



FONDACIJA ZA STIPENDIRANJE ROMA

periodični elektronski informator, Broj 27, godina III, E-mail: fsr@cg.vu ; www.isi-mne.org
urednica: Biljana Alković; adresa: Njegoševa 36/I, 81000 Podgorica, Crna Gora

Architects of Better Life



In mid June in Podgorica, a ceremony was held in a *Marko Radovic Construction/Geodesy High School* where the most successful students were awarded certificates commemorating the completion of their training for simple construction vocations. The students involved in this program were unemployed individuals coming from Roma and Egyptian backgrounds from Podgorica, all registered at the National Employment Burro of Montenegro (ZZZ Crna Gora).

About 20 Roma and Egyptian persons from Podgorica, which were participants of the Second Chance project implemented together with ZZZ Crna Gora, Center for Vocational Training, DVV International and the Roma Scholarship Foundation /

Institute for Social Inclusion (FSR-ISI), financed by European Union through the European Agency for Reconstruction.



Groups attending the program were composed of mixed ethnic background including persons who were not of Roma origin. The non-Roma participants showed a high level of patience and solidarity with the Roma students, thus contributing to the process of social inclusion of Roma students. The facilitators of the Second Chance project are convinced that this approach is significant not only because of the inclusion factor but also because it enhances the quality of the vocational training. One group had difficulties in following the theoretical and especially the practical part of the training and often there were problems with understanding the general terminology due to language constraints of some of the participants. FSR-ISI project assistant Senad Sejdovic adds that the FSR-ISI organized daily monitoring visits to all of the programs of the vocational training, particularly paying attention to the quality of program, the training curriculum, relations between Roma and non-Roma students and relations between the training staff and participants and full-time participation in the training program.

Biljana Alković



Examination

The Training Centre of the Montenegrin Employment Agency (ZZZ Crna Gora), which works within the Construction School, first organized a theoretical and afterwards, a practical exam. All of the participants passed the exam. The representatives of CSO were also present during the exam, moreover, the Employment Agency invited several employers to be present during the final exam. As an unexpected result, one Roma participant from the painting training course, was offered employment (starting with a three months temporary employment period, in order to match the legal requirements), which demonstrated showed the effectiveness of this training program.

Overall number of participants

In Podgorica, about 50 people were enrolled in the programs of vocational training to become art technicians, hairdressers, plumbers, wall painters, ceramists, and communal services/public hygiene personnel. In Niksic around 15 persons are enrolled, training for the positions of auto mechanics, communal services personnel, cooks or hairdressers. They also completed the a computer literacy course..



Speech by Lidija Draskovic, Coordinator of the Center for Vocational Training

Towards Employment

“Today you will receive a certificate honoring knowledge you acquired in the field of construction, ceramics, plumbing, and painting vocation. The 26 of you, in the past two months have received quality education and acquired solid working skills in the field of the vocations you chose. Up until now, more than 160 unemployed persons, coming from different age groups and vocational trainings, passed this training in the last two years of the work of the center for employment in Podgorica.

The reason for the creation of this center was due to the huge deficit of employees, a great number of none-resident workers coming from neighboring countries, and numerous unemployed persons without a vocation or having vocational training that is not desired anymore, and a decrease in number of participants in vocational schools. Through an agreement of cooperation with the Employment Agency and the Construction-Geodic School in September 2005, a Center for Training of Construction Vocations was launched. Its role is to satisfy the needs of formal and non-formal education through training of unemployed persons. The school has created excellent accommodating conditions and the Employment Agency, with its equipment, has contributed to all standards that allow the exercise of practical work. Everything was set up in a way to allow candidates enough space and time in order to get acquainted with the way employment works and with the training itself and to gain more confidence and be confident about their own knowledge. The training that takes place in this center is a part of the standardized training for specific vocations lasting for the period of two to three months, depending on the program. The lecturers and trainers that are here today can tell us more about the specifics of the training.

