



Press Release

Date: 30 April 2008
For: Representatives of Media in Albania

Switzerland Supports the Health Reform in Albania

The Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation in Albania H.E. Yvana Enzler signed an agreement with the Minister of Health, Mr Nard Ndoka on supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) in building up a system of continuing education for health personnel in Albania on 30 April 2008. Switzerland aims at supporting the implementation of the health reform. It contributes to the improvement of the quality of health services and introduces a continuing education of the health personnel.

The Swiss Cooperation has been supporting the health sector in Albania since 1993, through several programmes including rehabilitation of hospitals and health centers, training of nurses, midwives and senior health managers. Health is an important sector for Swiss Cooperation in Albania and it is considered as a good entry point to ensure equal access and qualitative services for all.

Switzerland is funding this programme on continuing education for the health sector, with an estimated amount of €1'200'000, for a three-year period. This is a response to the needs of the health sector and one of the priority areas of the MoH. It aims at strengthening the professional competence of the health workforce, which consequently contributes to the improvement of the quality of care delivered in health services and facilities, as well as to increase the overall responsiveness of the health system. This programme will build upon the experience of the Swiss Cooperation in the health sector, such as training of nurses and senior health managers as well as other training of good quality available in the country.

The Albanian health system is facing difficulties related to accessibility and quality of health care due in part to the lack of regular continuing education for the health workforce. This programme of continuing education will create possibilities for doctors, nurses and all other health personnel to have access to qualitative training, gain skills, get a certificate and/or credits, and be able to apply that into practice, by providing a good health service for the population.

This programme encompasses the development and functioning of a centre for continuing education for health professionals as well as the development and functioning of a mechanism for accreditation and certification of continuing education. An other key element is ensuring an equitable participation of women and men in the decision-making process as well as in the programme training activities. The impact, that this programme is expected to have on a long-term perspective, is summarized as follows: competence and skills of health providers are strengthened; motivation of health personnel reinforced; quality of care and responsiveness of health system improved and patient satisfaction increased.

For further questions please contact:
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