recommended.

³⁸ Information provided by: SOS Alarm, Sweden; The Swedish AED Registry; and Heartrunner, Sweden

³⁹ <https://www.hlr.nu/om-hjartstartare/>

- AEDs are mapped for both emergency services and the public.
- The Swedish CPR Council owns and supports the Sweden AED Registry - SAEDREG - where people can voluntarily register AEDs.
 - Anybody can access the register via: <https://www.hjartstartarregistret.se/#/>
 - The register applies to AEDs in both public and private places.
 - The registered AEDs are validated to minimise the likelihood of false registrations.

AED facts⁴⁰

- There is no national legislation regarding AEDs in Sweden.
 - Each region/county council is responsible for medical services.
 - The regions approve AEDs for both public and private use, but when it comes to organised lifesaving (installation of a system to alert nearby volunteer lifesavers through apps), this must be approved by the county council since it falls under prehospital medical care.
 - Of the 21 regions, approximately 5 have approved this.
- In 2017, 24% of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest were defibrillated before arrival of the emergency medical services. This figure also includes defibrillation by first responders (firefighters/police officers).
- According to the Heart Start Register, there are over 19 000 AEDs registered in Sweden.
 - This is approximately 50% of the total AEDs sold by vendors in Sweden, according to a survey by the CPR Council.
- Organised lifesaving systems (alerting nearby first responders via SMS) have the objective of increasing CPR rate and AED use.
 - In Sweden, there is ongoing research by the Karolinska Institutet to show this in a randomised setting.
- AED availability (i.e. lack of access after office hours) can be seen as a barrier to AED use in some cases.

⁴⁰ Additional useful resources include:

Use of a geographic information system to identify differences in automated external defibrillator installation in urban areas with similar incidence of public out-of-hospital cardiac arrest: a retrospective registry-based study: <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/5/e014801>⁴⁰ and Expanding the first link in the chain of survival-Experiences from dispatcher referral of callers to AED locations: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/304907537> Expanding the first link in the chain of survival-Experiences from dispatcher referral of callers to AED locations

3.3 | NON-EUROPEAN EXAMPLES



Costa Rica⁴¹

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can buy and install an AED.
- There are no specific requirements/functions for AEDs.
- Regulations regarding AEDs are the same for both public and private places.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is not required.
- For manual defibrillators, a special certification is required.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- AEDs do not need to be reported to an authority.
- AEDs are not mapped.

AED facts

- There is no national legislation regarding AEDs in Costa Rica.

⁴¹ Information provided by Asociación Costarricense de Cardiología



Lebanon⁴²

Buying & installing AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anyone can buy and install an AED.
- The regulation regarding AEDs is the same for both public and private places.
- The National Public Access Defibrillation programme is currently being drafted. This will streamline the process of AED installation/use and will lead to a different scenario once implemented.
 - See below for further information.

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is not required.
 - The Lebanese Society of Cardiology submitted an amendment to Law 567 which parallels the Good Samaritan Law present in some western countries.
 - According to the amendment, anybody who uses an AED in case of out of hospital cardiac arrest is granted immunity.

Reporting the location of AEDs/defibrillators and mapping

- It is not required to report an AED to an authority.
- AEDs are not currently mapped.

AED facts

- There is no legislation currently except an amendment to Law 567 that grants immunity to individuals who perform CPR and use AEDs in out of hospital cardiac arrest situations.
- The Lebanese Society of Cardiology reports 110 AEDs being publicly installed in Lebanon, with an additional 44 soon to be installed.

⁴² Information provided by the Lebanese Society of Cardiology



South Africa⁴³

Using AEDs/defibrillators in public places

- Anybody can use an AED; training is recommended but not required.
- Regular courses are offered by the Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa, which usually last approximately 5 hours or less.

AED facts

- AEDs are not currently readily available in the community.
 - There are hopes that as AED awareness increases, they will become more available. This is important as ambulance response times are fairly long and not every ambulance is equipped with an AED.
- An important article regarding AED use in South Africa was written by Professor S.A. Strauss in 1987, highly recommending the use of AEDs by laypersons.⁴⁴

⁴³ Information provided by Resuscitation Council of Southern Africa

⁴⁴ Published in Trauma : The Journal of Accident and Emergency Medicine, November 1987

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