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The year 2008 *from the perspective of Group 484*



Another year has passed. It was marked with successful partnerships, a lot of activities, new and old topics, new and “old” associates. A question before us is how to make the next year even better, more dynamic and successful?

This report summarises the topics we were dealing with, our intentions and achieved results. We tried to provide as clear and accurate picture of our activities in 2008 as possible, those related to people in migration, in the field of interculturalism (especially related to youth), our contribution to poverty reduction of vulnerable people (particularly refugees, IDPs and returnees).

We also started exploring some new fields: regional research of economic migration, inclusion of vulnerable groups (especially refugees and IDPs) in the procedure for enforcing the Social Housing Law, cooperation with the UNIDEA Foundation as a new form of cooperation between civil and business sector, psychosocial support to returnees of mainly Roma ethnic background.

We stay devoted to the European path, hoping that Serbia will be on the white Schengen list and a step closer to the European Union when we write our report for 2009.

And finally, as in any other organisation, Group 484 are people. In this report, you will read what events/moments/experiences were estimated as the most important for 2008 by people who were leading programmes and projects of our organisation. They answered the same questions, from personal and professional perspectives. This review highlights our activities, provides additional information and depicts our emotions. Without the enthusiasm and motivation of our team and associates, we would not be what we are today. We go further, carrying this as our most valuable capital.

Miodrag Shrestha, Executive Director

2. Migration

2.1 REFUGEES, IDPS, RETURNEES: FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

Serbia still hosts a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons. With 97,700 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 2007 Serbia was in the 13th place in the world, by the number of refugees compared to the rest of the population. The unsolved problem of tenancy rights in Croatia, economic problems and neglect of the vulnerable in Serbia, as well as discriminatory practice towards minority members in Croatia and BiH, make the return or integration of refugees very difficult or unsustainable, 15 years after the end of the armed conflicts. Therefore in 2008, the UNHCR enlisted Serbian protracted refugee situation as one of the five that should be addressed immediately and requires joint engagement of countries in the region and the international community.

According to the number of IDPs, with 206,000 IDPs from Kosovo, Serbia is among first 20 countries in the world. With the changes of the governing structures in Serbia in 2008, the question of a different attitude of the state to IDPs was raised. So far there have not been any programmes for integration in Serbia, since the authorities have insisted only on their return to Kosovo.

With regard to European integration, Serbia adopted the Law on Asylum in November 2007, which incorporated numerous restrictions of the EU legislation. The law came into force in April 2008, and until then the UNHCR in Serbia had been conducting the procedure for establishing the refugee status of people out of the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

At the beginning of the year, together with the Agreement on Visa Facilitation, the Readmission Agreement with the European Union was enacted, which foresees the return of Serbian nationals who have lost their residence in the EU countries. Many of them have been rejected asylum in countries of Western Europe or have been terminated temporary protection assigned for the purpose of their humanitarian care during the conflicts in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.



Apart from some modest attempts, there has been no systematic and organised approach to identify and record problems of returnees either in the countries of reception, western countries, or in the country of origin, although there are a few thousands of vulnerable people. In Serbia and western countries, the assistance to returnees is often provided on an individual basis, since it is not a part of an overall development process and cooperation between the country of reception and the country of origin. In Serbia, the EU pre-accession funds do not encompass returnees and the very return is on an ad hoc basis, without support from the country of reception and country of origin.

Left: "Belo jagnje" collective centre in the centre of Vranje

2.2 DIRECT ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

We have created conditions for more intense work in collective centres and with those most vulnerable in IDP and refugee population, to contribute to their economic and social integration.

In 2008, we initiated the process of need assessment of refugees and IDPs from collective centres and we formed a team that will work in five regions in this field.

We will continue with the activities in 2009, with the support of the UNIDEA Foundation, through:

1) direct assistance 2) forming the support network and 3) ensuring jobs through the creation of a Social Enterprise.

We were included in the process of re-integration of returnees from Western Europe in Serbia.

We continued working on the reduction of vulnerability and social exclusion of a so far invisible marginalised group – returnees under the readmission agreement, through empowerment and consolidation of local resources for providing services which are effective, participatory and need-oriented.

Through the psychosocial support we provided direct support to children, as well as adult returnees to durably integrate in the local community.

Through our psychosocial support, familiarisation with their right and accessing various services, we assisted returnees in their reintegration in the local community. The programme of psychosocial support enabled returnees to use their potential and capacities so that the local community could recognise them as a human capital and potential rather than a burden. This kind of support was provided by Group 484 associates: psychologists, pedagogues, teachers, medical doctors, social workers, etc.

Activities were: 440 psychosocial workshops dealing with the following issues: family violence prevention; human trafficking prevention, health protection and informative workshops about social rights and local institutions. Also, we organise cultural events to introduce local community with cultural identity of children and young returnees, and vice versa (through music, food, and dance).

We continued to provide information to Belgium Caritas about the situation in Serbia, the functioning of the legal and institutional system, in order to prepare people whose asylum applications have been rejected in western countries or temporary protection withdrawn to return to their country of origin.

Serbia Country Sheet is available for all state and international institutions dealing with migration, civil society organisations, professionals and scientific institutions at the following link: http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/432_1189758303_serbia-country-sheet.pdf.

Geography of activities: 113 municipalities in Serbia: Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Bor, Zrenjanin, Novi Becej, Kikinda, Požarevac, Vranje, Knjaževac, Zaječar, Niš, Prokuplje, Belgrade (Palilula) and Prijepolje.

The results were:

- 1,000 adult participants (returnees, refugees/displaced and socially vulnerable local population) in 13 towns passed through informative workshops, workshops for the prevention of domestic violence, health and other psychosocial workshops.
- As a result of psychosocial support, capacities of returnees regarding their integration into social and economic mainstream were enhanced.
- Key actors in the field of protection of forced migrants and the public informed on the needs of returnees – 2,500 through e-mails, 55 at the round table.
- Public informed about the needs of returnees through 8 media presentations.

Partners in realisation of activities:

EC – AENEAS, European Perspective, Serbian Democratic Forum, Social Innovation Fund (SIF), CARITAS Belgium, and various representatives of national and local institutions and organisations.

Bottom: Workshop with children at Roma Association "Prokuplje".



2.3 IMPACT ON PUBLIC POLICIES

As Civil Society Focal Points for Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation, through the project with the same name, we established institutional cooperation channel between the Serbian Government, (through the Team for PRS Implementation, relevant ministries and state institutions responsible for national strategies and programmes related to refugees and IDPs) and civil society organisations dealing with the issues of refugees and IDPs.

The programme *Civil Society Focal Points* contributed to the development of mechanisms of communication and cooperation between government and non-governmental sector, facilitated the process of defining recommendations and joint positions of civil society, and enabled civil society organisations to participate in key processes in regard to implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (defining policies, programme implementation, monitoring and reporting). We believe that all this has improved programme measures and activities within PRS and its efficient implementation at both national and local level. Primary activities of the selected *civil society focal points* were focused on establishment of two-way communication and information flow between PRS Implementation Team and other government institutions (government sector) and civil society organisations (nongovernmental sector), in our case – refugee and IDP associations.

Activities were: more than 10 bilateral meetings with representatives of government bodies and institutions; 5 regional round tables; 3 electronic bulletins; policy paper with recommendations for enhancing the status of refugees and IDPs in Serbia (all documents are available on Group 484's website); National Conference How to accom-

plish more: Refugees and IDPs in poverty reduction processes.

Geography of activities: Novi Sad, Belgrade, Kragujevac, Niš and Kraljevo.

