

MARCH 2017

MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNDP and IOM in 2011 launched a two year pilot project on Mainstreaming Migration into National Development Strategies in four countries: Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova, and Tunisia. Since 2011, the Project has strengthened the capacity of governments in pilot countries to address migration and development (M&D) linkages in their development strategies; 2) provided guidance for UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to advise and support governments and their partners on M&D issues; 3) shared experiences from the pilot countries with the Global Forum on the Migration and Development (GFMD) process. Based on the insights and achievements of the pilot project and the growing interest among the GFMD participating governments, a second phase of the project is being implemented as a global Joint Programme of IOM and UNDP in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan Moldova, Morocco, Serbia and Tunisia.

The Global Joint Programme is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and is being implemented over a period of four years, from 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2018. On the global level, the Programme strives to improve international migration governance by supporting governments in integrating migration in their national development plans and policies, as well as to continuously follow and adapt their approach to M&D. Another key thing to remember is that the Programme encourages active and mutually beneficial partnership between the countries in the field of M&D.

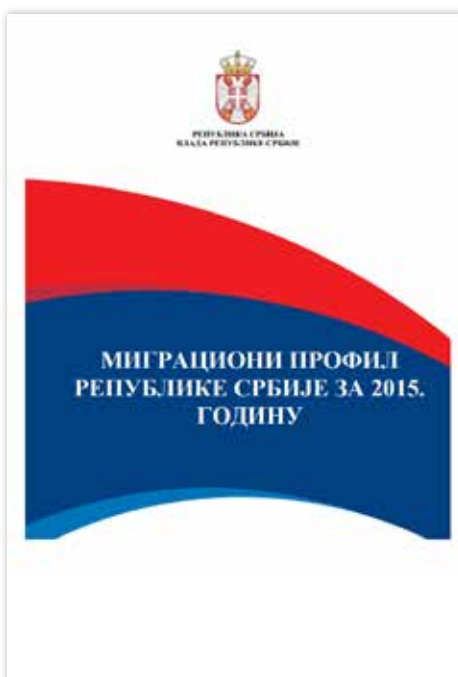


The Project has been implemented in eight countries

MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION HAS MANY BENEFITS

The project presented an opportunity to tackle migration in Serbia in a new light - by exploring how migration can positively impact development. This was an innovative and important effort in a country whose agenda has been dominated for two decades with managing large-scale flows of forced migrants from former Yugoslavia - refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and internally displaced from Kosovo and Metohija. From the year 2000 and onwards, when Serbia took a course towards the EU integration, new challenges have emerged, including readmission of returnees under the Readmission agreement and reception of asylum seekers from third countries. Throughout this period, emigration and brain drain were featured prominently so government efforts were geared towards mitigating the negative effects of migration and aligning national policies with the EU acquis, rather than harnessing development potential of migration.

There are many benefits of joining the process of mainstreaming migration that would recognize their potential for development. Serbia has a large diaspora whose annual remittances accounted in the last decade for 15.3% of the total gross domestic product (GDP). Engagement of scientific diaspora and transfer of their know-how and expertise would be a great asset for national development. Incorporating migration into sector strategies would be a useful and much needed tool for solving problems of regional disparities, demographic decline, employment, youth mobility as well as other policy areas, which is precisely what the Project was promoting.



The Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia is a document that consolidates information on all categories of migrants in the country and provides a description and analysis of the overall situation of migration in the Republic of Serbia, at the same time being an obligation of Serbia within the Road Map for visa liberalization. It is also a specific objective of the Migration Management Strategy. For the sixth year in a row now, The Republic of Serbia has produced a Migration Profile. DATA FOR 2015 *

- Some 59 million border crossings were recorded
- Some 10,134 visas were issued
- The diaspora has a population of five million people (estimate)
- On the basis of work 11,862 foreign nationals has resided on the territory of the Republic of Serbia
- Some 29,457 citizens have the status of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia
- There are 203,140 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija
- Some 579,519 asylum intentions were recorded

* Complete Migration Profile for 2015 is available at <http://kirs.gov.rs/docs/migracije/migracioni%20profil%202015.pdf>

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS, FOUR PROJECT OUTPUTS

OUTPUT 1: Key migration and development stakeholders are engaged in the national mainstreaming process

The Output 1, for which the UNDP was in charge, focused on addressing the lack of coherence within the UNCT on M&D related issues by highlighting the importance of migration issues within the UNCT strategic programme framework and its national development priorities.

