



IOM International Organization for Migration
ONM Organizata Ndërkombëtare për Migracionin

Tirana, 30 July 2009

Press release

Completion of the 2007-2009 project "Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy on Migration"

30 July, 2009 - IOM Tirana concludes the activities project implemented, in close cooperation with the Government of Albania from February 2007 to July 2009, in support of the National Strategy on Migration and its Action Plan 2005-2010. The project was funded by the European Commission (CARDS 2004) and the Italian Government to support the implementation of 16 out of the 66 measures of the plan. Among the main project results are:

Capacity building for the Implementation of the National Action Plan on Migration: A Coordination/Monitoring System for the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration was developed and piloted. Legal advice was provided to the Directorate for Migration Policies Return and Reintegration. Training sessions on migration legislation for government officials were carried out. A manual on the application of migration legislation was developed to provide information on the laws and bylaws enforced for government officials dealing with foreign citizens and migrants.

Actions in direct the national action plan on return and reintegration of Albanian nationals. A research to identify the areas most affected by migration and return in Albania, and to profile returning migrants was completed. A survey on opportunities for vocational training for returning migrants and gaps in such services was published. Staff training and equipment were provided to enhance the capacity of Regional Employment Offices (REOs) capacities to provide reintegration. The Albanian consulates staff was familiarized service in migrant rights. The National Institute of Diaspora was assisted to establish contacts with Albanian migrant/Diaspora associations abroad, and a database was created on the Albanian associations abroad.

A Policy Document on Information and Communication Strategy towards its migrants and families have been piloted to assist the GoA identify the best communication means for pursuing its information strategy was elaborated. A pilot *Information Campaign was conducted for the GoA with the support of IOM* on issues regarding migrant's rights, return migration, migration and development.

The campaign included two TV spots broadcasted in main national TV Channels and via satellite; a talk show on migration issues was organized on the occasion of the International Migrants Day, several press articles, as well as a GoA advertisement published by the main Albanian dailies to establish modalities of communication with the migrant's community. Two round tables were held to exchange information and cooperation among the Ombudsman Offices in Albania, in Greece and Italy. Information and awareness raising material was published on migrants' rights, consular services abroad, services available at the REOs etc..

Assessment on the Albanian implementation experience with the readmission agreement with the European Community. Legal support was provided for the elaboration of secondary legislation for the new Law on Foreigners.

While the project assisted with only a few selected actions in the Migration Strategy, it enabled the government to pilot a number of initiatives, collect lessons learned and good practices, and formulate plans



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for pursuing the strategy to its completion and towards the formulation of follow-up plans, concerning the management, support and protection of Albanian migrants, who contribute a 25% of the Albanian population and 13% of its GDP.

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