



Press release

International Organization for Migration - IOM

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10th Steering Committee Meeting of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Discharged Defence Personnel in the Republic of Serbia

The 10th Steering Committee meeting of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund Project for Assistance to Discharged Defence Personnel in the Republic of Serbia will be held on 23 June 2009. Apart from the permanent Steering Committee members, representatives of sixteen donor countries led by the Kingdom of Norway, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia, International Organization for Migration and the NATO Liaison Office, the meeting will also be attended by representatives of embassies of other countries interested for the Serbian experiences in the field of defence sector reforms.

As it is planned, the first session of the meeting will be dedicated to official presentation of the Report on the Second External Evaluation which was held in period December 2008 – January 2009, while two successful project beneficiaries will present their experiences gained in the process of reintegration into civilian life.

In addition, the Steering Committee will give the opportunity to review the activities implemented in the recent months as well as to report on achieved results and plans for the forthcoming period. The meeting will also include a small diploma ceremony for two PRISMA staff who successfully attended the nine-month Capacity Building Training on Business Incubation.

Within the scope of capacity building activities of the project, the NTF will organise a two-day seminar on Monitoring and Evaluation for all NTF and PRISMA staff. The seminar will be held in next two days.

Basic information about the project

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 Resettlement in the Serbian Ministry and Armed Forces (PRISMA), is being financed by sixteen donor countries jointed through the Trust Fund: Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Austria, UK, Czech Republic, Luxemburg, Slovakia, Slovenia, Finland, Island, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary, led by the Kingdom of Norway.

To date, almost 4,700 ex officers, NCOs and other ex-defence personnel have received one-on-one counselling at the IOM/PRISMA regional offices in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kraljevo. Recently, ex contractual soldiers have also become eligible to apply for the NTF assistance.

In addition, more than 2,948 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. Within those activities, a total of 2,221 new micro and small enterprises were established and 381 ex defence personnel found a 'civilian' job in one of existing companies in Serbia.

Building on consistent good results achieved during the past three years of implementation, donors have decided to support the continuation of the project for one year period.

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