

## Successful return of Serbian IDP expands in the Pejë / Pec region



*A handover ceremony for the 40 newly reconstructed houses in the attendance of EAR Head of Mission Mr. Thierry Bernard-Guele IOM CoM Mr. Enrico Ponziani , PISG Prime Minister Mr. Agim Çeku and Peja/Pec major Mr. Ali Lajçi*

The programme for the Return of Internally Displaced Persons to the Villages of Siga/Sigë, Brestovik and Ljevoša/Levoshë, in the Pejë/Pec Municipality, funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) concluded in December by successfully ensuring the sustainable return of 40 Serbian IDP families who were previously displaced in the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro. On 9 November, a handing-over ceremony commemorated the forty newly reconstructed houses. Key participants included the EAR Head of Mission, Mr. Thierry Bernard-Guele, the IOM CoM Mr. Enrico Ponziani and the Prime Minister of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG), Mr. Agim Çeku, who joined in beneficiaries' satisfaction with this achievement. The European Commission, through the European Agency for Reconstruction, has provided 1.2 million EUR for the reconstruction of these 40 houses including the necessary infrastructure and utilities, as well as the provision of income generation opportunities and inter-ethnic dialogue activities. The European Commission has cultivated conditions supporting ethnic minority communities through a myriad of programmes including inter alia: capacity building projects, the municipal infrastructure development programme, the development of policies and legislation, civil service reform, the rule of law, small and medium enterprises development, and vocational training. IOM has been working in these villages for the last three years. Two years ago, IOM successfully facilitated the return of the first ethnic Serbian displaced populations to this area by constructing 90 houses for them.