



A better and safer air rescue service

REGA TRAINS PILOTS IN THE ROMANIAN AIR RESCUE SERVICE



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Romanian flight officer Sebastian Mihali participating in a training exercise at Băneasa airport, on the outskirts of Bucharest.

Swiss Air-Rescue (REGA) organises and coordinates further training for Romanian helicopter crews. With its long-standing experience and expertise, REGA helps improve the safety and quality of the Romanian air rescue service.

Air rescue requires high safety standards and extensive expertise. In the past, there have been serious accidents during air rescue operations in Romania. Failures in safety and operational problems were identified by those in charge who then approached Switzerland for cooperation in this area. The Romanian Mobile Emergency Service for Resuscitation and Extrication (SMURD) has employed REGA to carry out training sessions.

TRAINING IN A SWISS FLIGHT SIMULATOR

REGA is training two Romanian flying instructors who will then be able to pass on the know-how they have acquired to other pilots in Romania. 28 pilots from the Romanian air rescue service have also been undertaking training sessions in a flight simulator at the Swiss Air Force training centre at the military air base in Emmen. By the end of 2013, all 28 pilots had completed their flight simulator training and improved their skills. REGA is also carrying out flying courses in Romania, such as winch and rescue operations in mountainous regions.

Train the Trainer flight training sessions for instructors have also been organised in the country. Four pilots, four winch specialists and five rescue experts have also been trained in using rescue winches. These instructors are now qualified to give internal courses on how to use rescue winches by themselves. Other training sessions on flying at night using night vision equipment and flying in mountainous areas have also taken place.

LASTING IMPROVEMENTS IN ORGANISATION

REGA is training Romanian air rescue service staff in new aeronautical procedures, communication, organisation, security management and organisational culture. This is intended to increase the safety, efficiency and speed of rescue operations to avoid losing vital time when responding to an accident. Instructors-to-be at the Romanian rescue service are taking part in REGA medical training courses, covering topics such as resuscitation, the European Trauma Course and how to deal with newborns.

Responding quickly and correctly in emergencies and providing fast transport routes can save lives. At the same time, this helps avoid the high resulting social



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REGA trainers practise techniques such as operating the winches during a flight with pilots in the Romanian air rescue service.

costs. The Romanian population and tourists visiting the country also benefit from the improved rescue services. Thanks to this project, the operational capabilities of the Romanian air rescue service will be on a par with other European air rescue organisations. With its long-standing experience and high quality standards by international comparison, REGA is making a lasting contribution to improving the quality of the Romanian air rescue service.

Switzerland supports the project with around CHF 1.5 million from its thematic fund for activities in the area of health. The fund provides CHF 10 million to four health projects intended to increase people's access to health and social services, and to improve those services.

I'm part of an air rescue team. Our goal is to save lives and alleviate suffering. Thanks to the training we act quickly, logically and without hesitation in emergency situations.



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Sebastian Mihali, flight officer and one of the trainees of the REGA/SMURD project

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

OBJECTIVE

Improving social security

THEME

Basic healthcare services

COUNTRY

Romania

PARTNER

Swiss Air-Rescue (REGA)

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the past, there have been serious accidents during air rescue operations in Romania.

GOAL

A more professional and quality air rescue service in Romania to improve safety for the Romanian population and tourists in the country.

ACTIVITIES

- Training for Romanian flying instructors, flight training and flight simulation training in Romania
- Training in organisational skills
- Training in medical skills
- Aircraft maintenance
- Development of training programmes

TARGET GROUPS

Romanian population; tourists

COSTS

Total project costs:
CHF 1.8 million

Swiss contribution:
CHF 1.5 million

RESPONSIBLE FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Swiss Air-Rescue (REGA)

This is a REGA mandate from the Confederation which means that no REGA donations are used for the project.

DURATION

2012–2014

SWISS ENLARGEMENT CONTRIBUTION

November 2015

www.swiss-contribution.admin.ch