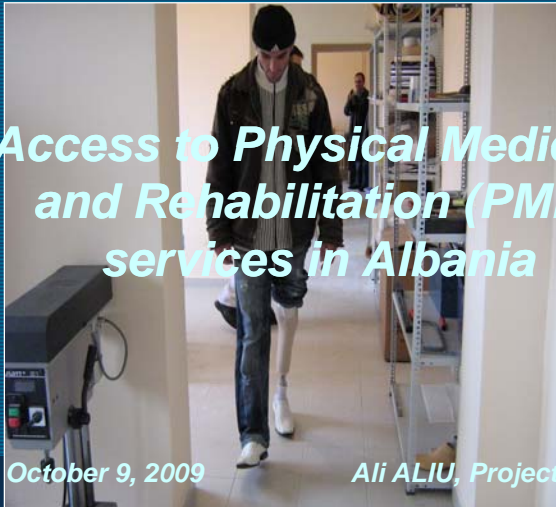


HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
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Access to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR) services in Albania

Tirana, October 9, 2009 *Ali ALIU, Project Manager*

Background

- ▶ PMR services in Albania were poorly developed
- ▶ The country did not have any training facility for PMR professionals
- ▶ A small number of rehabilitation institutions providing PMR services, with very limited geographical coverage
- ▶ Professionals such as PT, OT, PMR specialists, or P&O technician were non-existent
- ▶ Persons in need (PWD & MV) couldn't benefit from proper treatment (prevent complications or reach full physical potential)



PMR professionals

	PMR Dr	PT	OT	Inhabitants
Albania	?	?	?	3 500 000
France	2 000	45 000	3 500	70 000 000
Italy	2 600	40 000	100	60 000 000
Slovenia	100	1100	300	2 000 000
Croatia	350	2000	200	5 000 000
Greece	100	2000	350	10 000 000



Partners:

- Albanian Mine Action Executive / AMAE
- Albanian Ministry of Health / MOH
- Albanian Ministry of Education / MOE
- Nursing Faculty of Tirana University
- Kukes Regional Hospital,
- Physiotherapy school Brussels, Belgium
- Human Study
- French College of PMR Teachers / COFMER

Expected results

1. A PMR National Plan of Action / Ministry of Health
2. Physiotherapy training program
3. Improving the quality of existing prosthetics services training capacities for prosthetics
4. Establishing of the rehabilitation unit of the Kukes hospital delivers basic rehabilitation services (landmine victims)
5. Ortho-prosthetic facilities are being improved at the regional hospital level in Kukes
6. Specialisation for Physical medicine and rehabilitation doctors

PMR National Plan of Action

- A PMR referral person appointed to the MoH
- A working group composed of PMR experts
- PMR National Plan was issued and validated by Minister of Health
- The plan includes priorities, activities, timetable, implementing bodies,...
- Implementation of PMR AP is more challenging
- Slow implementation can be explained by general difficulties experienced by the overall healthcare reform process in Albania

PT Educational Program – NF TU

- ▶ PEP started in October 2006;
- ▶ PT training is on going with three generations of students involved in program (**90 students**), support from Belgian PT schools
- ▶ The first generation of students was graduated in July 2009, the first contingent of properly **trained PT graduated from a public institution** in Albania
- ▶ The challenge is consolidation of autonomous teaching capacities of Nursing Faculty

Ortho - prosthetic training

- ◆ 6 P&O technicians have completed LLP and certificated by MoH and HI;
- ◆ Training is continuing with ULP
- ◆ Open issue Orthotics training

The rehabilitation unit of the Kukes hospital

- ☞ The premises renovated and equipped;
- ☞ Basic physiotherapy services are delivered to the patients regularly;
- ☞ The Basic rehabilitation training for the 3 staff have been completed

Prosthetic workshop in Kukes hospital

- Workshop is fully functional after the premises are renovated and equipped and necessary materials and components provided;
- Skills of P&O technicians upgraded,
- Workshop is able to answer to the needs of landmine victims and other vulnerable people, including prosthesis production and repair services.
- Up to 30 new prosthesis are produced

PMR training

- A one year comprehensive qualification in PMR to a number of medical specialists, currently working as rehabilitation doctors is on going,
- This **PMR Continuing Education Degree Course** for medical doctors started on November 2008, with 20 doctors enrolled;
- Training is organised in collaboration with MoH and is approved officially by MoH ;
- Training consists of five modules of one week, taught between November 2008 and September 2009
- Trainers are French experts in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from the COFEMER (French College of Medical University PMR Professors).

Achievements

- Since 2005, through PMR project with the support of the ITF and national partners, significant progress was made in promoting equal access for all to quality PMR services in Albania:
- Comprehensive **Strategic planning** for development of PMR services has been issued;
- **Physiotherapy Education program** was adopted and implemented by the Nursing Faculty of Tirana
- **Rehabilitation Unit** within Kukes regional hospital was established with a specific focus on mine victims
- **Prosthetic training** for ortho-prosthetic technicians was developed for reaching internationally recognized certifications
- One year **PMR Continuing Education Degree Course** was organized with 20 doctors enrolled.

Difficulty encountered

Administrative institutional procedures at different levels

Lack of PMR professionals and of PMR facilities influencing our activities

Low motivation of some local actors involved !!!

General situation in the country !!!

Sustainability

- The sustainability is almost guaranteed thanks to the local partners' strong ownership and to the close collaboration with national authorities
- Institutional sustainability
- Financial sustainability
- Technical sustainability



