newsletter
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AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Caritas Austria

YourJob

YourJob

Youth **O**vercoming **U**nemployment **R**egionally through **J**ob **O**pportunities on the **B**alkans



Project info

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Caritas Serbia, Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina, Caritas Kosova, Caritas Albania together with Caritas in Austria and the financial support of the Austrian Development Cooperation have launched a regional program called YourJob - *Youth Overcoming Unemployment Regionally through Job Opportunities on the Balkans*, in order to increase employability of young people in the Western Balkans. The idea behind the programme is to give young people, especially those who are engaged neither through education, employment nor training, the opportunity to shape their future, develop their skills and abilities. The aim of the programme is reached through career counselling, support for young people, training, opportunities for internships and starting a business. The added value of this program is the cooperation of Caritas organizations from the region, through joint messages of advocacy and lobbying, as well as the development of strategies that offer long-term solutions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: To contribute to the employability of young people of ages 15 to 30 and create opportunities for their employment in Southeast Europe in Aleksinac, Ruma, Zrenjanin, Kurbin, Lezha, Banja Luka, Mostar, Gjakovë, Prizren, Viti, and Kllokot



EXPECTED RESULTS: Increased employability of vulnerable young people with professional orientation, career counselling as well as first work experience and entrepreneurial practice. Employers in the Balkans show an increased level willingness to integrate the young workforce into their businesses. Planned activities: to open Caritas Youth Employment Counselling centres, trainings for active job search, organizing seminars to strengthen youth skills, organizing the trainings, supporting programs for adult vocational training and education and internship programs, the incubation of business ideas, and grants for the start-up of social enterprises.

Editor's note

Dear reader

We are pleased and proud to present first issue of our Regional newsletter in English for the common program YourJob. With the programme, we Caritas organizations in the region, with the great support of the partners in Austria aim to give a hand to jobless young people improving skills and opportunities for a better future in their own country. It is a challenging task for all of us to animate youngsters not to leave the country seeking a job abroad, but to develop own perspectives at home.

In this first period of implementation, we started activities as kick-off activities, conferences, meetings, presentations, partnership creation, and animations. More is about to come in the following period. In this issue, we will give you an insight into the activities through links on our web sites and social networks. **For more information, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Caritas web sites.**

Every issue will have one thematic focus and for the first issue our partners in Austria send us an inspirational message. One sentence is guiding us through this first newsletter: **Let us take care of each other!**

In the spirit of caring for each other, we wish you nice reading. Feel free to contact us for any feedback or question. Until our next newsletter reading, we greet you.

Sanja Horvat
Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina

YourJob – Message by Caritas Austria

YourJob – Youth Overcoming unemployment regionally through job opportunities on the Balkans – isn't this a great vision for the future? It is our vision and the starting point when a team of colleagues from Austria and Southeast Europe decided to start the development of this common regional program.

During the opening of the YourJob Kick-off Conference in Shkodra, the president of Caritas Albania Archbishop Massafra said: "We as members of the church have to take care of our common home, as Pope Francis stipulates. Living in our common home, we should take care of each other. There are so many inequalities in the society; fundamental rights of the young people are not accessible for them. Solidarity, the preferential option for the poor and hope are the core of our organisation. We place hope in the future and thus also in our youth. They are the today and the future of our society".

The Kick-off event of YourJob was a special



moment. Programmes reaching out to a whole region are one of the main strategic instruments Caritas Austria is working with. We are convinced that the added value of this approach is that the whole is more than the sum of its parts: synergies can be created and persisting in the countries can be solved in a better way. One factor for success is the close cooperation with local partner organisations that are well rooted in their countries and their societies.



All partners in the project are specialists in regard to social challenges and possible solutions in the field of poverty reduction. We know our target group; we listen to them and help them to find solutions. We will always follow a grassroots approach where the people are in the centre.

No actor can meet the global challenge of poverty alone and we are really grateful for the support and trust of the Austrian Development Agency in this effort.



When we strive for a good future for our children and youth, we have to join forces and do our best. We see this in Austria, where our diocesan offices, who are also partners in this programme, gained a lot of experience in creating opportunities for disadvantaged children and youth; based on this knowledge we dare to do the same here in the region.

To sum up: Regional, cross-country programmes are instruments to follow an integrated approach, with the aim to co-create added and sustainable value for those in need.

Birgit Ertl & Tobias Noelke
Caritas Austria

Links on articles:

Caritas Serbia



Retrospective of activities



Workshop on individual counseling



Memorandum of Cooperation Ruma



Memorandum of Cooperation Aleksinac

Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina



Study visit



#ZaposliOSI fair



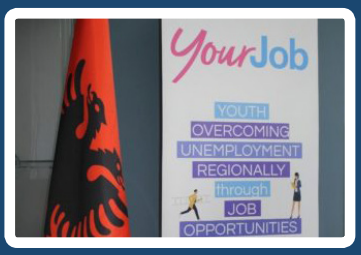
Memorandum of Understanding



You can do more than you believe Conference

Links on articles:

Caritas Albania



Albanian youth and YourJob Project



Kick off conference

Caritas Kosova



The motivation for firms and employers



Good debrifing for good learning



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