The results were:

- Wide range of issues were discussed and solutions for some important refugee/IDP issues were proposed at the meetings with representatives of Commissariat for Refugees, two Deputy Prime Minister Offices, Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, National Employment Service, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, and the Ombudsman Office.
- Five regional round tables gathered representatives of CSO and representatives of national and local institutions to discuss the main issues related to poverty of refugees and IDPs. 143 people participated, of whom more than one third were representatives of refugees and IDPs. One third of all participants were representatives of the government and local institutions. The housing and employment issues were in the focus of the most discussions.
- Three electronic bulletins were posted on the Group 484 web site and distributed by the mailing list to more than 100 organisations involved in the protection of and support to the refugees and IDPs. The articles covered issues of housing, employment, education, occupancy/tenancy rights, the *Sarajevo process*, and the protracted refugee situation in Serbia.
- The policy paper was distributed at the national conference, then modified in accordance with comments and new information received from the conference participants, and

We asked three questions to people who were leading organisation, programmes and projects of Group 484 in 2008:

On the following pages are the answers given by Siniša, Mića, Vlade, Gordan, Tanja, Zoka, Danilo and Nataša.



Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. **Social housing**, as a new topic and a new field within which the organisation has made a considerable breakthrough.
2. **World Refugee Day** – the way we marked it: through the conference *How to accomplish more*: Refugees and IDPs in the poverty reduction processes) and the action for children and with children, which we called *Repacking*.
3. **Strengthened partnerships** through the project Contact organisation for PRS implementation, signed memorandums of understanding...
4. **Camps/seminars** for the youth and with the youth, which rejuvenate our organisations and instigate social development.
5. **UNIDEA**, as a donor and a new type of cooperation.

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of "čevapi with onions", casual Fridays, because of the atmosphere at the action planning seminar and the atmosphere in general...

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Always the same two reasons: at times, it is very difficult to find any sense in the things you do. And the heavy workload, I usually go to bed thinking about Group and the work, and as soon as I wake up, my thoughts are there again...

the second, enhanced version were distributed electronically to the conference participants and other stakeholders. The paper has covered 9 important issues (housing, employment, property rights, education, health insurance, etc).

- 137 people attended the national conference How to accomplish more: Refugees and IDPs in the poverty reduction processes. The conference opened with the Minister for Labour and Social Policy, Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR Representative and Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The event was covered by 4 news agencies, 4 radio agencies and 6 TV stations. Out of registered participants of the Conference, 49 came from civil society (including 19 refugee and IDP associations and NGOs), 30 came from Ministries and other governmental and state bodies and institutions, 41 from international organisations and embassies and 15 from regional and local institutions, public sector and local self-governments. During the Open Forum, 9 Ministries and 5 other governmental bodies and state institutions were present and their representatives talked directly to representatives of refugee and IDP associations and relevant NGOs. Three working groups formulated final conclusions and recommendations.

In the opinion of Group 484 members, the conference How to accomplish more: refugees and IDPs in poverty reduction processes was the most important Group 484 event in 2008.

Partners in realisation of activities: UK Department for International Develop-



ment, Serbian Government, 47 civil society organisations and 5 international organisations.

We advocated for Inclusion of internally displaced persons in the active labour market policy measures contributing to the increase in employment of IDPs, beneficiaries of the temporary compensation/allowance programme through the existing and developing new active labour market policy measures of National Employment Service.

Activities were: meetings with the institutions responsible for paying temporary allowances to individuals who worked in state and public institutions in the territory of Kosovo in 1999; desk research; developing questionnaire and focus group guidelines with stakeholders, especially with the National Employment Service and the Ministry for Kosovo. (The focus group discussions in four towns in Serbia, and filling out questionnaires with the support of NES will be held in 2009).

Geography of activities: towns throughout Serbia.

Results, in this phase of the project, were:

- In cooperation with the State Secretary of the Ministry for Kosovo a joint statement was made, through which the media were informed on the content of the meeting. It is concluded that the temporary compensation cannot ensure sustainable life to its beneficiaries in both Kosovo and Serbia and that large amount of money that is now being spent on the temporary compensation should be partially directed to loans for small and medium-sized enterprises. It was assessed that the temporary compensation is very expensive parallel system of social protection and that people should be redirected to active employment measures: stimulating private entrepreneurship and forming small (family) and middle-sized enterprises.
- It was also agreed that Group 484 would be included in the interministerial Working Group that coordinates the issues related to the temporary compensation and other

Group 484, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and with the support of the European Union, is realising the project for better inclusion of IDPs in the Serbian labour market. A special segment of this project is related to the right to temporary compensation, which according to the Serbian Government conclusions is provided to all those individuals who were employed in social and public companies and institutions in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija in 1999.

The temporary compensation is very expensive parallel system of social care. The existing practice which terminates the temporary compensation when the beneficiary takes part-time, occasional jobs has greatly passivised IDPs or pushed them into grey economy. According to the National Employment Service (NES) data, the Government of the Republic of Serbia allocates 336 million dinars a month from the budget to financing the temporary compensations. At the annual level, it is around 40 million Euros.



forms of payment to people from Kosovo.

- "Analysis on the payment of temporary compensation" was written with recommendations.
- Group 484 was invited to participate in joint project of UNDP and UNHCR, with the aim to promote active employment measures. UNDP and Group 484 representatives held 3 round tables in November and December 2008 (in Kraljevo, Vranje and Kragujevac) where they formulated recommendations for greater participation of IDPs in official labour market. We noticed that IDPs, beneficiaries of the temporary compensation and in the evidence of NES (only those who had been employed in socially-owned companies) had the right to access active employment measures in

some municipalities. The main idea resulting from the round tables is the creation of a climate where IDPs, beneficiaries of the temporary compensation, would become interested, with relevant stimulations or subventions, to open their own businesses or legalise the existing ones, and to permanently abandon these passive measures.

Partners in realisation of activities: UNDP and European Agency for Reconstruction.

Opposite page: Conference *How to accomplish more: refugees and IDPs in the poverty reduction processes*

Top: Group 484 volunteers, informing citizens about social housing, within the street action *Houses in procedure*

Bottom: Round table *Towards the Social Housing Law*, in Kragujevac



Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. **Cooperation with the UNIDEA Foundation:** through this cooperation, we became users of the biggest corporate grant invested through a civil society organisation as a support to vulnerable social group in Serbia.
2. **Mediating role of Group 484, between civil society organisations and the Government of the Republic of Serbia,** confirmed by the large conference with representatives of 49 associations, 38 institutions, 5 donors and with the support of high officials from the Government and international organisations.
3. **Continuity in Serbia's efforts to get on the white Schengen list,** and as a result – membership in the Council for European Integration of the Government of Serbia.
4. **Continuity in volunteer work and work with youth** – we are always surrounded by young people with who we change social surroundings.
5. **Research, conference, study** – this year we again managed to elaborate an important, big issue through this organisational formula. This time it is economic migration in the region.

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because there is enthusiasm, creativity, self-sacrificing work – often to the limits of exhaustion, 'idealistic' approach in our efforts to change things and because there are a lot of young people we influence and work with.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

It is uncertain. Improvements sometimes appear extremely small, compared to the invested work. The context in which we work, the ambient of constant political turbulences have impact on our possibilities to contribute to social changes. Additionally, unfavourable image of the civil society organisations in the country...

In the period March to November 2008, Group 484, in cooperation with the Institute for Sustainable Communities, realised the project "Advocacy for the Social Housing Law". The project was focused on greater inclusion of vulnerable categories of population, primarily refugees and IDPs into the social housing system, through establishing favourable solutions in law, by-law and strategic documents, which will regulate the field of social housing and housing policy of the Republic of Serbia. Our research work, with the consultant support of Prof. Ksenija Petovar, encompassed realisation of 13 focus groups and survey research on the sample of representatives of eight different vulnerable social groups. Based on these research results, information gathered at two conferences, four round tables and a series of meetings with decision makers from state organs responsible for the field of social housing and regulating housing policy, we formulated proposals for four amendments to the existing proposal of the Social Housing Law and a number of recommendations for further development of the social housing system in Serbia.

We advocated for the Social Housing Law, contributing as to the housing poverty reduction of forced migrants and other vulnerable groups.

Activities were: 7 public events (2 conferences, 4 round tables, 1 street action on social housing with the aim of informing and sensibilising the public to the social housing issue), advocacy training, 13 focus groups, policy paper with recommendations, fliers and numerous meetings with key stakeholders in the field of social housing.

Geography of activities: Belgrade, Niš, Subotica, Kraljevo and Kragujevac.

The results were:

- 175 stakeholders were introduced with most important problems in social housing and the needs of the most vulnerable category of population.
- We directly involved 706 stakeholders in the consultation process about amendments on Social Housing Draft Law.
- Through printed promo material more than 3,000 people were informed about the housing problems in Serbia, in the street action *Flats in the procedure*.
- Policy paper on social housing with recommendations for enhancing current policy, - with defined

amendments to the existing draft Social Housing Law.

- Policy paper on social housing presented at the Serbian Parliament.

Partner in realisation of activities were: Institute for Sustainable Communities.

We monitored the process of integration of refugees in Serbia by supporting the Government to update the Road Map, or the plan of action, that the Republic of Serbia, together with the other countries within the 3x4 process (*The Sarajevo Declaration*), committed to complete and implement in order to find durable solutions for displacement in the region.

Activities were: meetings with relevant stakeholders at the national level organised in order to get information about the achievement and durable solutions for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Upon the completion of the series of meetings (with Ministry of Interior, Ministry for Local Government, Ministry of Finance, Commissariat for Refugee) partners finalised the matrix document on problems related to the integration of refugees in Serbia.

The results were:

- The draft of the document with the issues related to the integration of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia in the society of Serbia. The Commissariat for Refugees has already used the document to complement their *Road Map for Refugee Integration in Serbia*.

Partners in realisation of activities were: OEBS, UNHCR, SDF and HCIT.

Geography of activities: Serbia.

We worked on the enhancement of policy and practice in Serbia related to people in readmission by improving capacities of government and non-governmental service providers for returnees from Western Europe under the readmission agreement between Serbia and EU.

We developed a Compendium of rel-



evant documents about readmission process and designed and provided trainings on readmission in 6 Serbian towns.

Mesta u kojima smo radili: Kragujevac, Novi Pazar, Niš, Belgrade, Subotica and Novi Sad.

The results were:

- 68 documents on readmission issue were collected and 11 were sorted out and printed in the Compendium disseminated to the participants of the trainings. Documents of the relevant EU, state, and international institutions and NGOs as well, were also supplied by editorial in the form of introduction and summary chapters for the Compendium.
- Around 120 local stakeholders have better understanding of readmission process and the importance of the reintegration of returnees, better knowledge about the mechanism and procedure to address the problems of returnees in their own domains and domains in others sectors.
- Around 120 people gained knowledge and techniques in order to

prepare themselves to work with vulnerable and traumatised people.

Partners in realisation of activities were: EC – EIDHR, Serbian Refugee Council, NSHC, Protecta and SDF.

We participated in the creation of the World Refugee Survey 2008, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants by providing information on problems of refuge in Serbia. It is the most famous and quoted global report about position of refugees in the World. Report covers 60 countries, and Group 484, for the fourth year in a row, participated in the part of the report regarding refugees and asylum seekers in Serbia.

The promotion of World Refugee Survey 2008, was held on World Refugee Day, on June 20th. The speakers were: Miodrag Shrestha, Group 484 John Andrew Young, UNHCR in Serbia, and Danilo Rakić, Group 484.

The data from the WRS were quoted in almost all national newspaper and broadcasted on TV and radio channels.

Opposite page: From the round table *Palilula, our home*

Bottom: Promotion of the World Refugee Survey



Vladimir Petronijević

Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. Re-establishment of our psychosocial support to "old" beneficiary groups – refugees and IDPs.
2. We have become an organisation that is dealing not only with forced migration, but also with economic migration.
3. The events organised by Group 484 – two conferences:
 - » Regional conference *Labour Migration in the Region of Southeast Europe*, Belgrade, June 2008;
 - » Conference on the rights of refugees: *How to accomplish more* (large number of participants, original model of work that enabled direct dialogue between representatives of refugee associations and the Government and international organisations).
4. We respected the opinion of our beneficiary groups in proposing legal solutions within the **Social Housing Law**.
5. **Group 484 at the Exit Festival** – where we managed to bring the issue of visa liberalisation closer to the youth at the festival, with the good design of the promo material and effective public appearance.

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

We worked in a positive atmosphere, with good interpersonal relationships. That was also the year of my professional improvement, which have given me the feeling of personal satisfaction.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Very often, there was heavy workload. Sometimes we would burn out.

2.4 RESEARCH WORK AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Was realised under the title: *Migration and Development: Creating regional labour market and labour migrants circulation as response to regional market demands.*

The purpose of the research and conference was to identify opportunities for creating the regional labour market and using potentials of immigrants from the region as a response to the labour market shortage and empower national and regional stakeholders of South East Europe in the field of labour migration, as well as to raise awareness of the public in the SEE region on the importance of migration for economic development of the region.

Activities were: researching labour migratory movements in the SEE region and the way they are regulated, 7 national round tables and one regional conference on developmental potentials of labour migratory movements in the region and updating Virtual Regional Migration Centre.

Geography of activities: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania.

The results were:

- Identification and promotion of potentials of immigrants from the region as a response to the labour

market shortage in 8 countries in the SEE region.

- The publication "Labour Migration Flows in SEE countries" which is available through Group 484 Regional Migration Centre website. More than 200 stakeholders in SEE were introduced to this publication and possibility to download it.
- The regional conference gathered 75 participants including members of the academic community, representatives of public and political life and representatives of embassies, UN agencies, national and international nongovernmental organisations.
- Large media interest in the Conference and its topic.
- Through the project, we also improved a website rcm.grupa484.org.rs, as a virtual regional Migration Centre where all the resources in the region related to migration would be presented: experts, magazines, books, papers, conferences, seminars, documents, laws, media presentations, etc.

- The general conclusion is that the positive aspects of migratory movements can not be achieved until Western Balkan countries remove visa barriers among themselves and with EU.

Partners in realisation of activities were: Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD), **Draško Marinković**, Assistant Professor, Population Geography – Demography, University of Banja Luka; **Anna Krasteva**, Director of the Centre for Refugees, Migration and Ethnic Studies (CERMES), Bulgaria, **Sunčanica Skupnjak**, Programme Coordinator at International Organisation for Migration Zagreb, Croatia, **Zhidas Daskalovski**, Assistant Professor, and **Ana Mickovska**, Senior Researcher of the Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM), Macedonia, **Suzana Dobre**, Executive Director and **Valentin Arinton**, Senior Researcher of the Romanian Academic Society, Romania, **Ditmir Bushati**, European Movement in Albania, Executive Director, and **Vladimir Grečić**, Professor, Institute of International Politics and Economics, Serbia.

Group 484 Legal Analyst Vladimir Petronijević was invited to participate in the UNDP project Capacity Development of the Ministry for Diaspora, as a national advisor and participated in the training Strategic Economic Needs and Security Exercise (Warsaw, July 31 to August 9, 2009), invited by Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw. The training was realised in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Defence of Poland, National Defence Academy and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Belgrade.



2.5 TOWARDS THE WHITE SCHENGEN LIST

through organisational contribution to the adoption of EU standards in Serbia in the area of visa, asylum, re-admission, integrative border management and illegal migration policy.

Group 484 has been realising research related to fulfilment of conditions necessary for placing Serbia on the white Schengen list. The first such project was realised in 2005. Group 484 has been realising panel discussions about visa regime, asylum system, integrated border management, illegal migration, but also technical and other standards necessary for placing Serbia on the white Schengen list. Reports on the fulfilment of the conditions for the white Schengen list were published and presented in 2006, 2007 and 2008 as well.

