

**-Level Panel on Internal Displacement**

**Call for Submissions and Inputs**

**Information provided by Montenegro**

- 1. Key issues, problems or imperative which, according to you, should be a priority of the Panel in its analysis of the internal displacement crisis today and how the prevention, border response and solutions can be efficiently improved.**

**ANSWER:**

Following the outbreak of the Kosovo conflict in 1998, for the first time Montenegro faced the  
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determining the time and place of birth of the child through the initiation of non-litigious proceeding before the competent court.

- 3. The importance and role of reducing humanitarian, development, peace, climate and disaster reduction actions, and how a more integrated approach can be encouraged in this respect. Contributions in this regard may also relate to the role of the private sector, regional or international financial institutions and other development partners and actors.**

#### **ANSWER:**

In this regard, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representation in Montenegro signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on June 6, 2014 and defined a set of measures taken to deliver assistance to these persons, who live in Montenegro, in applying for solving their status. This Memorandum also established an Operational Team, which monitored the situation and took appropriate measures, all with the aim of supporting and actively integrating these persons into Montenegrin society.

In this manner, Montenegro has granted access to all rights to internally displaced persons from Kosovo and reduced the legal or factual differentiation or unequal treatment in the access to rights.

In addition to the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, the Police Directorate, the Employment Agency of Montenegro, Red Cross of Montenegro and UNHCR were also included in addressing this issue.

On November 4, 2013, Montenegro has signed the Framework Agreement on Implementation of the Regional Housing Programme with the Council of Europe Development Bank defining the implementation structure for Montenegro, with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as a leading institution.

So far, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare has signed a total of 9 grant agreements for sub-projects in Montenegro, with a total value of EUR 27 million, of which EUR 22.6 million has been donated, as well as the Operating Grant Agreement signed on May 30, 2015, with a total grant value of €304,568.

#### Status of approved sub-projects

The second sub-project MNE 2 – construction of 171 housing units for residents of the Camp Konik in Podgorica. Works on mne2 – second phase officially started on May 18, 2017, and were completed in August 2018, after which the procedure of technical acceptance and obtaining the operating permit was entered. All beneficiaries moved into the newly constructed apartments in December 2018. With the completion of this sub-project, the Camp Konik Collective Center was completely closed.

The third sub-project of MNE 3 is the construction of a Home for Elderly in Pljevlja, worth EUR 2,812,816, of which grant funds are EUR 1,918,000. The facility was completed and moved in in April 2018. A total of 40 users have been accommodated so far, and it is planned that the full capacity of the home will be filled by spring 2019. Currently, 54 users are staying in the Home.

The fourth sub-project of MNE 4 - Construction of 94 housing units in Berane municipality, with a total value of €3,990,647.48, of which donor funds are €3,575,779. In February 2019, it is planned to move in the buildings and ceremonially hand over the keys to 94 families from the Rudeš I and Rudeš II settlements. The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, in cooperation with partners, has selected beneficiaries. The construction of 94 residential units in Berane will completely close two collective centers - Rudeš I and Rudeš II. In March 2019, keys were officially handed over to beneficiaries. Total savings on this sub-project were €920,000.00.

MNE 6 Reconstruction of existing military facilities - Trebjesa military from the

bodies and other competent organisations in the implementation of the Strategy and of the Action Plan for its implementation.

The Government of Montenegro has implemented this initiative through the adoption of a Strategy for the Permanent Resolution of the Issue of Displaced Persons and Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo, with particular reference to the Konik area with annual Action Plans. The objective of the Strategy was to address internally displaced persons in a lasting and sustainable way, through local integration or voluntary return, in cooperation with the international community, the civil sector, in accordance with international standards and principles.

The main objectives of the Action Plans were: addressing the legal status of displaced and internally displaced persons, exercising their right to education, health care, social and child protection, inclusion in the labour market, improving housing conditions, providing assistance for voluntary and permanent return, and strengthening the security model and improving compliance with legislative deadlines.

**5. New or creative financing solutions that can be built upon or better utilized in enabling more effective responses to displacement and achieving durable solutions.**

**ANSWER:**

Through the Regional Housing Programme (RSP), Montenegro has provided permanent housing solutions for the most vulnerable displaced and internally displaced persons through local integration or within the social protection system.

Over the past years, the Government of Montenegro, with the support of international donors, has built around 1,300 housing units for the most vulnerable population, which has been integrated into the local community, making this project sustainable even in the sense of economics.

**6. Critical issues as seen in terms of data and evidence in response to internal displacement, including gaps and challenges in access or application, and how these problems can be addressed.**

**ANSWER:**

Considering that Montenegro has resolved the legal status and housing of IDPs, thus enabling them to access the labour market and satisfy a range of basic social and economic rights and needs, which also affects access to education, which ultimately leads to economic independence and permanently solves the problem, which required the cooperation of different levels-government sector/non-governmental sector/international entities, participation of even the targeted population, this resulted in an integrated approach and a comprehensive understanding of their needs.

Montenegro will continue to work to provide these persons with social and economic integration, legal expertise, i.e., to provide them with guaranteed rights, the resolution of legal status,

documents and anti-discrimination, and the protection of these persons in need, as well as the provision of accommodation, which has been the focus so far.

By adopting a series of legislative changes, Montenegro has encouraged and facilitated easier integration, as well as easier functioning to this category of persons and, as before, it will enable



whose coordination was carried out by the central authorities from Podgorica, is of particular importance.

Bearing in mind that innovation is an indispensable factor in the development of every society, Montenegro is the first of the countries in the region to address this issue in the first place by adopting strategic documents, changing the legislative framework, signing bilateral cooperation agreements and signing memoranda of cooperation with international and non-governmental organisations. All this is of even greater importance given that the activities were carried out in specific circumstances, with creativity, openness to cooperation, adaptability, through practical work and engagement in the field, and especially given that persons belonging to vulnerable categories were treated.

Recognising the particularity of this social group and Montenegro's efforts to assist them in the field of emancipation and integration, as equal citizens in the Montenegrin society, a Verification Team for Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo was formed, between the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Representation in Montenegro, In November 2017, aimed at making direct individual visits to these persons and providing additional information in the field in order to complete the process of resolving their legal status in Montenegro.

A foreigner is granted permanent residence in Montenegro for an indefinite period of time, which guarantees him the above mentioned rights (right to work, employment, education, professional development, recognition of diplomas and certificates, social aid, health and pension insurance, tax reliefs, access to the labour and services market, freedom of association and membership in organisations representing the interests of workers or employers), and after 10 years of la

