

IOM NTF Newsletter



NATO PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Discharged Defence Personnel in the Republic of Serbia

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MAIN STATISTICAL DATA UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2010

Beneficiaries who received counselling at IOM offices	5,840
Submitted application to the JRP	4,370*
Applications approved and receiving project funds	4,304*

* Including 207 beneficiaries who received interest-free micro-loans, self-sustainability, stimulative or development grants

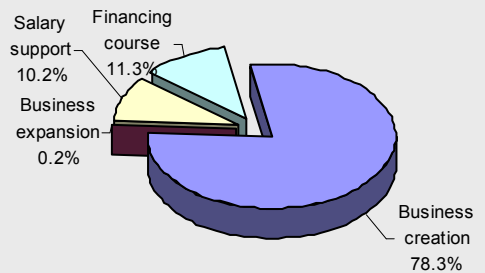
The aim of this newsletter is to provide general monthly information about the project progress as well as other relevant data for accessing the NTF assistance. This issue covers the period until 31 December 2010.

REGISTRATION

5,840 people counselled and registered

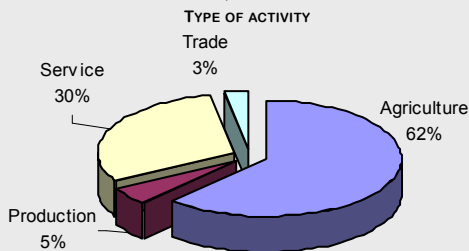
Until the end of December 2010 a total of **5,840** discharged defence personnel received one-on-one counselling and registered at the PRISMA/NTF regional offices in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kraljevo.

APPROVED PROJECTS—TYPE OF ASSISTANCE



DIRECT ASSISTANCE - 4,370 applications processed

APPROVED PROJECTS, MICRO-BUSINESS SUPPORT



Since the beginning of 2007, through the counselling and assistance of the PRISMA/IOM client advisors, **4,370** project beneficiaries prepared their funding requests and submitted them to the Joint Review Panel for approval. By the end of December 2010, out of this total number, **4,304** applications have been approved, **21** are on hold, pending further assessment, and **45** have been rejected.

The majority of project beneficiaries decided to create a business in the agricultural sector, where the most frequent activities are fruit and vegetable growing, beekeeping, animal breeding or mushroom growing. Provision of services like security services, repairing, accounting and taxi companies are the next category in terms of approved cases, followed by production businesses and trade.

Contact details of PRISMA/IOM NTF regional offices
Monday to Friday 9:00–17:00

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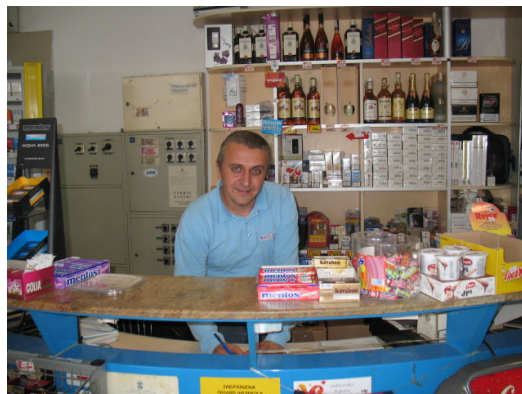


Sales Manager

Nis area - Salary Support Assistance (grant of €1,500)

Mr. Dragoslav Pejic (38), worked for more than 15 years in the Army. Being discharged at such young age, he started to explore different opportunities in order to find a civilian job that would help to sustain his four-member family.

Having in mind the positive experiences of his ex-colleagues who, thanks to the NTF assistance, successfully started their reintegration into civilian life, Mr. Pejic started to actively look for a solution to his situation. Once he found a concrete job opportunity in a private trade company he applied for the NTF “support to employment” assistance. Considering a very unfavourable economic and labour market situation in South Serbia area, and especially in Pirot, the NTF salary support assistance (€1,500) played a key role in his selection as the best candidate for that job position. Today, both employer and Mr. Pejic are very satisfied with a job relation they both consider fruitful and with a long-term perspective.



