



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



**AUGUST 2017**

# **MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**

## **“HANDBOOK ON MIGRATION AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT” COMPLETED**

**T**he “Handbook on Migration and Local Development”, developed under the project “Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies”, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is completed and its printing is expected.

The manual is an integral part of training for trainers in which series of trainings for representatives of local self-government will be held. In addition to trainers, in order to facilitate the implementation of training at the local level, it is also intended for representatives of local self-governments who will attend trainings and acquire new knowledge about migration and development (M&D).

Representatives of local self-governments who will attend the trainings are members of local migration councils, youth offices, local development agencies and regional chambers of commerce.

The basis for the development of the Handbook were the global modules Joint Migration and Development. In addition to these modules, a lot of materials - strategies, laws and by-laws in the Republic of Serbia, studies, scientific papers, positive examples of the return of highly qualified migrants have been consulted, and they should illustrate the practical significance and advantages of M&D in the local environment on practical examples.

The work on the Handbook included numerous consultations with state administration employees - officers in charge of migration management, to identify the best approach to work at the local level, and to ensure that the Handbook and training are adapted to the local context in Serbia. The aim of the Handbook is to bring the theme of migration and local development closer to the representatives of local self-government in a practical way, taking into account the current needs and specifics of Serbia, and taking into account the representation of certain categories of migrants, development problems and potentials in the country.



GLOBALNI ZAJEDNIČKI PROGRAM IOM-UNDP  
„UKLJUČIVANJE MIGRACIJA U NACIONALNE  
RAZVOJNE STRATEGIJE“

## **PRIRUČNIK O MIGRACIJAMA I LOKALNOM RAZVOJU**



**INTERVIEW SVETLANA VELIMIROVIĆ,  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRATION**

## **THE CONCEPT OF MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTES TO BETTER PLANNING OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**



**To which extent is migration an important phenomenon, and to which extent can it influence development?**

Migration has always been one of the generators of development. In the past, the entire tribe migrated to provide better conditions for survival and progress, and today, at the time of technological development, when people's movement within or between countries becomes a common phenomenon, migrations are an increasingly common way in which individuals fulfill their goals. Nowadays we move, temporarily or permanently, for education, work, living standards ... Unfortunately, some people still have to leave their homes in order to save their lives. Migratory movements influence development at both the place of origin and the place of settlement. With the onset of mass migratory movements, the impact of migration can be recognized in countries of transit as well.

**Are you satisfied with the results of the project, and what would you say that the main challenges are for the concept of migration and development (M&D) to be more widely accepted?**

It seems to me that the concept has remained abstract for the general public. Therefore, I think that one of the most important results of the project is the beginning of migration studies as a special program in postgraduate studies. I believe that this will provide an understanding of the concept and, of course, its application in planning at all levels in society.

The other results are immensely important as well: connecting young people from the home country with the diaspora, the specific research done on the impact of migration on the population, coming up with a set of indicators for monitoring the achievement of the goals of the Agenda 2030 in this area, and technical support in the regulation of seasonal labor migrations. All these results directly contribute to better governance and social development planning.

**Can Serbia benefit from the current migrant situation and to which extent can this be a contribution to the development of the M&R concept?**

Every time some people spend some time with us, they leave something and we learn something new, expand our views, we see something different. If nothing else, this is enough. Moreover, I am sure that a large number of people, who are more or less involved in the reception and care of migrants, will be on the winning side because they have passed some training, gained new knowledge, improved their personal competencies. Children who have participated in various joint activities will gain new experiences, some new views of the world, increased level of tolerance towards diversity, which then leads to a reduction in discrimination. We can all feel at least a bit nicer, because we have managed to show that we are human beings, ready to help people in distress. Unfortunately, migrants stay here briefly, but if they didn't, I am sure that they would contribute to the development of Serbia with their own capacities.

**We have managed to show that we are human beings, ready to help people in distress.**

**Can the M&R concept contribute to the realization of sustainable development goals and how?**

I consider that the issue of migration and development is very much connected with sustainable development, and not only in terms of the fact that we will contribute to the economic development of our country by remittances from abroad, circular migrations, knowledge exchange or other common concepts. I believe that we need to create such an environment where everyone will have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of social development, and that basic rights will be guaranteed to everyone, even to migrants. We could then say that we are a developed country, because irrespective of the economic development, unless we ensure that the basic achievements of the contemporary world are available to everyone, we are far from being developed.

**If it comes to the continuation of the Project, do you see further room for improvement of the M&R concept?**

At this stage of the project, a lot of things started to develop and need to be consolidated in the next phase. The impact of migration on development should be monitored on the basis of selected indicators. Trainings should be held in accordance with the curriculum for local self-government units to recognize and incorporate the potential of migration as a development opportunity into their plans. Of course, it is necessary to begin developing the first plans where conditions exist. And of course, it is necessary to continue developing capacities in state bodies that can integrate migration into development strategies. In particular, I am referring to the capacities of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration as a body legally determined to monitor, analyze and report to the Government on all issues of importance in the field of migration. It is necessary to constantly improve the knowledge and skills of the employees of the Commissariat in order to follow all the trends in this field.

**RELEVANT LINKS**

[https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/deza/organisation/bereiche/globale\\_zusammenarbeit/globalprogramm\\_migration.html](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.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/>