



History:

ATLS® is a Trauma course for doctors that has been developed by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). It started in 1978 as a combined educational format of lectures, associated with life-saving skill demonstrations and practical laboratory experiences. The ATLS Course was run nationally in the United States for the first time in 1980 and disseminated worldwide since then. It is now a very well known program and has established itself as the gold standard of Initial Trauma Care. It is available in more than 60 countries around the world including 21 European countries.

Founding Year and Founding Members:

In 2005, on the occasion of their 10th anniversary for the introduction of ATLS, the Netherlands invited all European countries offering an ATLS course to gather in Amsterdam. This meeting was the foundation for the creation of **ATLS-Europe** one year later in **2006** in Torino – Italy. Fourteen countries were represented by their National Directors, Educators and Coordinators.

ATLS® Europe aims to:

- share scientific ideas and knowledge across countries where an ATLS® Programme is offered;
- actively co-operate with those organisations in European countries which oversee the ATLS® Programme;
- discuss and recommend changes to the educational format of the ATLS® Programme in accordance with European experience;
- actively co-operate with those organisations who wish to introduce ATLS® to countries which do not currently organise ATLS® Programmes;
- obtain the recognition of ACS and influence the future developments of the ATLS® Programme;
- organize regular meetings of ATLS® Europe and participate in the organization of international meetings and conventions on trauma management



Members:

Full Members are countries within or around Europe where ATLS® exists or is actively being developed as recognized by the ACS. ATLS Europe currently (May 2014) counts 21 countries as members: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, South-Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Milestones of the society:

- 2009: Contribution to the 8th edition of the ATLS Handbook
- 2010: Member of the ATLS® Subcommittee of the Committee on Trauma of the ACS
- 2010: Institutional member of the ESTES
- 2011-2012: Contribution to the 9th edition of the ATLS Handbook

Yearly reiterating activities:

- Annual ATLS® Europe meeting
- Annual ATLS® International Meeting in the USA.

Website:

www.atls-europe.eu

Institutional member delegate:

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Institutional member of the European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery