

A BETTER LIFE TO IDPs AND RETURNEES



EU SUPPORT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND RETURNEES

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT

The European Union (EU) is the biggest donor of assistance for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. Since 2001, the EU has donated more than EUR 90 million¹ to support economic independence, decent housing and legal rights of refugees, IDPs and returnees in Serbia.

The **13 grant projects** are part of wider programme *EU support for the sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons and returnees* supporting the improvement of the living conditions of *internally displaced persons and returnees under Readmission Agreement in Serbia and the sustainable return of IDPs to Kosovo**. The EU funded these projects with 5,650,000 EUR while the Serbian national budget co-funds with 350.000 EUR.

The projects are implemented in partnership with the local self-governments and international and national civil society organizations, in cooperation with the **Office for Kosovo and Metohija** and the **Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations** as main beneficiary institutions.

The activities started in June 2018 and will last 2 years.

Monitoring of the activities of the grant projects is carried out through the Technical Assistance Project, which is assisting the EU Delegation and two national beneficiary institutions during the duration of these grants. The technical assistance is implemented by a consortium led by KMOP.

¹ [http://europa.rs/infographics/?lang=en#prettyPhoto\[gal_2\]/4/](http://europa.rs/infographics/?lang=en#prettyPhoto[gal_2]/4/)

HOW ARE WE PROVIDING SUPPORT?

The five projects are implemented in cooperation with the **Office for Kosovo and Metohija** supporting the sustainable return to Kosovo* are focused on support to return, through:

- Outreach campaign;
- Provision of vocational trainings in accordance with the requirements of the labour market, and assistance regarding administrative issues;
- Economically strengthening the final beneficiaries and supporting **sustainable return** of those IDPs wishing to return to Kosovo*.

The internally displaced persons are also receiving:

- Small grants for income generation activities and training to start up small businesses or self-employment;
- Provision of return transportation and assistance kits;
- Advisory support about the concrete possibilities for return.

Facilitation of return to Kosovo* for the IDPs willing to return has been supported through these projects as well as complementary social measures for the reintegration post displacement which provide significant changes in the quality of life for this population.



AFTER ONE YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION

282

IDPs and their family members were trained and developed their skills in several areas, such as:

- ICT;
- Entrepreneurship and business development;
- Agriculture.

150

more IDPs were already selected following public calls to improve their knowledge and skills through vocational educational training;

5

IDP families received support for return in the form of non-food kits (furniture and appliances) and assistance with transportation of their belonging.



WHO IS IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS?

The five projects implemented in cooperation with the Office for Kosovo and Metohija:

SUPPORT TO SUSTAINABLE RETURN OF IDPs TO KOSOVO*

(Arbeiter-SamariterBund, ASB, in partnership with the Center for Equitable Regional Development (CenTriR) and City of Kruševac)

ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING FOR A SUSTAINABLE RETURN TO KOSOVO*

(CARE, in partnership with the Association of Citizens NEXUS Vranje and the City of Vranje)

STRENGTHENING AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE RETURN

(Danish Refugee Council, DRC, in partnership with the City of Kragujevac, and NGOs Božur and Sveti Spas)

RETURN AS A STEP FORWARD

(Initiative for Development and Cooperation, IDC, in partnership with the NGO Proaktiv and the Municipality of Vrnjačka Banja)

RETURN TO THE ROOTS

(Association for Development of Creativity, in partnership with the Municipality of Aleksinac)



A better life for internally displaced persons and returnees



OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

Numerous events such as press conferences, round tables, public presentations, informative sessions with participation of the local media outlets and representatives of the Local Self-Governments as well as media campaigns and distribution of informative materials were conducted to inform the IDPs about available support.

Over 9500 IDPs and family members were informed so far. Over 1000 have called the free phone number: 0800/100-550.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

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