

<b>Total Budget:</b>	<b>USD 6,143,000</b>		
<b>Budget by Agency:</b>	IOM: 984,901 UNDP: 3,052,701	ILO: 1,344,370 UNICEF: 761,028	
<b>Participating Gov. Entities:</b>	Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, National Employment Service, Centre for Social Work, Republic Statistical Office		
<b>Start Date:</b>	11 May 2009		
<b>End Date:</b>	11 November 2012		
<b>Extension</b>	15 May 2013		
<b>Disbursements:</b>	First Disbursement:	11 May 2009	USD 2,372,730
	Second Disbursement:	19 July 2010	USD 2,700,180
	Third Disbursement:	8 July 2011	USD 1,050,090
<b>In Brief:</b>	The JP implemented by IOM, ILO, UNDP and UNICEF will support national and local institutions to implement policy and operational measures that will increase youth employment in Serbia while concurrently reducing the negative impact of return and irregular migration. Interventions will be implemented in South Backa, Belgrade and Pcinjski Districts and will focus on i) developing evidence-based policies on youth employment and migration; ii) strengthening the capacity of national institutions to design integrated labour market and social services that are aligned with policy objectives; and iii) supporting local institutions to pilot innovative employment programmes and social services. The JP will target disadvantaged young women and men, especially young Roma returning to Serbia under readmission agreements, as well as those at risk of social exclusion who are prime candidates for emigration. It will contribute to the achievement of MDG1 (indic.2) and MDG8 (indic.45).		

**Outcomes:**

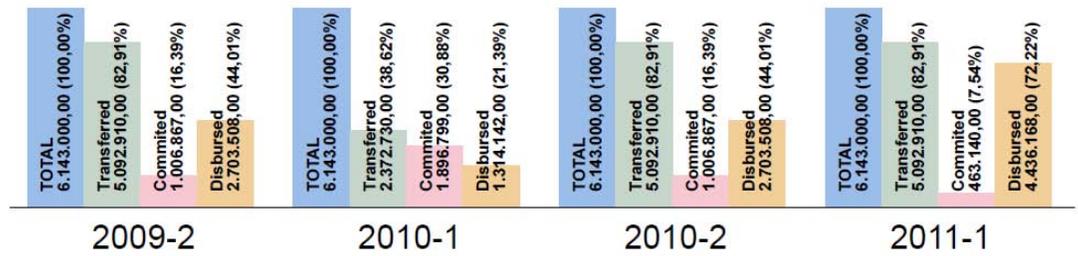
- Sustainable development plans that effectively respond to the need of people, communities and promote rural development
- Improved network of employment services and strengthened employment promotion policies



<b>Regions of Intervention:</b>	• Districts of South Backa, Belgrade and Pcinjski	
<b>MDGs</b>	MDG1 T1.B	
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Direct</b>	<b>Indirect</b>
• No. Institutions	109	41
• No. Women	1,347	
• No. Men	1,459	
• No. ethnic groups		

**Status** On track and advancing well towards expected outcomes and outputs

**Estimated financial execution status as of the June30, 2011 biannual report:**



**Main Achievements :**

- The work under outcome 1 has resulted in improved knowledge on youth employment, migration and social protection through enhanced methods for collection and analysis of data, and the establishment of new indicators (15) in the areas of employment, social protection and labour migration. YEM has helped to shape the new national strategy for employment which sets out priorities for the next ten years and now includes some of the areas that YEM is addressing, such as improved employment data, integration of services and employment creation through social enterprise. The new national employment strategy, supported by YEM and adopted by the Government, is accompanied by the first white paper for labour migration in Serbia developed by YEM.

The YEM supported advocacy campaign has attracted large attention by the media and resulted, among other, in the signing of a MoU between two key ministries on introducing entrepreneurial learning into the Serbian education system.
- The work under outcome 2 has resulted in enabling public institutions to deliver more efficient and individualized services to disadvantaged youth, to better understand their problems and needs, to integrate youth employment in municipal targets, and to build consensus on the need for better integrated service delivery.

On the level of direct support to individual institutions, YEM focussed on the Centers for Social Work (CSWs), the National Employment Service, the municipal youth offices, and the local employment councils. YEM supported the introduction of case management and annual operational planning in selected CSWs (covering 452 case managers and supervisors), supported youth offices to better understand and reach out to disadvantaged youth through infopoints which have already been used by over 5.000 youth, and to deliver employment related projects which will reach at least 700 youth. The JP has also supported employment councils to include youth employment targets into youth employment interventions, and resulted in 22 employment councils to complete local action plans.

