

EAR pledges continued support to IOM's income generation and community development projects for ethnic minority groups in Kosovo



IOM/EAR/CSP project of rehabilitation of Community Cultural Center in village of Velika Hoca/Hoçë e Madhe Rahovec/Orahovac Municipality

In November 2005, the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) and the IOM Mission in Kosovo signed an agreement to extend the EAR's funding of IOM's income generation and community development projects targeting ethnic minority groups in Kosovo. This new contract with EAR will support two ongoing IOM projects: the Community Stabilization Programme (CSP) and the Community Investment Projects (CIP), a component of the Support for Enterprise Development in Minority Regions (SEDMIN) Programme.

Since November 2002 IOM Kosovo has been implementing the IOM/EAR CSP, which provides income-generating opportunities through grants disbursement to ethnic minority populations living in very hard economic conditions.

Over the last three years CSP has implemented 531 community and individual projects. IOM's implementation of this programme has centered on the provision of small grants for specific, individual income-generation projects and support to community development projects through financial and technical assistance. CSP's main objective is to improve the social and economic conditions of ethnic minority communities living in enclaves and in isolated areas throughout Kosovo, thereby mitigating the outflow of minority communities.

In November 2004, the EAR-IOM "Support for Enterprise Development in Minority Regions (SEDMIN)" programme completed its micro-credit component during its third and final phase and commenced with Community Investment Projects (CIP). The funding for these projects is provided through repayments from the micro-credit component of SEDMIN. The aim of CIP is to foster local economic development in ethnic minority areas. It will further support the creation of employment opportunities through the funding of economically oriented projects in the service of the community.

The foreseen impact of CIP will be achieved through interventions including: the provision of materials and equipment to relevant NGOs, universities, secondary schools, and libraries, as well as specialized mobile libraries; capacity building through specialized courses and seminars aimed at developing business skills; and business promotion.