**A few words about the AED map verification**

15th October 2015

If you are using the Ratuj Życie application, you were probably thinking how the AED defibrillator database is created. It is quite simple – you can start the application or go to www.ratujzycie.eu and report any location that you may know but you could not find it in our database. But this is one of many ways, while another is leading to our volunteers searching in the internet resources and Europe databases for information about AED new locations. But this is not the end of a challenge. The reality we live in is changing very quickly. You definitely noticed that your favourite bookshop has changed address, and the coffee shop in which you were usually buying coffee while rushing to work, does not exist anymore. The building in which you will be interviewed for a job has 10 floors and 3 stairways, and the way to the office is not that simple. Similar situation is in the case of some places where the AED defibrillators locations are reported. Companies change their locations, institutions are moving to another places, and at some addresses there are multi-storey buildings so it is necessary to specify the exact place of storing the AED. This is the reason why it is challenging to care about the defibrillator database information to be up-to-date, so that the amount of time spent on finding the defibrillators was as small as possible.

Location verification is challenging in the sense that it requires a lot of time spent on it, efficient mobile phone and computer is also needed. Sometimes there is a need for engagement of friends who happen to live near a reported location and would not mind to spend a moment on checking if that AED is really there.

But these are not the real challenges since it often turns out that the biggest problem is lack of information. You would ask what is that information about. The answer is simple – not everybody knows that there is an AED in the company they work or in an institution they represent. It seems quite an absurd that there exist companies or institutions where the majority of the employees are not aware of the AED. If your colleague sitting next to you fainted or lost consciousness and was not breathing properly, barely anybody would think that a few rooms further is the AED which could in this case save a life.

In this difficult task of verification we search for telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, and we sometimes use the contact details reported along with the location through the form. Unfortunately, it is quite common that in reported locations there is no information about such details.

Lack of legal basis concerning locating and availability of AEDs in Poland is also a problem. It originates situations in which a person is reporting an AED located, for example, in their workplace or clinic they visit, but during the verification stage we hear that the AED is a private property. It is true and we cannot negate property rights, however, it is a serious obstacle in creating a program of public AEDs and early defibrillation.

Why we are doing this? We are fighting for time which allows to gain chances of survival of the injured person when they suffer from cardiorespiratory arrest. We are also fighting for the prehospital defibrillation done as soon as possible, which means the opportunity for treatment of disorganized electrical activity of the heart (ventricular fibrillation).

If the Foundation’s activity is expected to be effective, including raising social awareness and creating a reliable information database containing locations of AEDs within Poland and Europe, we need to build a network of cooperation and overcome the indifference. That is why everyone is welcome to co-create the AED location database and to verify the information collected. If you notice that information, concerning any location within the database, is outdated or you encounter an AED being not reported to our database, please contact us. New location can be reported by using the form available on [www.ratujzycie.eu](http://www.ratujzycie.eu/) or the designated button in the Ratuj Zycie application. You can change any AED location details by sending a message to [kontakt@ratujzycie.eu](mailto:kontakt@ratujzycie.eu). According to Chris Lowney, “you were born to change the world”. We can make it together.

Tags: AEDAED, Ratuj Życie Foundation, AED Map