Greenhouse vegetable production

Belgrade area - Business Creation Assistance (grant of €1,500)



Mr. Milorad Stefanovic (45), ex Sergeant Major 1st Class, worked for more than 23 years in the Army. Once early retired within ongoing defence reforms he started to analyse different opportunities on how to complement his limited family budget. Looking at the family assets and local market opportunities Mr. Stefanovic decided to start a greenhouse vegetable production. However, he did not have the financial resources to start a business that would be large enough to allow him to recuperate the investment and at the same time provide him with some revenues. In such situation, the business creation assistance offered by the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project was essential. Thanks to the NTF grant he managed to turn his business idea

into a concrete and legally registered business. He bought some of the necessary tools, including a greenhouse and irrigation system. Today Mr. Stefanovic is very satisfied with achieved results, and the profit already generated by his new business is a concrete proof of his success.

Pastry & bakery shop “Sweet twins”

Novi Sad - Business Creation Assistance (grant of €1,500)

Mrs. Tatjana Vasic (37) worked for more than 20 years in the Financial Department of the Army. Once discharged within the ongoing defence sector reforms she decided to make use of her cooking capacities to try to find a solution to her unemployment.

Looking at the family assets and local market opportunities, she decided to register a pastry & bakery shop. Thanks to the NTF assistance of €1,500 Mrs. Vasic was able to buy some of the necessary equipment and register a business. Just in a few months this small business idea became a very competitive reality.

Today, this pastry & bakery shop is a very prospective family business that provides a stable source of income to Mrs. Vasic and her five-member family.



Monthly News

Through regular internal monitoring some of the most successful NTF project beneficiaries identified as eligible to receive additional financial support

During the whole period of project implementation the NTF project rules and the operational procedures have been continuously updated to reflect the new NTF policies and respond to the needs of the Ministry of Defence.

In order to increase the self-sustainability of already assisted businesses and to further develop them, the NTF introduced several stimulative mechanisms during 2008-2009 (*flexible, stimulative, self-sustainability and development grants*). Following up on the excellent results and impact of this kind of additional financial assistance, all those mechanisms have continued to be implemented also during the fifth year, aiming to increase the impact of the programme, at the same time creating the conditions for job placement of additional beneficiaries.

Those grants have been disbursed to beneficiaries who were identified through the internal NTF monitoring and regular field visits. The “self-sustainability ” (second) and “development” (third) grants were introduced to further sustain a limited number of NTF successful businesses that present concrete perspectives for further development and potential for the creation of new jobs.



NTF regular field visit

In addition, the NTF enabled those beneficiaries to attend a specific seven-day entrepreneurial training before accessing business incubator centers (BIC) and/or access NTF loans & self-sustainability grants. The training course aimed at improving the skills and capacities of selected beneficiaries to ensure the long term self-sustainability of the investments made by the NTF. Trainings were implemented by the SINTEF, a Norwegian organisation with a large experience and excellent record in the field of development of business incubators in the Balkan region. The courses were organised in seven-day training sessions for a maximum of 20 people and focus on the following modules: market, economic, technology, product, legislation framework for conducting business as well as HR module.



Entrepreneurial training, December 2010

A first round of training sessions for 82 selected project beneficiaries was conducted during the period January - April 2009, the second one for 73 project beneficiaries in the period October 2009 – March 2010 and the third one, targeting 16 project beneficiaries, in December 2010.

All participants expressed their satisfaction with the content and excellent organisation of the training sessions, especially stressing that this kind of additional coaching will further increase their opportunities for successful reintegration into civilian life.

Until the end of the fourth year of project implementation the NTF approved 3,983 applications, out of which 162 self-sustainability grants, 19

development and six stimulative grants.

Due to budgetary constraints, the number of second and third grants for the fifth year (July 2010 - June 2011) have been kept at a very minimal level; ten second and six third grants. However, considering that the second and third grants proved as essential instrument to help NTF businesses to further develop and become more self-sustainable, NTF donors decided to use some of the available funds and support additional number of successful project beneficiaries. The selection process at the NTF Joint Review Panel is ongoing.

