

# New model for emergency services in Albania

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**The Swiss Ambassador visits the Emergency Response Albania - ERA - in Tirana, Albania, accompanied by Albania's General Director of Police**



Swiss Ambassador Christoph Graf and Albanian Police Director Haki Çako at the Emergency Response Albania centre. ©Swiss Foundation for Innovation

The Emergency Response Albania - ERA - hosted a visit by the Swiss Ambassador Christoph Graf and the General Director of Albanian Police, Haki Çako. Both officials were positively impressed with the centre and the services it offers.

"This centre could save lives and serve as a model for emergency services in the country. It is a private initiative and excellent example of Swiss quality standards", said Ambassador Graf.

Emergency Response Albania was set up by the Swiss Foundation for Innovation in order to meet a great need for paramedical services. It is a fully-equipped, highly-trained, and well-organised unit that is able to respond quickly and effectively to accidents or emergencies in a section of Albania's capital, Tirana.

The staff is constantly trained by voluntary international and Swiss experts while hi-tech mobile equipments enable the unit to intervene in extreme cases of accidents or emergencies. Last month ERA was called by the Albanian police to respond to several accidents that could not be dealt with by the city's public emergency services.

Emergency Response Albania is established at a critical time for the country's emergency services and it is expected to cooperate closely with state structures and to transfer its knowledge and model to similar local units.