

MULTINATIONAL MODULAR MEDICAL UNITS (Field Hospitals)

Capability gap

Field Hospitals are among the most valuable contributions members can make to multinational missions. A vital prerequisite for any deployment, they are also incredibly flexible, and can be deployed to a whole range of missions. Improvements in training and equipment mean that now, even in the toughest environment, a single field hospital can save many lives.

However, a properly outfitted field hospital requires much expensive equipment, and few Member States can supply the doctors and nurses experienced with trauma cases who are at the core of the hospital's work.



Multinational Modular Medical Unit

Facilitated by the EDA, 16 Member States agreed to build Modular Multinational Medical Units.

This will provide a highly flexible modular field hospital, complete with top-of-the-range equipment and highly trained medical personnel, drawn from across Europe. The hospital will be equipped with state of the art instruments, the required surgical and care units associated with a modern hospital, from psychiatry to CT scans.

At the same time, formal agreements on sharing this resource between Member States will be established, cutting back obstructive regulation.

The field hospital can then be deployed to a range of

military missions, from international peacekeeping to humanitarian assistance, providing everything from vaccinations to emergency surgery, saving the lives of soldiers and civilians alike.

Such multinational efforts in medical support have previously only been ad hoc for major operations.

The project so far

Initiated by Italy – which has considerable experience in this field – in May 2011, a clear road map was provided by September 2011. The project swiftly gathered momentum and buy-in from 16 Member States (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, NL, RO, SE and SI).

A Declaration of Intent was signed by Ministers at the EDA's Steering Board in March 2012, confirming political commitment to this project, well ahead of schedule.

In 2013 a Common Staff Target was agreed amongst the participating Member States. In 2014 the definition of common standards will pave the way for the opening of a Pre-Deployment Training Centre, and a fully equipped deployable capability.

Close partnerships have been formed with the Military Medicine Centre of Excellence in Budapest, Hungary, and with other multinational organisations, ensuring that the project avoids duplication and delivers best practice and value for money for European taxpayers.

At a glance

- Highly flexible, modular arrangement.
- Trained personnel, top-of-the-range equipment.
- All the resources of a modern hospital, in the most challenging environments.
- Formal agreements on use.
- 16 Participating Member States
- Initiated by Italy
- Deployable by 2015
- Avoiding duplication, building on best practice