



## Who are we

Swiss Foundation for Innovation, is a humanitarian organization developing various medical social and educational projects in Albania since 1991. Its main purpose in the medical field is to support structures of medical and civil emergencies, whilst offering several medical trainings, focusing on Prehospital Medicine.

## Why are we committed to Prehospital Medicine

Traumas happen to be one of the key factors for the mortality of people in their active age. The first minutes of delivering medical assistance at the place of accident is extremely crucial to avoid secondary injuries and premature death.

The number of car accidents in Albania has drastically increased and unfortunately the number of trauma deaths is increasing too. A significant number of these premature deaths are due to the lack of the specialized first aid medical assistance right at the place of the accident, as well as the unprofessional transportation of the injured individuals.

Thus, in order to improve the emergency system and that of the rescue in particular, there is a need of specialized and available emergency personnel in the event of an emergency to assist in providing a medical, psychosocial and spiritual assistance for the injured individual.

## Technical Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Training Center

To achieve the aforementioned purpose, SFI has established the Technical Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Training Center. All the trainings are accredited from the National Center of Continuing Education.

During 2005-2006 in cooperation with some Catastrophe Medicine Specialists from Switzerland, we analyzed the situation of the emergency system, from the place of accident to the hospital and we started to develop a training concept for the emergency doctors and nurses. Later in 2007, we started the first training on Prehospital Trauma Care, which continues until today.

Several teams specialized on the advanced first aid in the event of accidents or catastrophes, get trained at the Emergency Medicine Training Center, according to the highest American and European standards.

In a training program, Albanian trainers are prepared by experts from the US, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands.

In addition to trainings we have actualized a pilot project in Spille of Kavaja. A team of family doctors has been trained on the advanced first aid. Since 2008, the emergency cases in this area have been successfully handled.

Thus, a practical example has been given in raising an efficient structure on handling traumas in rural areas.

## Emergency Response Albania (ERA)

Based upon the human protection and life rescuing principles and with the initiative of SFI, we founded Emergency Response Albania-ERA. ERA's purpose is to offer support and to strive in saving people's lives.

It's goal is to support the state and private structures of Emergency Medicine and Civil Emergencies, and to offer various additional facility services in handling the emergency cases more efficiently.

## Cooperation

Swiss Foundation for Innovation and Emergency Response Albania cooperate with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, and the local Government. In addition, there is a good cooperation with the homologous organizations in Albania and abroad. Since 2010, SFI has been in advanced trainings with SGM to improve transport and stabilization of the critically ill patient. SGM has also provided first responder and fire training with experts from the United States.

SFI cooperates with the prestigious "REGA" organization in Switzerland in repatriating Swiss citizens in the case of an accident or sickness in Albania.