

FACTS & FIGURES

133 member organisations from 41 nations.

Since the foundation in 1993, the number of our members has grown steadily. We currently have 133 national search and rescue dog organisations operating in 41 countries around the world. Across four continents, we connect institutions of different sizes, from small associations to government-led organisations.

2,000 missions.

More than 2,000 times a year, our international IRO members deploy to save lives. Many of the search and rescue dog teams work on a voluntary basis and are on standby around the clock, 365 days a year.

220 million olfactory cells.

Dogs have about 40 times the number of olfactory cells as humans. Their distinctive sense of smell makes them irreplaceable helpers in the search for missing or buried persons. Despite advancing technical developments, search and rescue dogs are still far superior to any search technology.

600 hours of training per year.

Search and rescue dog work is a time-consuming but fulfilling voluntary work. On average, up to 50 hours of training are required in some months to maintain a high educational level. Training often starts at the age of eight weeks. The cost of training a single search and rescue dog for at least two years is about 20,000 Euro.

6 disciplines, 1 goal – saving lives.

IRO trains search and rescue dogs in the disciplines of Tracking, Area, Avalanche and Rubble Search as well as Water Rescue and Mantrailing.

Status: 04/2024