Activities were: the creation of info material Towards White Schengen List, research on the level of fulfilment of criteria for putting Serbia on positive list of the EU visa regime, in accordance with the criteria of the European Commission document on visa regime liberalisation – Road Map, the creation of the policy paper for the purpose of putting Serbia on the positive list of the EU visa regime, in accordance with the Road Map criteria, national round table on the issue of visa regime liberalisation of EU to Serbia, campaign at the EXIT music festival.

Geography of activities: Belgrade and Novi Sad.

The results were:

- Info material submitted to more than 40 addresses of key actors in the visa liberalisation process.
- Info-material created in 3,500 copies (500 brochures, 1,500 fliers, 1,000 fans and 500 hand-bands), and at the EXIT 2008 music festival, more than 3,000 pieces of the info material were distributed. The panel discussion Serbia on the Move was held, attended by more than 150 visitors of the EXIT festival. Group 484 team gave 6 interviews to radio and TV stations, including TV Panonija, Radio 021, TV Kikinda. All that means that at least 2,000 young people received full information on the problems of Serbia on the road to the white Schengen list, and thus their awareness was raised on this problem through the prepared info material.
- Measures proposed in *"Towards the White Schengen List – Road Map Monitoring,"* printed in over 300 copies and distributed to over 800 e-mail addresses.
- The round table *Towards the White Schengen List* was held, attended by over 70 representatives of state

organs, international organisations, embassies, nongovernmental organisations, academic community, as well as 10 media representatives and they all informed the public about this event. The adopted conclusions of the National Round Table were submitted to all relevant state organs (President of the Republic, of the Government, of the National Assembly, etc.).

- The position of Group 484 related to the visa regime liberalisation of the EU with Serbia was presented at the meeting of the working group for Internal Affairs and Justice of the National Covenant on the EU, on December 25, 2008.
- After the EXIT campaign, Group 484 representatives had numerous media appearances related to the issue of the White Schengen List: Radio Belgrade II, the broadcast *Oko Balkana*, FOX News, and articles in Blic, Politika, Glas Javnosti. We were also guests at TV Avala as well as in the TV programme *Uvećanje* at B 92 INFO.

Partner in realisation of activities was Fund for an Open Society Serbia.

Opposite page: Conference *Migration and development*

Left: From the public discussion *Serbia on the move*, at the EXIT festival



The meeting of the Working Group of the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) was held in Belgrade, on December 11, 2008. After the ELENA seminar on the rights of refugees, held in September 2006, that was the second important event organised by ECRE in the Serbian capital, with the support of Group 484. Members of this working group exchanged opinions related to readmission agreements that EU concluded with third countries, to the issue of sustainable return, as well as to the working group action plan for 2009. Apart from guests from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and Great Britain, the meeting was attended by representatives of international organisations active in Serbia, as well as civil society representatives. The guests from abroad took part in the National Round Table *Towards the White Schengen List*.

3. Youth and Interculturalism

3.1 VOLUNTARISM, INTERCULTURALISM AND EUROPEAN STANDARDS

We were empowering volunteers for the promotion and implementation of European standards in the field of migration.

With the slogan: *Step closer to Europe* – we connected youth from 5 towns in education and work with the topics: information about migration issues in European context, research and direct work with people in forced migration.

Geography of activities: Bela Crkva, Belgrade, Niš, Novi Pazar, Vranje, Mataruška banja and Sremski Karlovci.

Activities were: a research of the status of IDPs accommodated in the collective centres, a policy paper on the implementation of the European standards in the field of migration in Serbia, workshops with children and youth in 5 towns, seminar on the European standards in the field of migration (topics were: *Forced migration, Readmission, European standards related to migrants*), and 5 local actions for the promotion of the rights of forced migrants..

The results were:

- **Bela Crkva:** 10 volunteers were active in the planning and realisation of public events related to the protection of rights of forced migrants; at least 300 citizens were sensitised through public events to the issue of forced migrants and related problems.

- **Belgrade:** 15 volunteers were active in the planning and realisation of public events related to the protection of rights of forced migrants; 14 young people displaced from Kosovo were educated on volunteerism and activism in the field of migration (Sremski Karlovci); 143 children and youth were included in the realisation of public events related to the protection of rights of forced migrants; at least 570 citizens were sensitised through public events to the issue of forced migrants and related problems; 120 students of the Faculty of Political Sciences introduced with issue of European standards in the field of migration and the project.

- **Niš:** 30 children (returnees, Roma and Serbs) were active in the protection of their rights; 12 volunteers were sensitised to activism for the benefit of returnees and Roma; 100 citizens were included in the public event of promotion of visibility of returnees in Niš.

- **Novi Pazar:** 5 volunteers were active in the planning and realisation of public events related to the protection of rights of forced migrants; 22 children (returnees, Roma and

Serbs) were active in the protection of their rights.

- **Vranje:** 22 young people were educated for local actions related to integration of returnees; 15 artists were included in activism for the benefit of returnees; at least 18 volunteers (domicile and returnees) engaged in the realisation of the local actions; 400 citizens included in the process of integration of returnees in Vranje through public events.

Partners in realisation of activities: CCFD, AENEAS and local nongovernmental organisations.

We connected domicile youth and newcomers through educational and cultural contents.

Activities were: 800 psychosocial workshops which contain issues: Serbian language, foreign language, school curriculum, sport and creativity development. We organised cultural events, creation of a five-language dictionary, *Dictionary for Understanding and Communication* created as a product of peer education.

Geography of activities: Novi Pazar, Tutin, Sjenica, Raška, Bor, Negotin, Zren-



janin, Novi Bečej, Kikinda, Požarevac, Vranje, Knjaževac, Zaječar, Niš, Prokuplje, Belgrade (Palilula), Prijepolje and Priboj.

The results were:

- More than 2,500 participants – preschool children, primary school children, secondary school children and youth (returnees, refugees/displaced and socially vulnerable local children and youth), passed through psychosocial workshops.

- At the end of 2008, evaluation of psychosocial support to returnees showed that capacities of children and youth returnees regarding their integration into social and economic mainstream were enhanced in the following way:

* At Serbian language workshop returnee children and youth learnt to speak, read and write the Serbian language, making their communication with local population and integration much easier. At foreign language workshops children and youth preserved languages they used in the reception country (German or English).

* Children from the local community were informed about culture and language that returnees brought with them.

* Children–returnees improved school success.

* Creativity of workshop participants is visible in their art production.

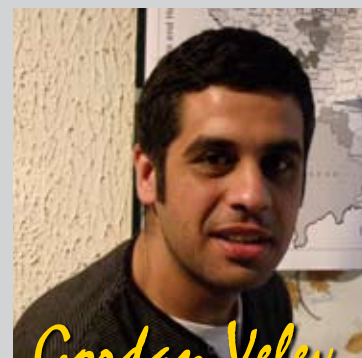
* Youth were informed about prevention of family violence, obligations and responsibilities of parents and children, and marriage partners. They were also informed about risks, dangers and consequences of human trafficking.

* Health workshops emphasised the importance of physical and mental health, hygiene and protection from different transmitted diseases.

* Team of the project Palilula, our home (whose activities were focused on returnees from the Belgrade municipality of Palilula) published *Dictionary for Understanding and Communication*, intended for children and youth–returnees, in 1,000 copies.

Opposite page: Joint performance of the Rehearsal music collective and young Group 484 associates, in Gornja čaršija in Vranje

Bottom: Seminar Empowering volunteers for the work with returnees under readmission agreements, in Vranje



Gordan Velez

Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. From this perspective, the fact that we entered in 2009 with the **budget increased by 20%**, it is clear that we fundraised well.
2. We got the project for UNIDEA and **direct work with beneficiaries** is now **one-third of the overall activities of our organisation**.
3. Our **organisational and individual expert capacities are recognised** as such by people from the Government and international organisations. This can be seen by the type of engagements and invitations we have received.
4. Engagement in the new field – **social housing**, through relatively 'small' project.
5. **New website!** Many associates! ...

