

EMPLOYED, EMPOWERED' Facts and figures

About the project:

- 2 year project to address the needs of people affected by forced migration in Serbia towards self determined futures and quality of life.
- Funded by the European Commission and the Balkan Trust for Democracy and managed by the CDRSEE, in partnership with the Novi Sad Humanitarian Center and the Center for Peace and Democracy Development
- Based on the belief that refugees are human capital, not a burden on society.
- Direct, immediate support for all those groups affected by forced migration, through 10 help desks in 9 locations in Serbia.
- Thorough demographic and economic research and application of the research into practical models.
- Training activities based on latest research results will empower the vulnerable group to engage into planning a sustainable livelihood based on their own ideas

Facts and Figures:

- A total of 379,135 refugees were registered during the 2002 census in Serbia – 192,672 (50.8%) in Central Serbia and 186,463 (49.2%) in Vojvodina. According to UNHCR data, 206,000 Kosovo IDPs lived in Serbia in 2002.
- Between 40-50% of refugees and IDPs in Serbia live below the poverty line.
- 25-28% of refugees and IDPs have sufficient income to cover their basic needs.
- Migrant populations are far less likely than the domestic population to be given bank loans or credit.
- Migrant populations are far less likely to own their own homes or land than the domestic population.
- Unemployment rates of refugees and IDPs exceed those of the domestic population.
- Serbia & Montenegro was the leading country of origin of asylum seekers and migrants to the EU in 2004-6 (UNHCR statistics)
- Critical success factors for sustainable income generation for migrants include: knowledge of foreign languages and possession of modern skills, awareness of employment support programmes run by NES, Local Governments and NGOs as well as entrepreneurial attitude
- Promising occupations and branches have been identified as: personal services, b2b services, food processing, tourism, construction as well as electrical and mechanical engineering.
- Useful support can be given in the field of promoting registration of grey economy businesses, effective training in transferable skills, active job searching tactics and entrepreneurship, as well as raising the awareness for the utmost importance of education and lifelong learning for full inclusion in modern societies

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The Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that seeks to foster democratic, pluralist, and peaceful societies in Southeast Europe by advocating principles of social responsibility, sustainable development, and reconciliation among the peoples in the region. These goals are accomplished via seminars, conferences, research projects, exchange programmes, opinion polls, and publications.



This project is funded
by the European Union

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A project implemented
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**This project is funded by the European
Union under the Aeneas Programme.**

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the European Union.