In order to enable public institutions to provide better integrated services, YEM has coordinated a inter-ministerial working group with all relevant ministries, provided technical input, and launched integrated service delivery pilots in 7 municipalities. At the policy level, the integrated service delivery working group has been successful in influencing the new law on Social Protection with the aim to ensure firm cooperation between CSW and the NES. Up to date 57 youth, all beneficiaries of the social welfare services, were referred from CSW to NES through the integrated service model. They are all included into the YEF active labour market programmes (ALMP).
- Outcome 3, The Youth Employment Fund (YEF) supports 2.287 beneficiaries – 1.462 beneficiaries are undergoing vocational training and 825 are in employment (167 young people are self-employed and 658 are placed in companies). 58 beneficiaries out of 1.462, who are undergoing vocational training, have been activated due to the successful piloting of integrated service delivery. An agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Education to take a role in the assessment and certification of competency based training offered through the YEF, with a view of transferring the Regional Training Centres (RTC) into national assessment centres in charge also of the recognition of prior learning and informal education. These RTCs are conducting assessments since April 2011.

Does the JP incorporate gender considerations in the **activities/outputs/outcomes**?  
 45% of YEF's beneficiaries are women,

**Observations**

<p><b>Paris Declaration</b></p>	<p><b>Leadership of national and local governmental institutions:</b></p> <p>National ownership promoted through the JPs is seen to pave the way for the forthcoming decentralized implementation modality to be put in place on the way to the EU integration</p> <p>The Government is fully included into all aspects of oversight and implementation of the joint programme through the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development as the lead national partner. All national implementing partners are members of the YEM programme management committee. The joint programme manager reports to the MERD on a regular basis.</p> <p>At the operational level, YEM coordinates and participates in inter-ministerial working groups in integrated service delivery and migration and employment policy. The Republic Statistical Office implements all relevant surveys under the JP as a sub-contractor. Representatives of the MERD and Ministry of Youth and Sports participate in the weekly PIU meetings.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Involvement of CSOs and citizens:</b></p> <p>With regards to Civil Society, consultations have been held with regards to the design of the active labour market measures. A national CSO representing youth carried out the national advocacy campaign under the JP as a sub-contractor.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Alignment and Harmonization:</b></p> <p>The horizontal cooperation between YEM and other programmes is most appreciated by donors, particularly in the context of the contribution that YEM and other programmes make to the EU integration processes in the country.</p> <p>Given the fact that PBILD is being recognized a most valuable programmatic vehicle for delivery of various types of new activities to the South Serbia region, the geographical as opposed to the thematic programmatic approach is becoming very much appropriate. In that sense, PBILDs role in the domain of the youth employment, migration, readmission and many other programmatic areas is increasing of when it come the region of South Serbia, particularly in the context of the follow up/extension programmes. Dialogue between PBILD and YEM and related synergies are increasing.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Innovative elements in mutual accountability:</b></p> <p>The NSC provides strong oversight and guidance to the three JPs. The PMC, as the programme's coordination platform, suffered from initial uncertainties but has stabilised and closely guides the implementation process. The PMC performs well as the main coordination body and link to the government. Despite the limitations mentioned above, the JP Programme Manager and his Deputies have largely ensured good coordination of participating agencies. Cooperation between the agencies and the most important national partners works well. Civil society and private sector organisations are closely involved in implementing certain activities and they are coordinating well with their respective UN agency.</p>
<p><b>Delivering as One</b></p>	<p><b>Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices:</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Role of the RCO and synergies with other MDG-F JPs:</b></p> <p>In Serbia, three joint programmes have been approved. YEM started in May 2009, the other two joint programmes by December 2009. Close coordination between the three joint programmes and the RC office are established. Regular meetings between programme managers and RC office are being held, and Joint programme managers participate in UNCT meetings as observers. In addition, YEM as the first joint programme shares all operational information and documents with the other two programmes and invited the partner programme managers to participate in the weekly PIU meetings</p> <hr/> <p><b>Inter-agency coordination:</b></p> <p>Over time, the YEM JP has developed steadily, and inter-agency coordination at the time of this evaluation has been largely well established. JPM takes part at UNCT meetings and other related activities.</p>