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of the people, the 'project type' of work that enables me to better organise my free time than by working from 9 to 5. The feeling that we are an organisation that we are building – it is not a large system that you have to fit in, but the system that you develop and have impact on, which is exciting.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of the pretty loose rules – and so very often it is not clear who is doing what. Because we often switch from issue to issue – which is often set by the tempo and diversity of the path we are following. Because of the fact that I cannot separate my work from my private life and I find myself "pushing my job in my personal life".

3.2 SUPPORT TO CREATION OF THE YOUTH STRATEGY

As a unit for monitoring and supporting the youth strategy consultation process at the local level, we continued with the activities initiated in the previous year.

The objective was establishing institutional cooperation between the Ministry of Youth and Sport and local nongovernmental organisations as resource centres or organisations for building capacities of youth organisations.

Group 484 continued supporting the process of creating and adopting National Youth Strategy. Last year we started to monitor and support 3 resource centres – 3 youth NGOs. In May 2008 additional 8 organisations joined the cluster of organisations, and in total there were 11 organisations whose work was monitored by Group 484. Each of these organisations had different activities to carry out in order to promote the process of adoption and implementation of National Youth Strategy. Group 484 conducted regular monitoring visits to all of the events and activities organised by these organisations. Monitoring visits were conducted at least once a month, and additional visits to the project events were carried out as well.

Result was that we provided technical and consultative assistance to the organisations through 50 monitoring visits.

Partners in realisation of activities: Ministry of Youth and Sport and local nongovernmental organisations.

3.3 ADVOCACY INITIATIVE FOR MINORITIES

It was initiated at the end of the year with the slogan Leave a Trace, Change the Place

Out intention is: to improve realisation of minority rights and inter-ethnic dialogue in Serbia by strengthening the existing local initiatives of civil society in advocacy and networking.

A project with the same name **will be realised** in 9 selected towns in Serbia and will last until the end of 2009.

In 2008 we formed a team, created plans and rules and conditions for an open competition for young leaders. During the next year, we will realise the following: selection of young activists and political leaders, seven-day camp, instructive seminars, advocacy campaigns in local communities, presentation of the status of minorities and the level of development of interethnic dialogue at the national level – meetings with important actors, exhibition and a round table, creation and distribution of the publication and web presentation with best practice examples.

We are supported by the European Commission Delegation – EIDHR in Serbia and our partners are Centre for Modern Skills.



4. Organisational development

4.1 LONG-TERM COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2008 we maintained cooperation with our long-time partners CCFD, who has been supporting Group 484 ever since it was founded. We continued cooperation with the Balkan Trust for Democracy in the field of migration trends in Southeast Europe and their potential for development of the region. We also continued cooperation with the Fund for an Open Society Serbia, in the field of visa liberalisation, and the cooperation will be deepened in 2009 as well, with a regional project related to this issue. The Mott Foundation will continue to financially support our programmes and institutional development.

We again secured funds of the European Commission through the EIDHR programme. We have enhanced our cooperation with UN agencies and OSCE through several joint projects.

We applied for the Norwegian Government funds, with another 6 civil society contact organisations for poverty reduction and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) as leading agency, with the project Civil Society for Poverty Reduction in Serbia. We also developed cooperation with ISC, through the project *Advocacy for Social Housing Law*.

We further strengthened our cooperation with the Government of Serbia and institutions and local civil society organisations through our role of civil society contact organisation for poverty reduction for refugees and IDPs. Particularly good cooperation and communication has been established with the Commissariat for Refugees, Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija and the both Deputy Prime ministers Office's of Božidar Đelić and Jovan Krkobabić. We are very happy to have cooperated with many civil society organisations at the local level and implemented different projects together.

Our organisation is continuously raising its professional capacities, engaging high quality associates and increasing voluntary network. Our advocacy work has been acknowledged in the country, region and in Europe. Miodrag Shrestha has become a member of the European Integration Council of the Government of Serbia and Vladimir Petronijević has been elected for the member of the ECRE Board, representing the region of the South East Europe. Group 484 Managing Board has been reinforced with Tanja Mišević.



Tanja Pavlov

Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. Continuity in cooperation with the Serbian Government through **cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport**, that is, through our contribution to the creation of the National Youth Strategy and Action Plan, and **cooperation with the Vice President Team for Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation**, which culminated at the Conference on the occasion of the Refugee Day.
2. **Our persistence in working with returnees under readmission agreements** as a population that is not only invisible but also wants to remain invisible.
3. **Regional cooperation in researching migration** – through which a big world and European issue (migration issue) has become a subject of joint work of partner organisations and institutions of South-east Europe.
4. In **cooperation with the business sector**, we invested great energy and work and the cooperation with the UNIDEA foundation is the crown of our efforts in 2008.
5. The impact of the project *Luggage for the Future; Mine, Yours, Ours* on the participants, public and donor (European Commission). It is to our great satisfaction that **our model of work with youth has been recognised and accepted as a good one by those who have competencies to assess it.**

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

I would emphasise three things that are important for me: good atmosphere, independent selection of activities based on the context of our work and needs on the field (and not based on donors' requests) and the "pioneering spirit" involved in many fields. The atmosphere is as at home, and we have spread the "good vibrations" out of the organisation and we get them back from all sectors – from nongovernmental, donor and business sector. At the moment, I am very happy for the pioneering feeling of researching migration, the phenomenon more comprehensive than people from this region are inclined to see and understand.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of the heavy workload we don't manage to exchange information within the organisation on activities in certain projects and to better organize electronic documentation so that all the information is easily accessible to everyone. I also think that we need time for relaxation after time-consuming activities. Instead, we immediately "rush" into the realisation of new ones. And only when we write our annual reports, I become aware of how many beautiful things we have realised.

4.2 COOPERATION WITH BUSINESS SECTOR

Established cooperation with the business sector in the realisation of rights of migrants and vulnerable groups.

In this period, Group 484 had exceptionally active communication with Serbian business sector.

We had the opportunity to present our programme and work to representatives of the business sector at the NGO Fair, organised by the Agency for Cooperation with Nongovernmental Organisations and European Harmonisation at the Belgrade Town Administration. The most important contact was realised with Coca-Cola Hellenic Company, with the joint interests to support youth, especially those from socially vulnerable groups. Soon after the Fair, Group 484 traditionally marked the World Refugee Day, with the assistance of this company. On that occasion, we initiated arrangements for our cooperation in 2009.

We continued our cooperation with Smart Kolektiv and Pontis Foundation from Bratislava on the project *The Support to NGO sustainability in Serbia: Applying the Slovakian Experience in the Corporate Social Responsibility Sector* financed by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Slovakia, via the programme for development assistance of the Slovakian Government (SLOVAKAID). Within the project we participated in the training *How to write good project proposal for business?*. We also participated in presenting civil society to the business sector at Partnership for Success, in the premises of the Telenor Company. Only 16 other civil society organisations had the opportunity to be presented to the business sector, and Group 484 presented its

youth programme "We and the Others". On that occasion, direct contact was established with almost all present representatives of companies and foundations: Societe Generale, Colliers International, VIP Mobile, Telenor, Telenor Foundation, Delta Humanitarian Fund, EPS, American Chamber of Commerce in Serbia, Erste Bank. In 2008, Group 484 applied for the Social Integration Award of the Erste Foundation, which is the founder of the bank.

During the Forum - "Belgrade a Soul of Europe" (October 3 and 4), Group 484 had the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on concrete benefits of integration of civil society and culture into business strategies and to present its material to the participants of the Belgrade Forum, organised by the Cultural Front.

This year we established closer cooperation with two business partners – Holcim (company that is supplier of cement) and UniCredit Bank through their foundation Unidea.

Holcim Serbia organised a competition "Partnership for Serbia", with the intention to support various initiatives, programmes and projects focused on education, culture and sustainable development, which should be realised in the territory of the Paraćin municipality. Group 484, in partnership with the organisation Centre for Communication "Pravda" from Paraćin, applied and was selected at the competition with the project "Who says we can't do it – raising competitiveness of vulnerable youth groups on the labour market". Unfortunately, due to different approach to work, we were forced to terminate the partnership with the organisation from Paraćin, and the project realisation as well.