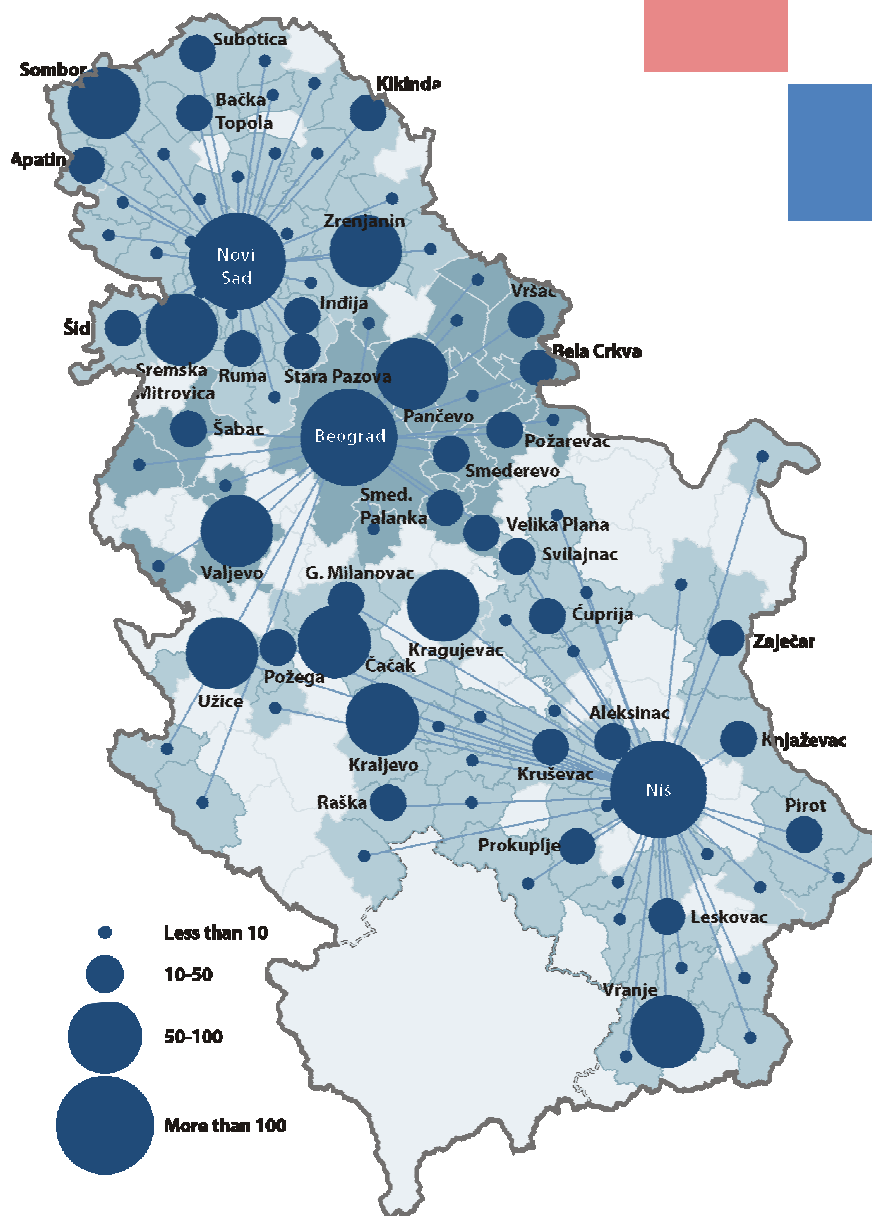
NTF Project Background

Since July 2006, in a close partnership with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia (MoD), IOM has been implemented the **NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Discharged Defence Personnel in the Republic of Serbia (NTF)**. This project is funded by 18 donor countries joined through the NATO/PfP Trust Fund: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom and Norway as the lead nation, as well as Switzerland, as an external donor. The project provides technical and financial support to complement and further increase the impact of the existing MoD's Programme for Resettlement in the Serbian Army (PRISMA).

The NTF project targets discharged defence personnel, as well as their families and dependants, categorised as "high risk" by the Ministry of Defence to integrate into civilian life. Former defence personnel from the whole territory of the Republic of Serbia, that have registered with PRISMA are offered the opportunity to access micro-credit and/or grant schemes for setting up or joining micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as receive enhanced support services, assistance in employment generation, referral services and where appropriate vocational skills training.

Potential project beneficiaries that are primarily registered within PRISMA programme, can apply for project's assistance in any of IOM offices in the four Regional Resettlement Centres in Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad or Kraljevo.

Geographical distribution of Registered Applicants



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission was established in Serbia in 1992, as part of the United Nations Interagency framework of assistance to those displaced by the conflicts in the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Republic of Serbia became a Member State of IOM on 27 November 2001.

Over 18 years of activities in Serbia, IOM has been working in close cooperation with the government in the fields of migration management, assisted voluntary return, resettlement,

integration of refugees and counter-trafficking. Current Mission staffing: 4 international staff, 31 national employees and 18 national consultants.



IOM - OIM

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