



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)

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Western Balkans Officials Complete Migration Information Service Training - A group of 20 counsellors from the Migrant Service Centres (MSCs) in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, today completed a 4-day IOM regional training course in Tirana on providing migration information services.

Migrant Service Centres (MSCs) were established in the western Balkans by IOM in 2008, in cooperation with National Employment Service and provide information, advice and referral to potential migrants, returnees and immigrants, on legal channels of migration within and outside the region.

Information provided by MSC counsellors include details on entry requirements, visas, residence and work permits, social security and health systems, labour market gaps, study opportunities and scholarships as well as international migration law. The MSCs also assist returning migrants with information on their countries of return. Currently 51 MSCs are operational in the region.

The training aims to build the capacity of MSC counsellors to source and provide efficient, up-to-date and relevant information to their clients in both individual and group settings including providing pre-departure cultural orientation to potential migrants.

The training was organised as part of a MIDWEB (Migration for Development of the Western Balkans) project to not only ensure efficient dissemination of information on legal channels for migration among potential labour migrants but also to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital in order to help in the development of countries of origin.

Temporary placement opportunities for 60 qualified professionals who come from the Western Balkans and who live permanently in Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK are offered through the programme. The selected participants can go back to their countries of origin for a short period of time to share their skills and expertise and contribute to the development of their country of origin.

The project is managed by IOM in partnership with the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees and the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and funded by the European Commission IPA 2009 Multi-beneficiary Programme 2.

For more information go to: <http://www.migrant-servicecentres.org>