

MAKING MIGRATION WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERBIA

2019-2023

Serbia experiences high levels of international emigration and rural-urban migration, leading to a shrinking population and workforce, particularly in rural areas. 50,000 citizens, disproportionately young and well-educated, migrate to Western Europe each year, with many more migrants transiting through Serbia towards Western Europe.

Given Serbia's challenges with youth emigration and social cohesion of the returnees, the **M4SD Programme** promotes opportunities for unemployed youth and returnees, mostly Roma, under Readmission Agreement, with a particular focus on the employment of women. The hope is that more people will have the choice to migrate or to remain in small towns and continue to see Serbia's rural economy and social bonds thrive.

National

POLICY COHERENCE

Migration Management Strategy and Laws

Establishing a framework for planning, monitoring, reporting on implementation of policies in migration and development

Supporting the national government to carry out a Migration Governance Indicators assessment to collect data, map achievements and gaps in migration governance.

Economic Migration Strategy

Mainstreaming economic / labour migration in local action plans and methodology

National Youth Strategy and Youth Law

Including recommendations related to youth mobility and migration in the New Strategy for Youth 2023-2030

National Employment Strategy

SDGs impacted



Indicator 10.7.2
Countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, a and responsible migration



Target 17.14
Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Local

Prokuplje

Local Youth Action Plan
Local Migration Action Plan

Ivanjica

Local Youth Action Plan
Local Migration Action Plan
Local Employment Action Plan

Knjaževac

Local Youth Action Plan
Local Migration Action Plan
Strategy for Sustainable Development

COORDINATION MECHANISMS



Target 16.7
Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making



SDGs impacted

National ministries

Inter-Ministerial Working Group

National ministries

Coordination bodies/ Councils on specific migration issues

National ministries

National

Working Group on Migration

Local

Civil society

Youth organizations

Other stakeholders

Local Youth Councils

Reports to National Ministry of Youth and Tourism

LSG representative

Center for social work

Trustee representative

Other stakeholders

Local Migration Councils

Reports to the National Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

PUTTING POLICIES INTO PRACTICE TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Strategy of Diaspora Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the period 2023-2027 developed. New convocation of the Council comprised of more than 50 diaspora entrepreneurs, scientists, and community leaders, representatives of bilateral chambers of commerce, local governments, academia, national institutions and line ministries was established.

National

SDGs impacted



Technical assistance to **30+ national institutions** on migration, youth and employment to update, revise and include migration into 3 national laws, strategies or action plans

Target 8.b
Develop a youth employment strategy

624+ young people received training, employment and entrepreneurship coaching in practical career skills (e.g. tailoring, CNC machine operation, English, computer skills, business development). Roughly 1 in 4 (27%) are returning migrants, many of whom are Roma. 47 per cent are women

Target 8.6
Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Projects were co-created and evidence-based, built upon a labour market analysis in 3 cities, private sector and diaspora mapping of approx. 650 businesses and engagement of 17 businesses

Local

Prokuplje

1 technical school expanded curriculum options and enhanced training tools/materials

1 employment fair

1 informal needs assessment of Roma community, led by Roma Association Prokuplje

160 youth trained with a specific focus on returning migrants, including Roma community

45+ youth employed, mostly Roma returnees

17 Roma returnees

Ivanjica

1 education fair

2 analyses to understand the needs of a) unemployed youth and local businesses and b) youth interest in self-employment, and 3 analysis related to training needs

384 youth trained

20 youth hired by local furniture business Matis, after an apprenticeship to become CNC (Computer Numerical Control) operators

40 other young people placed in internships and work practice with 8 local business. 20 of them were hired

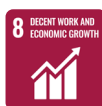
Knjaževac

1 new training center established in a local technical school to expand curriculum options with 3 new and 10 used machines for practical training donated by local businesses

5 local mentors support youth during their training and receive three-day training on mentorship skills

80 youth trained

5 youth employed



Indicator 11.3.2
Civil society participation in urban planning, management

SDGs impacted

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

MAKING A REAL AND MEASURABLE IMPACT IN COMMUNITIES OF SERBIA

This fiche has been developed under M4SD, a global programme operating in 11 countries from 2019-2023. The M4SD Programme aims to harness the development benefits and reduce the negative effects of migration for host and home communities, migrants and their family members. It is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The fiche illustrates not only the work of this programme but also the country's overall achievements on migration and sustainable development.

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