<p><b>Sustainability</b> (concrete actions and strategic partnerships)</p>	<p><b>Sustainability Plan in place? Yes</b></p> <p>The JP partners have completed a proposal and budget for a one year follow-up programme.</p> <p>The work on improving the LFS methodology and calculating labour market indicators remains as a lasting improvement for future administration of the LFS.</p> <p>Youth employment indicators and targets, which have been defined by the YEM, have been embedded in the National Employment Strategy 2011-2020 which also provides for the sustainability of YEM interventions and creates a basis for further actions in their support. These include: the development of integrated service delivery, sustainability of the YEF (ALMPs targeting youth) and training programmes as priority ALMPs for the unemployed with low educational attainment, the necessity of assessments of competencies gained through training programmes and certification system, professional development of the NES staff, decentralization of employment policy making and the development of local employment councils, and development of social enterprises.</p> <p>The work on establishing a labour migration strategy and actions plans, and the proposed labour migration indicators have been presented and discussed with the inter-ministerial working group on migration. The capacity to collect, analyze and use labour migration data, is still to be further developed. This is addressed in great detail through a 2 million Euro EU funded programme, implemented by IOM and the Commissariat for Refugees.</p> <p>On the basis of the defined social protection indicators the Institute for social protection initiated a revision of data collection instruments that will serve for preparation of the Institute's annual report on social protection for 2011. New data collection instruments will be institutionalized through the bylaw on evidence in social protection which is expected by the end of 2011.</p> <p>The instruments for the collection of new data on social protection will be institutionalized through the bylaw on evidence in social protection field which is expected by the end of 2011. Strengthened co-operation between the Institute for Social protection and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia will ensure regular transfer of data on social protection between them and therefore ensure data availability on the local level through DevInfo database. Data usage on the local level will be increased thanks to improved capacity for data usage, optimized selection of indicators for local level (through revision of local DevInfo database) and development of user friendly data presentation formats from DevInfo.</p> <p>The new law on Social protection adopted in the parliament on March 2011 has legitimized the case management approach in CSWs and the previously adopted CSW rulebook.</p> <p>The Government of Serbia has included the roll-out of the selected integrated service delivery model (that will be decided upon completion of the piloting) in its EU IPA planning thus committing to continue with the application of integrated services.</p> <p>The ALMPs targeting disadvantaged youth that have been piloted by the YEM through the Youth Employment Fund (YEF) are entirely new to the NES. A series of models have been developed to assure the sustainability of the Youth Employment Fund. The Government of Serbia has earmarked an additional RSD 15 million to support the continuation of the YEF.</p> <p>The assessment of competencies gained through training programmes is an essential part of the design of the measures. A major break-through has been achieved in the cooperation between the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and the Ministry of Education (MoE) in the field of adult education. An agreement has been reached that the Regional Training Centres (RTC) under the jurisdiction of the MoE take over the role of organizing and conducting competency assessments for trainings organized within the YEM. The MoE has these RTC in mind with a view of transferring them into Regional Assessment Centres for the Recognition of Prior Learning (part of the Serbian Qualification Framework) which guarantees the sustainability of the established mechanism and the capacity development.</p>
<p><b>Innovation and Scale-up</b></p>	<p>See Sustainability section above.</p>
<p><b>External Factors and mitigation</b></p>	
<p><b>Communication and Advocacy</b></p>	<p><b>C&amp;A plan in place? yes</b></p> <p>The JP has articulated a communications and advocacy strategy, which has 4 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guide JP communications internally among partner agencies to support JP implementation.</li> <li>• Provide guidance and quality assurance for JP external communication in order to ensure consistent and appropriate visibility for JP activities, and to support the creation and maintenance of</li> </ul>

	<p>positive and successful relationships with YEM stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline JP communication activities' framework to support the achievement of programme outputs and outcomes.</li> <li>• Provide the basis for co-ordinated advocacy action among all JP partners and team members, utilizing advocacy opportunities and resources to help achieve the positive change identified, contributing to advocacy around the achievement of JP goals and MDGs.</li> </ul> <p>The JP Communication and Advocacy Strategy contains a matrix on stakeholder communication, which outlines the stakeholder groups, communication goals, and communication tools and processes to be used; detailed guidelines on visibility of the JP, and C&amp;A events and products; and the framework for the implementation of the C&amp;A activities over the course of the JP as well as a template for quarterly C&amp;A workplans.</p>	
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Comprehensive M&E framework	
<b>Missions from MDG-F Secretariat:</b>	<b>Date:</b> February 2010	<b>Members:</b> Paula Pelaez
<b>Mid Term Evaluation:</b>	<p><b>Evaluator:</b> Dietmar Aigner</p> <p><b>Period:</b> March – April 2011</p>	