



Centre for International  
Migration and Development  
a joint operation of GIZ and the  
German Federal Employment Agency



ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈА  
СРПСКИХ  
СТУДЕНАТА У  
ИНОСТРАНСТВУ

# Stronger links, better opportunities: Networking of Serbian students in Germany

**One Person** *can*  
*make a difference*

1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Sirius Facilities Konferenzzentrum München-Neuaubing

Centre for International Migration and Development and Organisation of Serbian Students Abroad



## INTRODUCTION

Many migrants contribute to their home countries' development while living abroad: some establish diaspora organisations and carry out projects on a voluntary basis, while others set up businesses and build economic ties between countries. They build bridges between their country of origin and residence and also serve to convey and transfer know-how and innovations.

In the field of development cooperation, the term »diaspora« refers to a (nonhomogeneous) group of people with a migration background who live abroad and at the same time maintain emotional and material ties to their country of origin. Often people in the diaspora organise themselves in communities (associations) for certain purposes as »members of diaspora communities« or »migrant organisations«. Diaspora communities are also founded based on a common profession, as is the case for engineers or doctors. Through knowledge and technology transfer, financial contributions, mobilization of networks and contacts and the business cooperation, diaspora is able to promote development processes in their country of origin.

A large number of highly skilled migrants live and work in Germany, some of whom have been educated at German universities or who were able to upgrade their professional skills through employment experience. Student migration is the movement of students who study outside their country of birth or citizenship for a period of 12 months or more. With the rapid rise of international education more and more students are seeking higher education in foreign countries. Studying abroad can be beneficial: after graduation with knowledge and skills gained abroad foreign students have possibilities either to start a career in the hosting country or to seek their professional perspectives in their country of origin. A significant number of migrants decide at some point to return to their countries of origin on a temporary or permanent basis, enabling them to share their knowledge directly at local level. Different motivation lies behind decision making "to stay or to return", but some factors are repeating more often: employment possibilities, wages, space for professional development, networks and a feeling of belonging to the culture and place of origin.

As an actor in the field of development cooperation, the Centre for International Cooperation and Development (CIM) promotes the positive potential of migration.

The Organization of Serbian Students Abroad (OSSA) is an international, non-profit, non-governmental and non-political organization. Its goal is to gather Serbian students studying abroad and to provide assistance to those students who, after successful completion of their studies wish to return to their country of origin and begin their professional careers.

This event is an initiative of the Programme Migration for Development, hosted by CIM and OSSA. It outlines key factor for decision making weather to start a career in a country of origin or hosting country. It will offer an opportunity to gather Serbian students in Germany and discuss topics related to benefits from migration.



## OBJECTIVES

- Gathering and networking of Serbian students in Germany
- Discussion on key factors for career start in the country of origin and in the hosting country
- Presentation of Program Migration for Development and its support mechanisms
- Presentation of Serbian organisations in Germany

## PARTICIPANTS

- Students enrolled at Universities in Germany who came from Serbia or have a Serbian background
- Representatives of relevant institutions in Serbia
- Topical experts: academia and international organisations
- Media associations and Serbian entrepreneurs from the Serbia and Germany

## PROGRAMME

Date: **01.12.2017 from 1 – 6 p.m.**

Registration opens at 12:30 a.m. Official start of the event is at 1 p.m.

Location: **Sirius Facilities Konferenzzentrum München-Neuaubing  
Trimbургstrasse 2, 81249 Minhen**

Agenda and logistic note will follow soon.

## LANGUAGE AND LOGISTICS NOTE

Please confirm your attendance by sending an E-Mail at [info@ossi.rs](mailto:info@ossi.rs) with the Subject note “Stronger links, better opportunities: networking of the Serbian students in Germany” and state from which German city are you coming and at which University/Highschool are you enrolled.

The official working language of the event is Serbian.

Refreshment and meals will be covered during the event. Travel costs will be reimbursement by CIM.

## CONTACT

For any additional questions please contact:

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## ABOUT PROGRAMME MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The global Programm Migration for Development (PMD) is commissioned by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented under the umbrella of the Centre for Migration and Development (CIM) – a joint operation of the GIZ and the International Placement Services (ZAV) of the Federal Employment Agency of Germany (Bundesagentur für Arbeit, BA).

The global objective of the program is to strengthen the development-relevant contributions of migrants in their countries of origin and improve the framework conditions for legal migration in selected partner countries, in the following fields of activity:

- (1) Migration policy advice
- (2) Migration advice
- (3) Knowledge-sharing by returning experts
- (4) Business ideas for development
- (5) Cooperation with diaspora organisations and diaspora experts
- (6) Reintegration and return

The Programme Migration for Development was extended to Serbia in 2016. Programme components Migration advice, Cooperation with diaspora organisations and diaspora experts, Knowledge-sharing by returning experts and Reintegration and return are currently falling under the activities in Serbia. The Study on Serbian Diaspora in Germany was conducted within the programme and it gives the overview of the Serbian migration movement to Germany and the profile of Serbian diaspora in Germany, including the recommendations for the development-oriented integration of the diaspora (organisations, associations and individuals).