



IOM International Organization for Migration
ONM Organizata Ndërkombëtare Për Migracionin

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Press release

Ombudsman Office and IOM meet Albanian migrants and consulates in Athens and Milan

July, 2009 - In the framework of the IOM project “**Support to the implementation of the Albanian National Strategy on Migration**”, funded by the European Commission (CARDS 2004) and the Italian Government, the office of the Albanian Ombudsman and IOM Tirana visited Athens and Milan between February and April 2009. The visits were intended to take stock of the most pressing issues among Albanian migrants and to strengthen cooperation among the Albanian, Greek and Italian Ombudsman offices on the protection of Albanian migrants rights in these countries.

The agenda of each visit was coordinated with the Albanian Consulates in Athens and in Milan, IOM Athens, the National Coordinator of Ombudsman Offices in Italy and IOM Tirana.

The teams met with the Ombudsman office and the National Coordinator of the Ombudsman Offices in Italy. Meetings were held also with Albanian Embassy officials in both countries, representatives of Albanian Migrants’ and Students Associations, as well as those Albanian migrants present at the consulates for consular procedures at the time.

The visits enabled the assessment of the migrants’ rights situation in these countries, as well as their perception of the consular services available to Albanian migrants. They have shown that the Albanian migrants in Greece are well aware of the possibility to avail to the Greek Ombudsman in case of need, with around 75-80% of their complaints positively addressed; whereas in Italy the Ombudsman functions are not as well known and more needs to be done to inform migrants about this possibility.

These visits are part of the activities envisaged by Albanian Government in the approach of Information and Communication on Migration. In this context, an information campaign on the links between migration and development; and emigrants rights, is ongoing through the airing of two adds on “Migration and Development” and “Consular Services available to Albanian migrants abroad” in the main national TV.

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