



Press release

International Organization for Migration - IOM

Belgrade, 8 September 2009

The successful implementation of the NATO/Partnership for Peace Project for Discharged Defence Personnel in Serbia will continue to operate for the fourth year

Since June 2006, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are working in close cooperation in the implementation of the NATO/Partnership for Peace project, aimed at supporting the defence sector reform in Serbia.

The NATO/PfP Trust Fund project for Serbia complements the Ministry of Defence's Program for Resettlement in the Serbian Army (PRISMA) and is one of the most important activities in support to defence reforms ever started by the Partnership for Peace program.

The project is financed through a Trust Fund with sixteen donor countries Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Austria, UK, Czech Republic, Luxemburg, Slovakia, Slovenia, Finland, Iceland, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary and the Kingdom of Norway as leading nation.

Within the three-year period almost € 4 million have been spent for the reintegration of 3,122 beneficiaries through re-training, job placement and business start ups. A total of 2,340 new micro enterprises have been registered and 388 former defence staff have found employment in existing companies in Serbia. Around 4,800 ex-defence personnel have received one-on-one counselling at the IOM/PRISMA regional offices in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kraljevo.

This project has a significant impact on the socio-economic development of Serbia. According to a recent IOM analysis, for every euro invested as a project contribution, €1.83 returned to the Serbian budget. Through the project activities it is estimated that over € 6 million have been generated as revenues to the state.

Building on the extremely good results achieved during the past three years of implementation, the representatives of the sixteen donor countries have committed themselves to supporting the continuation of the project for a fourth year.

His Excellency Mr Haakon Blankenborg, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Serbia, in representation of the donor countries and Mr Gregoire Goodstein, the IOM Chief of Mission to Serbia, will sign the Agreement that governs the continuation of the project until the end of June 2010.

The signing ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 9 September 2009 at 10:30, in the premises of the Norway Embassy (43 Užička Street, Belgrade).

Media representatives are kindly invited to attend this event.

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