Unidea selected Group 484, Humanitarian Organisation Divac and the People's Office of the President of the Republic of Serbia as its partners in Serbia for realisation its "Migrations" Program that main goal is increasing awareness and culture about migrations, in rec-

ognition of the subject as one of the most pressing and important issues of our times. We agreed with Unidea that they would support a two-year project of Economic and Social Integration Enhancement for Refugees and IDPs living in Collective Centres (EaSIER Project).

4.3 PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, MEETINGS

We developed individual and organisational competences through participation in trainings, seminars, conferences, consultative meetings and other events where we could meet colleagues and experts and exchange experience and learn from each other. The most important ones were:

- In the period April 1-4, a seminar was held in Madrid on migration movements in Europe. The seminar was organised on the occasion of 25 year anniversary of Movement for Peace (MPDL). Vladimir Petronijević, Group 484 Programme Coordinator participated in the panel discussion about the South-eastern Europe and presented migration movements in the Republic of Serbia. The purpose of the seminar was to point the migration phenomena in Europe, but also the bad effects of the EU migration policy.
- Upon the recommendation of CCFD (Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement), the Secretary Office of the III World Social Forum on Migrations invited Danilo Rakić, Group 484's Policy Officer to attend the event which took place on September 11-13, 2008 in Rivas-Vaciamadrid, Madrid, Spain. More than 1,500 people from all over the world attended the World Social Forum on Migrations and Danilo Rakić was the only representative of Serbia. The principal theme of the event was "Our voices, our rights. For a World without Walls".
- On October 30-31, 2008 ECRE Biannual General Meeting (BGM) *Euro-pean Solidarity: Raising Protection Standards* was held. The meeting



Left: Press conference of the Unidea Foundation Million Euro Donation for Serbia.

was dealing with various issues related to the improvement of the reception conditions for asylum seekers in Europe, border management and reception of asylum seekers at European airports. At this meeting, new members of the ECRE Management Board were elected, including Vladimir Petronijević, who will be representing the region of South-eastern Europe for the next 4 years.

- In the period November 26-29 in Bucharest, there was a conference Migration in Europe, organised by OSI Romania. The conference was attended by representatives of OSI organisations and civil society organisations from south-eastern Europe. Vladimir Petronijević presented migration movements in the Republic of Serbia, and the conclusion of the meetings was that it is necessary to join efforts of civil society in Europe in order to tackle the migration phenomenon in a comprehensive way.
- On December 4-6, 2008, Deputy Director Tanja Pavlov participated in the 941st Wilton Park Conference "Future of Migration" organised in co-operation with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the UK Border Agency. Experts from 26 countries, including China, Kenya, Jamaica, Poland and Bangladesh, met to consider key trends and projections and the impact on states and regions for the next 20 years. The economic needs of source and destination countries, the emergence of new markets and the relationship between trade flows and migratory movements, underpinned debates on border management, public perceptions and integration.
- Conference "A Consolidated Approach to NGO Assisted Voluntary Return from Europe", Copenhagen, Denmark, January 23-24.

Other meetings attended include:

- Fifth Annual Assembly of the Federation of Nongovernmental Organisations

(FENS), "If not Europe, then what?", Belgrade, January 26-27;

- Training of the Institute for Sustainable Communities "Financial Reporting", Belgrade, April 9;
- TAIEX Seminar on Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process, Belgrade, April 15;
- Conference "Civil Society Development in Southeast Europe: Building Europe Together" Brussels, Belgium, April 17-18;
- Conference "Social Inclusion of Ethnic Groups through Education and Training/Elements of Good Practices", Skopje, Macedonia, April 22;
- Thematic Review Seminar of the EES "Improving Access to the Labour Market for People at its Margins with a Special Focus on People with a Migrant or Minorities Background", Brussels, Belgium, April 29;
- Round table "Civil Society in Serbia? – challenges of the future", Belgrade, March 11;
- Round table "Advocacy on the Right to Health Care", Sofia, Bulgaria, April 14-19;
- International Conference "Education for Intercultural Dialogue" Nova Gorica, Slovenia, May 7-9;
- Seminar "The Need for an Improved Return Process - with a specific focus on how to ensure a dignified return", Copenhagen, Denmark, May 14-15;
- Conference "Fifth Regular Meeting of the EU Integration Office of the Serbian Government and Partner Nongovernmental Organisations", Belgrade, May 6;
- Education of Roma medical mediators, Belgrade, May 5-7;
- Education "How to Write a Good Business Project", Kragujevac, May 19-20;
- Conference "At the heart of Europe" ECRE Biannual General Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, June 3-5;



Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. **Conference on the Refugee Day:** participatory method of work, dynamics of the entire event, great contribution of all the participants, representatives of institutions, international organisations and refugee associations.
2. **Number of beneficiaries of psychosocial support – returnees under readmission agreements: 3,500 children, youth and adults in 21 towns.**
3. **We have built capacities for the work with returnees.**
4. **Local actions with youth that connect activism and creativity** – street events, exhibitions, various drama and music forms in dozens of towns.
5. **Jelena Šantić Foundation Award to the Free Zone festival.** It is the result of previous efforts of Group 484.

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of the new issue (readmission), work with the new target group (returnees), in new towns, according to the new concept of psychosocial programme for women and children. It all implied a lot of learning and that makes this job exciting and challenging.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of the situations when people on the field addressed me and I could not meet their needs and answer some of their questions. Managing large projects means that sometimes many people look at you and expect from you to find solutions even for the problems that are beyond your competences.

- European Forum Learning for Human Rights and Democracy in European Multicultural Societies Human Rights Education Training Seminar, Berlin, Germany, June 10 -15;
- Round table: Living Standard Survey, Belgrade, June 27;
- Round table "Our voices, our rights. For a World without walls", Madrid, Spain, September 11-13;
- Seminar "European Heritage Days – potential sources of financing cultural institutions", Belgrade, September 11 -13;
- Round table "Access to Justice, Property, Social and Economic Rights of Internally Displaced Persons ", Ko-paonik, September 17-19;
- Round table "Peace Education for Stable Society – cooperation of state institutions and civil society organisations", Belgrade, September 19;
- Conference "NGO Fair for Business Sector – partnership for success", Belgrade, September 29;
- Round table / meeting of the EUROPEACE Network (European Project for Ethnic and Cultural Equality) PPP Europeace 2, London, Great Britain, September 29 – October 2;
- Round table "Forum Belgrade –the soul of Europe", Belgrade, October 3-4;
- Seminar "Support to European Integrations through the Promotion of Alternative Economy and Social Cohesion in the Republic of Serbia", Belgrade, October 8;
- Conference "Culture of Equality – enhancing the inclusion of people with disability into the work and programmes of public institutions in Serbia", Belgrade, October 8 -10;
- Round table "Forum on Current Issues in the Mental Health Sector", Belgrade, October 10;
- Seminar "Participation in the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity of the European Community, Progress 2007-2013 », Belgrade, October 14 - 15;
- Conference: Solving the problems of refugees and the road to the European Union, Belgrade, October 27;
- Conference ECRE "European Solidarity: Raising Protection Standards", Paris, France, October 30 - 31;
- Round table "Do we need art for remembrance?", Belgrade, November 7;
- UNITED Conference: Europe under Construction: Imagine our Future without Hate!, Belgrade, November 4 - 9;
- Training of the Institute for Sustainable Communities, "Media and Communication", Belgrade, October 6 -7;
- Conference "Presentation of the Regional Cooperation Council", Belgrade, November 10;
- International conference on Serbian diaspora and the progress of the mother country, Belgrade, November 18 - 20;
- Workshop on Migrations and Employment of Migrants" and "The Second Expert Meeting of CPESSEC on Regional Mobility of Labour Force, Migrations and Youth Employment, Belgrade, November 26 - 27;
- Training for Trainers – public advocacy, Belgrade, December 4 - 7;
- Conference: Openly about Return, Belgrade, December 11;
- Meeting of the Working Group for return of the European Council on refugees and Exile (ECRE), Belgrade, December 11;
- Working group "Regional Cooperation of the National Covenant on the European Union, Belgrade, December 15 - 16;
- Education: Monitoring Budget Policies, Belgrade, December 24.



Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. **Civil Society Focal Points** – as a project through which Group 484 confirmed its relevance in solving problems of forced migrants. By marking the World Refugee Day, we used the opportunity to promote the issue of forced migration and Group 484 as an organisation...
2. **Many activities with returnees and for returnees.** We are recognised as a lead organisation in that field. In 2008 we were at our peak in regard to this issue and this target group.
3. **The public have recognised our advocacy capacity:** we are good at systemising problems through policy papers. Some of our documents serve as action guidelines...
4. For the fourth time in a row, **we participated in the creation** of the World Refugee Survey of U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants – it is the most cited world report on people in exile and refugees. For the first time, the report had its public promotion in Belgrade.
5. **Report for Belgium Caritas** on returnees under readmission agreements was well accepted with international organisations dealing with the asylum issue in the EU.

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Group 484 is one of rare organisations in which the values it promotes (humanity, respect of integrity of people, respect of human rights...) are also established as own organisational values. Personally, I have travelled a lot and had important meetings in the country and Europe, and this is a valuable experience.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

I have overreacted a few times... naturally, that has happened to others as well.

5. Events

In the local community

• *International Refugee Day (June 20)*

Group 484 organised an action for children and adults called "Re-Packing" on Kalemegdan fortress, the plateau in front of the "Cvijeta Zuzorić" pavilion. Participants in the programme were children from collective camps for IDPs in Mirijevo and Resnik, and the children from Palilula returnee families. Their family members, volunteers and representatives of Group 484 and representatives from Palilula municipality institutions, as well as all other visitors of Kalemegdan fortress participated at this event.

Through this program we wanted to show the creativeness of children and their potential and capacity to contribute to their community, even when faced with poverty. Most common notions regarding poverty in Serbia are – carton houses, collecting paper, collecting waste. Together with other visitors children used recycled paper to create all sorts of products, for instance: ideal city, everyday life necessities, clothing, postcards, and other souvenirs.

• *Informing citizens on social housing (November 19)*

We organised this public event at the Republic Square in Belgrade, with the aim to include wider public in the debate on social housing. The action "Flats in the Procedure" was realised in cooperation with



Street action Houses in procedure

the Punctum for Art Experiment and students of the Academy of Fine Arts. Citizens helped students to set up and then move around improvised model buildings, in order to eventually "move into" them, marking their flats with sticky notes with their names on them, and sometimes the names of people they would like to live with. Apart from the artistic side of the action, our volunteers informed curious passers-by about social housing and interviewed them in order to find out their opinion and suggestions for improving the housing policy of the Republic of Serbia.

- ***The International Volunteer Day (December 5)***

We prepared a book *If you need love* by Andjelko Radojlovic, the long-time beneficiary of our programmes for children and youth with special needs. The promotion of the book gathered our young volunteers from all the programmes, as well as our associates, on the Volunteer Day, December 5 in the Ozone Gallery.

- ***The International Human Rights Day (December 10)***

Group 484 joined UN celebration of Human Rights Day on December 10 at the Republic Square in Belgrade.

- ***International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17)***

Traditionally, the Parliament made a session on the Poverty Eradication Day where Group 484 participated.

- ***"Jelena Šantić" Foundation Award presentation (March 22)***

"Jelena Šantić" Foundation Award has been established to support artistic projects containing the messages of peace, tolerance, understanding and solidarity.

The award was presented in 2006 and 2008.

- ***Organising distribution of New Year parcels to the IDP children from collective camps, returnee***



"JELENA ŠANTIĆ" FOUNDATION AWARD TO FREE ZONE

(taken from the jury explanation)

"Jelena Šantić" Foundation Award for 2008 was presented to the programme "Free Zone" of the Rex Cultural Centre.

The Award is presented for the activities in 2007 – film festival in Belgrade, film programme and panel discussions in Serbian towns and the same programme for high schools.

The jury particularly had in mind the fact that "Free Zone", in its third cycle, managed to widen the scope of its presence in the public life of Belgrade and Serbia, and maintain the quality level of both film production and accompanying programmes...

We believe that, thanks to „Free Zone“ our public had the valuable opportunity to see a large number of engaged, contemporary films and participate in discussions generated from the films. In that way, we were facing the fact that, no matter how we are inclined to believe that our social issues and troubles are only ours and always the biggest, we share them with the whole world, as we share the struggle to overcome them.

With the quality of the film production and social engagement focused on protection of human rights, the "Free Zone" actors, according to the "Jelena Šantić" Foundation jury, most completely demonstrated artistic and social engagement Jelena used to promote.

Jury members: Vojin Dimitrijević, president, Goranka Matić, Mira Otašević, Nataša Rašić and Tanja Pavlov.

In Belgrade, March 2008.

children from Western Europe and local Roma children.

The New Year performance How Melita invented Santa Clause at the Duško Radović Theatre was performed on December 20, at 13h, and after that 110 children got gift bags with sweets and other presents. The performance was completely donated by the theatre. GSP (Town Transportation Company) provided free transport for children from Avala.

- **Visit to collective centres in Resnik and Mirijevo on December 27**, from 11a.m. to 6p.m., where the youth from Mirijevo held their New Year performance. On the occasion, 104 gift bags were distributed. Public Transport Company (GSP) provided transport for the youth from Mirijevo free of charge.

(The visit to collective centres in Kaluđerica and Grocka was realised on January 14, 2009 and on that occasion 72 New Year gift bags were distributed).

The New Year activities were sponsored by: the Duško Radović Theatre, GSP Belgrade, Jaffa AD Crvenka, Swisslion Takovo, Institute for textbook publishing and teaching aids, Dexy Co. and Creative Centre.

Action planning

We organised the action planning process in the form of three-day seminar outside of Belgrade (Trudelj) at the beginning of July (16-18). Facilitator was Vesna Ciprus, UNDP consultant who had also been consultant for our first strategic planning. The action planning started with the presentation of the level of the realisation of the Group 484 Strategic Plan 2007-2009 and Action Plan 2008 by Deputy Director Tanja Pavlov. Then our policy researcher Danilo Rakic presented key stakeholders and our project coordinator Sinisa Volarevic presented all important international and national strategies and policies for our field of work. Presentations were followed by analysis of stakeholders and context of work – SWOC analysis, stakeholder analysis, and PESTE. Based on presentations and analysis we developed Programme Action Plan for 2009.

Programme Action Plan for 2009 was presented to, and approved by the Managing Board meeting on November 27 2008.

Opposite page: "Jelena Šantić" Foundation award presentation.

Bottom: New Year performance for displaced children from Kosovo and Metohija, in "GIK Banat" collective centre in Grocka.



Five most impressive moments in the work of Group 484 in 2008?

1. Action **Repacking**, at Kalemegdan, on June 20th.
2. Impressive finalisation of the project *Pali-lula, our home: five-language dictionary* intended for returnees that both beneficiaries and associates gladly accepted, as well as the excellent round table about returnees in Serbia.
3. **Cooperation with the Ministry of Health**, particularly with Dr. Dubravka Šaranović who included Group 484 in the realisation of educational programmes of the Ministry for health workers, working with vulnerable groups.
4. **Policy paper – Role of NGO in primary health care** – written on the initiative of Balkan Primary Health Care Policy, and incorporated into policy of the Ministry of Health.
5. **Work with volunteers**, particularly our **cooperation with the Faculty of Political Sciences**, finalised with the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between Group 484 and the Faculty at the beginning of 2009.