OUTPUT 2: Strengthened evidence base on migration and development for planning, policy development and monitoring and evaluation at national level

This Output had the largest number of activities – production of five studies, the White Paper on Migration and Development, Government document - Extended Migration Profile with M&D chapter, and developing of the new policy measures in line with the EU acquis. The knowledge accumulated under this Output is an important precondition for a national M&D process.

OUTPUT 3: Identification and implementation of some national M&D policy priorities

The Project achieved significant results in assisting national authorities to identify and implement M&D policy priorities, and with its studies directly supporting the incorporation of measures in the Action plan for Chapter 23. Moreover, M&D linkages were included in the new strategic documents: National Youth Strategy and Employment Action Plan 2016-17. Studies have also contributed to the process of revision of the Employment Strategy in the part related to demographic trends, where contribution of the Project and produced studies was noted. This was the key output for the future of mainstreaming migration in Serbia. Through development of tailored studies in different policy areas the Project succeeded in identifying and prioritising sector M&D priorities, incorporating them into strategic documents and even translating them into concrete actions (pilot project of the Ministry of Youth and Sport).

OUTPUT 4: Greater institutional coherence and capacity on M&D and sustained coordination by government and other stakeholders

Capacities of National Employment Service (NES) employment advisors and Migrant Service Center (MSC) counsellors were significantly raised through delivery of relevant trainings. Support was offered to the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (CRM) in performing tasks related to analysis and proposing new measures in the field of migration. The important finding is that the project activities were building on the legacy of previous projects (MIDWEB), achieving synergy with previous efforts to strengthen the network of MSCs.



Enhanced capacities of the National Employment Service advisors

PILOT PROJECT TO ENHANCE RESPONSE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Under the Output 3 much attention was paid to the implemented pilot projects. In the wake of the mass influx of migrants in 2015, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (MLEVSA) focused their pilot project on improving coordination within the migration management system. MLEVSA has chaired the Working group on mixed migration flows that was in charge for the migration crisis. During the influx, when local migration councils were at the forefront of activities, in municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac, Vranje, Kanjiža and Subotica, insufficient coordination and inter-sector cooperation was observed. The project “Improving the role of the social protection system in migration management in Serbia” aimed to enhance the response of local communities and strengthen the coordination mechanism. Info sessions were held in Vranje, Šid and Pirot for representatives of centers for social work, and they have addressed the role of social welfare institutions in providing protection to migrants and assisting in humanitarian emergency. The Ministry guides on how to respond to crisis were presented, particularly on how to provide support to the unaccompanied minors and were disseminated to assist employees in the centers for social work in their work with migrants.

Instructions were distributed to assist employees in centers for social work when dealing with migrants. The project ran from 1 October 2015 through 31 March 2016.



Info session was also held in Vranje

CURRENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Improving the role of the social protection system in migration management in Serbia

Within the framework of the continuation of the pilot project “Improving the role of the social protection system in migration management in Serbia”, implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs”, there were workshops held on the topic of identifying potential victims of trafficking within the migrant population during the months of February and March, 2017 for the representatives of centers for social work, as well as the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration that are working in reception centers.

In February, three workshops were held for the Commissariat employees, during which 60 people all together were trained.

For employees at centers for social work, there was a workshop held in Subotica, from March 21-22nd, during which the following topics were discussed: the indicators for identifying child abuse and neglect among refugees/migrants in the reception centers, the phenomenon of human trafficking, the preliminary identification of victims of trafficking within the population of migrants/refugees and the possibilities of support and protection.

The workshop in Subotica was also attended by Mr. Nenad Ivanisevic, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs. During this occasion, Mr. Ivanisevic stated that bearing in mind that some migrants have been staying for some time now in our reception centers, there are new challenges to be overcome within our system, all in order to ensure the adequate care for migrants. Mr. Ivanisevic stressed that the workshop is important for ensuring even better responses of social workers in the field.



The State Secretary Nenad Ivanišević stressed the importance of workshops

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/>