



Project goals

Project **“Supporting the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System by providing professional trainings for doctors, paramedics and dispatchers”** started in September of 2009 and will end in June 2015. It covers the whole area of the country and all doctors who are in the process of completing specialty trainings in Emergency Medical Services during the years 2009-2015 as well as paramedics and dispatchers can participate in the project. We cooperate with about 20 medical institutions around the country to implement this project (medical universities, emergency stations, specialized EMS training firms).

Its overall value amounts to 35 534 180,09 PLN = ca. 8,5 mln EUR

The specific goals of the project are:

- completing a full track of mandatory SPECIALTY COURSES by 200 doctors (who specialize in Emergency Medical Services)
- completing an IMPROVING COURSE by 8500 paramedics
- completing an IMPROVING COURSE by 1920 dispatchers

All courses organized within the project are free of charge.

Results of the project (till the end of August 2012)

- ✓ 62 doctors completed the full track of mandatory specialty courses
- ✓ 127 specialty trainings were organized for 1821 participants (doctors specializing in Emergency Medical Services)
- ✓ 165 improving courses for 4730 paramedics
- ✓ 39 improving courses for 704 dispatchers.

Modern Simulation Center

– an innovating and the first enterprise of this kind in Poland

Simulation Center is one of the main products of the Project. Emergency Medical Services Department in our institution was provided with the most modern equipment (financed from the project funds) enabling professional training of medical practitioners. Equipment in the Simulation Center:

Simulator of an Ambulance with full equipment -including stretcher, portable respirator, defibrillator, infusion pump;

Hospital Rescue Ward Equipment – USG machine, anaesthetic machine, resuscitation trolleys, gurneys, ECG Machine, ECG monitor, infusion pump, defibrillator, resuscitator, video gastroscope, bronchoscopes, fast coniotomy set;

Training equipment -advanced simulators of a grown person, a child and an infant with a set of accessories, audio/video system for simulations, USG simulator, gastroscopy simulator.

Wide range of equipment in the Simulation Centre enables conducting medical trainings through creating most complicated medical rescue scenes. This is an exceptional didactics facility with equipment allowing simulation of an unlimited number of clinical cases by doctors specializing in emergency medical services.

Our equipment purchased in the course of the project enables simulation of scenes beginning from helping victims at the scene of an accident through assistance during transportation and finally providing complex help in a hospital rescue ward. Phantoms allow for multiple repetitions of the same actions.

Official opening of the Simulation Centre took place on January 14th 2011. Its overall cost amounted so far to 2,8 mln PLN. It is one of the most modern centers of that kind in Europe. It is also worth mentioning that Simulation Center in CMKP is the first one in Poland to have a simulator of an ambulance with specialized equipment which allows for carrying out medical assistance during transportation.

Frequently Asked Questions

What factors determined the need for such a project?

There is an insufficient number of doctors with a specialization in Emergency Medical Services and changes in legislation require that in a few years only doctors with that specialty will be able to attend to accidents. Paramedics are required by law to complete an improvement training once every 5 years, whereas dispatchers are required to complete one every 3 years. Before the project started they had to pay for those trainings by themselves or failed to complete them altogether.

The work of medical rescue personnel (doctors, paramedics and dispatchers) is very difficult and their decisions are often made under a lot of pressure. Therefore this project aims at increasing their professional qualifications and practical skills through a number of necessary trainings.

What kind of problems are you facing?

At the beginning we faced a lot of problems especially with public tender procedures. It was and still is very hard to plan a budget when market prices for organizing specialty and improving trainings were a lot higher than those given during the bidding.

Also the legislation is sometimes hard to interpret and there was a lot of necessary paper work (Questions and Answers) at the beginning of the project to implement solutions that will be in agreement with the requirements of the project and the administrative obligations.

At the beginning there were also heavy reporting duties to fulfill what made it difficult to work on the actual project.

Last but not least – human factor – we train people who work as medical rescue personnel and it is sometimes difficult for them to coordinate courses with their actual work at a rescue ward or in an ambulance (so they often fail to participate).

Are you satisfied with the results so far?

The questionnaires show that many participants of our project would not complete those courses on the open market because they would not be able to afford them. So far we have trained 43% of the planned number of doctors, 56% of the planned number of paramedics and 37% of dispatchers. Lists of participants are full often a few months before the trainings are supposed to take place. We cooperate with the most important people in the EMS field. Following our example, other medical institutions are working on or planning to create similar simulation centers.

Therefore the project is at this stage a big success.

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DEFINITIONS

DOCTOR SPECIALISING IN EMS

Emergency medicine is a medical specialty in which physicians care for patients with acute illnesses or injuries which require immediate medical attention. Emergency medicine physicians practice in hospital emergency departments and in pre-hospital settings via emergency medical services (ambulances). Emergency practitioners aim to diagnose emergent conditions and stabilize the patient for definitive care.

PARAMEDIC

Paramedic is a healthcare professional that works in emergency medical situations. Paramedics provide advanced levels of care for medical emergencies and trauma. The majority of paramedics are based in the field in ambulances. Paramedics provide out-of-hospital treatment and some diagnostic services.

DISPATCHER

An emergency medical dispatcher is a professional telecommunicator, tasked with the gathering of information related to medical emergencies, the provision of assistance and instructions by voice, prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Services, and the dispatching and support of EMS resources responding to an emergency call.