Why it was good to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Because of the people. I love people I work with. I experience Group as my own home. I'm looking forward to going to work. I like working here because the people are not selfish, they share things, correct themselves when they make mistakes, and I myself do that often – the surroundings stimulate such a behaviour.

Why it was difficult to be in Group 484 in 2008?

Everything is uncertain. Financing depends on projects... (I was invited to accept a 'more secure' job, but I rejected, and stayed in Group).

6. Group 484 and associates

Executive Director:

Miodrag Shrestha

Deputy Director:

Tanja Pavlov

Programme coordinators:

Zorica Živojinović

Vladimir Petronijević

Gordan Velez

Programme team:

Danilo Rakić

Zagorka Aksentijević

Siniša Volarević

Nataša Ceribašić Ljubomirović

Snežana Krstanović

Leposava Mitrović

Marko Aksentijević

Administration and Finance:

Jovana U. Krstić

Branka Antanasijević

Jasmina Sinobad

Translator:

Nataša Grba Singh

Logistic support:

Dejan Trbušković

IT support:

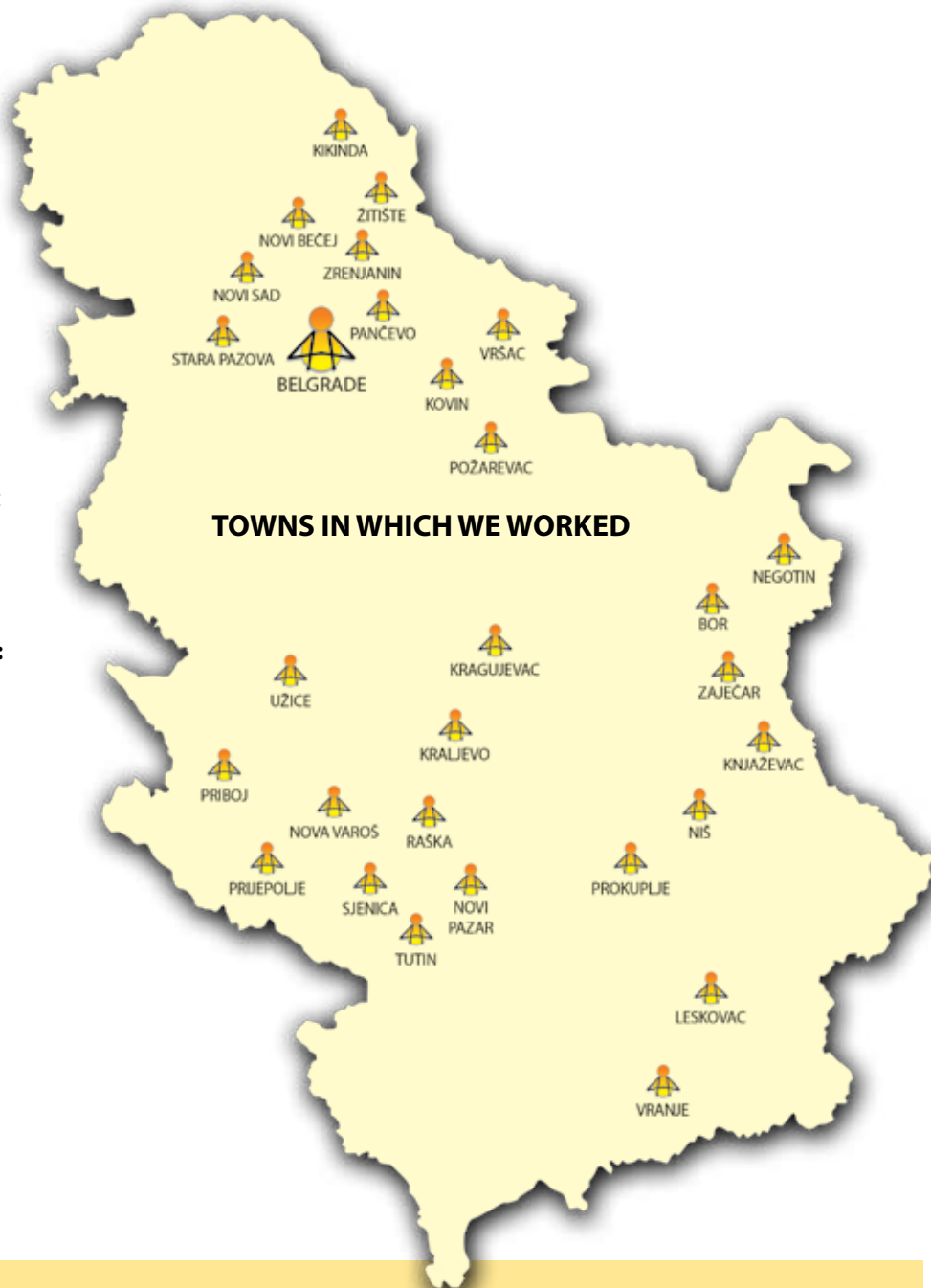
Vladimir Radulović

Dragana Radulović

Interns:

Laura Magdalena

Mina Prokić



GROUP 484 MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS

- **Nataša Rašić** - Legal Advisor, UNDP Antidiscrimination project
- **Vesna Cipruš** - Consultant
- **Irina Subotić** - Professor at Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad, Art History Department
- **Vojin Dimitrijević** - Professor at Belgrade University Law School, Executive Director of the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
- **Zoran Hamović** - Owner and Director of the publishing firm CLIO
- **Vera Kovačević** - Consultant for poverty reduction projects, Centre for Liberal Democratic Studies
- **Tanja Mišćević** - Associate professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade

OUR ASSOCIATES:

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And many others...

7. Project, donors funds

GROUP 484 PROJECTS IN 2008

1. Towards the white Schengen list – Monitoring of the Road Map
2. Western Balkans – towards white Schengen list
3. Support to the Process of Readmission through Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees from Western Europe to Serbia
4. Information on the country of return: key to assistance and counselling of returnees
5. Support to institutional and programme development of Group 484
6. Advocacy for Inclusion of Internally Displaced Persons in the Active Labour Market Policy Measures
7. Palilula our home, integration of returnees under the readmission agreements into local community
8. People in Readmission - Enhancing Policy and Practice in Serbia
9. Contact Organisation for Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation
10. Advocacy on EU level for sustainable return in the region
11. Who says we can't do it? – Advocating for equal employment opportunities of vulnerable youth groups
12. NGO Units for Monitoring and Supporting the Youth Strategy Consultation Process at the Local Level
13. Migration and Development: Creating regional labour market and labour migrants circulation as response to regional market demands
14. Step closer to Europe – Empowering volunteers for the promotion and implementation of the European standards in the field of migration
15. Civil society advocacy initiatives – Advocating for the Social Housing Law
16. Leave a Trace, Change the Place – Advocacy Initiatives for the Minorities

DONATORI - OBIM SREDSTAVA U 2008. GODINI

DONORS	%	EXPENDITURE IN 2008.EUR
EP/EC (AENEAS)/EIDHR	42.99	192,595.77
VRS/MOS/FSI/KOCD	14.86	66,571.61
BTD	9.62	43,103.45
MOTT	7.69	34,467.94
CCFD	6.70	30,025.00
ISC	5.88	26,330.19
VOLUNTEERS	3.01	13,490.00
UNDP	2.97	13,308.38
PRIVATE DONATIONS	1.50	6,731.73
UNIDEA	1.42	6,356.31
CARITAS BELGIUM	0.96	4,315.52
ECRE	0.75	3,351.13
OSCE	0.68	3,037.50
NAB	0.56	2,529.65
MARA FOUNDATION	0.25	1,100.01
USCRI	0.14	643.95
TOTAL	100.00	447,958.14
Foreign donors	80.62	361,164.80
Government of Serbia	14.86	66,571.61
Private donations	1.50	6,731.73
Volunteers	3.01	13,490.00
TOTAL	100.00	447,958.14