What we expect from the joint effort is that the participants will gain even more experience, knowledge and skills that will enable them to secure employment. The experiences from the previous trainings show that the greatest percent of participants in this vocation end up finding employment whether be it with employers or self-employment.

I would like to use this chance to invite all unemployed persons and those who are looking for a job for themselves or others in the field of construction to come to the Vocational Training Centre of ZZZ in Podgorica, or anywhere else in Montenegro and acquire more detailed information and with our help, assure their future. Finally, I would like to congratulate you on your successful completion of this training and wish you success in life and work.

Speech by Lidija Draskovic, Coordinator of the Centre for Vocational Training:

A Place from which a Better Life Begins

From 2000, the Construction-Geodic High School has been involved in an adult education program as an integral part of the Training Center of Podgorica. A need for this kind of education is in line with the needs of the Employment Agency's record of persons without employment.

The school makes use of the available space, equipment and a curriculum which offers a theoretical and practical training in line with the adopted program that trains adults to be ceramicists, , floorer/ fire place fitter, plumber, assembler, wall painter, and assistant positions for these professions. The training is done in 2 cycles over the period of two years, and until now 300 candidates have finished the program. In terms of the practical part, professionals from the above mentioned fields often get involved, which has proved to be quite effective.

The training takes place over the 2-3 months depending on the program. For the first time, in the last cycle we trained Roma persons who are part of the Second Chance program.

Our school is very satisfied with the achieved results and the ability of the candidates to continue working in the fields they were trained in. Our partners are also quite satisfied with the training, including the companies with whom we have excellent relations and which are able to provide employment for our candidates as soon as possible. We would like to also mention our excellent cooperation with the ZZZ of Montenegro and thank all those which have contributed to the success of this training.



Speech by Aleksandar Zeković, director of FSR-ISI

Investing in Education and Vocational Training is Investing in a Future Cohesive Society

Dear participants of the Second Chance program and dear guests, today we have an opportunity to attend one more very important event in the process of social inclusion of Montenegrin Roma. Out of a total of 19 participants which were enrolled in programs of simple construction vocations, 15 of them successfully achieved titles of assistant ceramicist, assistant painter, and assistant plumber.

The program Second Chance which is realized together with Employment Agency of Montenegro, the VET Centre, the Roma Scholarship Foundation and DVV International, is the most effective contribution to the inclusion of Roma in Montenegrin society.

The project, which is financed by European Union, through the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR), aspired for the persons of Roma and Egyptian nationality in Podgorica and Nikšić to attend an official program for functional literacy and vocational training, including added content such as driving license training and computer training, so that they could increase their opportunities for integration into the society and finding lasting and valuable employment.

Roma still remain a group with limited opportunities for employment, with low competition and mobility on the labour market because of their general low level of education, lack of professional skills, and discrimination.

The Employment Agency of Montenegro is responsible for activities aiming at the implementation of national action plan dealing with the inclusion of Roma in the field of employment.

Important progress has been made over a period of time for creating favorable outlooks and environment for adopting Active Politics for Employment (APZ) and increase of employment benchmarks for the Roma population.

The most successful participants of the program for construction vocations, Ada Adžovića, Nebiha Beriša and Samira Haziraj were given a financial reward and a book by the ZZZ of Montenegro and FSR. Mr. Gorad Scepanović of ZZZ Montenegro awarded the certificates for successful completion of the program to the participants.

The Road to Social Economy

According to the director of the Construction/Geodic High School, the candidates showed high interests, motivation and creativity during the training. Professor Miranovic states that forming of positive attitudes toward employment and fully committing themselves to the training is a good reference for future work. The

director of the Construction/Geodic High School believes that the Second Chance project is successfully completed and that it truly gives a second chance to the unemployed Roma individuals. The cooperation with the professional could provide them the opportunity of continuing work, a chance for improvement of their skills and securing employment. The ZZZ of Montenegro and the FSR have done all in their power. Now the ball is in the court of the state commission responsible for the adoption of the strategy for improving the situation of the RAE Population, so that this group in particular could be brought into light and provided grounds for employment thus contributing to further development of social economy in Montenegro.

B.A.