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IOM International Organization for Migration
ONM Organizata Ndërkombëtare për Migracionin

Tirana, 9 February 2009

PRESS RELEASE

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is organizing a Regional Workshop to consider **Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination and Inter-State collaboration in the Western Balkans** on 9-10 February 2009 at the Tirana International Hotel.

The Workshop's aim is to provide policy makers and practitioners with tools for the effective management of labour migration from and to their countries, through (a) familiarization with effective policies and practices carried out elsewhere, and (b) discussions on how particular policies might be adapted or developed to suit specific migration management situations. The Workshop addresses specifically:

- migration-related policies in countries of origin;
- policies of particular interest to destination countries; and
- practical means of fostering inter-state collaboration on issues relating to labour migration within the Western Balkans, with concrete policy illustrations and exchange of good practices among participants from Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo under UNSCR No 1244, Montenegro and Serbia.

The workshop will follow the structure of the *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination*, a joint publication of IOM, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This handbook has been translated in the different languages of the region and will be available in Albanian. Its principal objective is to assist States in their efforts to develop policy solutions and approaches so as to be able to manage labour migration and labour migration flows better in countries of origin and destination.

The workshop will be opened by representatives of the Delegation of the European Commission to Albania, the Albanian Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the International Organization for Migration. Participants include officials from ministries of labour, interior and other relevant ministries throughout the Western Balkans, workers' and employers' organisations, migrant associations, diplomatic missions to Albania as well as independent experts.

The Workshop is organized in the framework of the project "*Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising towards Promoting Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans*". It is funded by the European Commission's AENEAS 2006 programme and co-funded by the Swiss Federal Office for Migration, the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the governments of Liechtenstein and Hungary, and the Italian ministry of Foreign affairs/Italian Cooperation.

The project is managed by the IOM regional office in Budapest (Hungary), with the support of the IOM offices in the participating countries including IOM Tirana and in partnership with ILO.



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