



Press release

International Organization for Migration - IOM

Belgrade, 15 December 2008

Sixteen donor nations, joined through the NATO PfP Trust Fund, have decided to support the continuation of the Project for Assistance to Discharged Defence Personnel in the Republic of Serbia

Since June 2006, the International Organization for Migration in close cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia has been implementing the NATO/Partnership for Peace project aimed at supporting the reintegration of discharged defence personnel into mainstream society. The project, which complements the Ministry of Defence's Program for the Reintegration of Serbian Army Personnel (PRISMA), is being financed by sixteen donor countries, under the leadership of the Kingdom of Norway, through the NATO PfP Trust Fund (NTF) mechanism.

To date, more than 3,870 ex officers, NCOs and other ex-defence personnel have received one-on-one counselling at the IOM/PRISMA regional offices in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš, as well as in the Kraljevo sub-office. In addition, more than 2,340 beneficiaries received NTF grants aimed at 1) generating self-employment opportunities in existing or newly established businesses, 2) supporting job placement in existing companies, or 3) financing vocational training.

Building on consistent good results achieved during the past two years of implementation, the sixteen donor countries contributing to the NATO/Partnership for Peace project have decided to support the continuation of the project for a third year.

In that view, His Excellency Mr Haakon Blankenborg, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Serbia, and Mr Gregoire Goodstein, the IOM Chief of Mission to Serbia, signed an Amendment to the Executive Agreement, thereby extending the project for a one year period.

The signing ceremony was held today (Monday, 15 December 2008) in the premises of the Norwegian Embassy Užička Street, Belgrade.

Contact Person **Svjetlana Djokic**
International Organization for Migration
Phone: +381 11 382 17 03 ext. 114
Fax: +381 11 241 27 39
Mob. 063 614 421
E-mail: sdjokic@iom.int
WEB : <http://www.iomntfserbia.org>