



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



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MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

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MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT DESERVE TO BE HIGH ON SERBIA`S AGENDA

Why migration is an important topic for the SDC, including the M&D concept?

Migration has increased and become more complex as a result of globalization. The SDC has taken up this global topic several years ago already with the aim to make the most of the positive aspects of migration, while containing undesirable implications. Migration can drive development if it is included in a well-ordered and targeted way in development strategies.

SDC's work in the migration field covers the following issues: Migration and Development, Migration in Humanitarian situation and Migration Dialogue. With Serbia, we have gone through all three areas, but have to admit that in M&D we are still at an early stage.

In the light of the general debates about the effectiveness of traditional forms of development cooperation, migrants are increasingly seen as a new 'bottom-up' development 'resource'. According to the UN, some 3% of all people in the world today are migrants. It is anticipated that migrants could introduce new approaches to development practices and potentially lead to partnerships between states, development agencies and migrants. With 4.5 million Serbs living abroad, of whom hundreds of thousands are scientists and highly qualified professionals, this topic would deserve to be high on Serbia's agenda.

As a Project donor and one of the donors active in the field of migration, are you satisfied with the progress of the M&D concept in Serbia? What do you see as a highlight? What is still a challenge?

The biggest challenge is to familiarize the public with the migration and development concept. Through this program we started with the decision makers at the national level going still one step further working with the local level as well. Fortunately, there is a clear link between the two levels in Serbia, with the migration councils already been introduced or institutionalized into the local governments.

The question is how to move onwards from "traditional" topics these migration councils have managed – namely direct assistance and humanitarian aid to refugees from the former Yugoslavia and returnees from the Western Europe. This also in a way helped us show case what migration can bring to the development, to demystify the concept, as we see how these refugees integrated into Serbian society in the past 20 years and how they can contribute to the local development.

However, we need to move one step further and include migration into local development planning. If we look at the diaspora involvement, for example, we have to take into account not only the direct transfer of financial resources, mainly remittances, but also other resources that may be more difficult to measure, such as knowledge, skills and cultural influence, i.e. social remittances.

The Program's highlight at the national level is definitely the adoption of the Migration master program at the Belgrade University, as a joint endeavor of six faculties, specializing in socio-economic, human rights, security and demographic aspects of migration. Module on M&D is covering three sections: Migration and regional disparities, Migration and labour market; Migration and sustainable development. Also, the highlight is the development of training curriculum on migration and development for the local level, and introduction of migration into key strategic documents like the Youth Strategy, Employment Action Plan and the UN Development Assistance Framework - UNDAF. We supported key research papers on migration that are available for the Government and which illustrate that this topic needs to be clearly anchored in key planning instruments to improve them.

In your opinion, could Serbia benefit from actual migrant crisis and use it as an impetus for development of M&D process?

At the moment when our "Mainstreaming Migration" program started, we were still not facing the migration crisis in the Balkans, and we have to admit we were not progressing very fast. During the crisis, after a moment of time, when all the involved institutions managed to take a breath, the program took quite a good pace. Namely, Mainstreaming Migration national program board members like the Commissariat and Ministry of Labor are also members of the Government Working Group for Mixed Migration flows established in the crisis, so they could exchange quite frequently and actively participate in the program planning. The mid-term evaluation confirmed this as well.

As a professional in the development field, I think migration crisis influence to programming in migration should be seen as a show case as its effects we will see only a bit later. But for the time being we are quite satisfied and the colleagues from the Global program are assuring us that Serbia is performing quite high amongst the countries participating in the same program (Moldova, Tunisia, Jamaica, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Kirgizstan and Morocco). Some of the activities within the Program were instrumental in the migration crisis – like capacity building for the different local practitioners – and the program was already there, before the other assistance came.

To which extent projects like this one can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs?

Within the SDGs framework, Switzerland opted to play a pioneering role in its elaboration process in the areas of global scope, such as food security, climate change and environment, water, international finance and trade as well as migration and development.

In the Serbian context, within the Agenda 2030 most important is the migration specific target 10.7: "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."

Serbia just started the discussion on SDGs, but should sooner or later have a national plan for their implementation. The Program "Mainstreaming migration into national development planning" can contribute to this process - with facilitation, technical support and expertise. We hope the participating institutions will recognize this room for cooperation and benefit of this program for the purpose of a new global agenda.



**Ursula Läubli:
Serbia has performed
quite high amongst
the countries
participating in the
Program**

THE 2016 MIGRATION PROFILE COMPLETED, PENDING ADOPTION

The Migration profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2016 is completed and is in the process of adoption. It is sent to the relevant institutions, and after receiving positive opinions it will be adopted at the session of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Immediately after adoption, it will be translated into English and then printed in both languages.

The extended Migration profile also included the basic conclusions of the five migration studies, which were developed within the framework of the Project.

The Migration profile for 2016 is the seventh in a row produced by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration.



PROJECT MONITORING MISSION HELD

At the beginning of June, a monitoring mission was held with the aim to analyze the achieved results, provide further progress in the implementation of the Project activities, as well as acquire new knowledge at the national and global level.

The monitoring mission in Serbia was conducted by the project team of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) based in Geneva and New York, which runs the project globally, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Serbia.

During the visit bilateral meetings were held with representatives of institutions and project partners in order to discuss issues related to implementation in Serbia. The relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and visibility of the Project were discussed.



Project implementation meeting at the Commissariat's premises

TRAININGS FOR YOUTH OFFICES COORDINATORS

As part of the project activities to strengthen the capacities of youth offices in local communities where reception centers for accommodation of migrants are located, two-day trainings were organized for youth office coordinators, from 1-2 June 2017 in Vrnjacka Banja and 28-29 June in Sabac.

The trainings were aimed at familiarizing participants with concepts such as stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination, in order to raise awareness of cultural differences, as well as the importance of tolerance in the society.



Training to strengthen the capacities of youth offices

RELEVANT LINKS

https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/deza/organisation/bereiche/globale_zusammenarbeit/globalprogramm_migration.html

https://www.eda.admin.ch/content/dam/deza/en/documents/themen/migration/229271-flyer-migration-und-entwicklung_EN.pdf

<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Migration/Pages/Home.aspx>

<http://www.knomad.org/>

<https://serbia.iom.int/sr/projects/globalni-projekat-uklju%C4%8Divanje-migracija-u-nacionalne-razvojne-strategije-druga-faza>

<http://www.rs.undp.org/>