

Job Counseling & Referral Centers (JCRC) in Tbilisi & Batumi

In 2003, The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Prague and IOM Tbilisi have started jointly their endeavor in return and reintegration of Georgian migrants voluntarily returning back to their country of origin started. The project had continued and nowadays the main purpose is to contribute to Human Resource Development and promoting safe and legal migration opportunities. It is mainly funded by the **Czech Republic from International Development Cooperation Program** and by the **International Polish Aid Program**.

This project seeks to **contribute to human resource development and enhance support to employment and self-employment potential of job seekers**. It was established due to incapability of Georgia's State administration and its lack of systematic approach without trained human resources. The project tries to achieve its goals by creating **Job Counseling & Referral Centers (JCRC)** two of which are located in Tbilisi (from 2007) and Batumi (from 2008).

These centers create Professional orientation, Job counseling and Referral systems. Their main functions are Counseling, Providing of information, CV generation, Referral and counseling in Business start-up.

JCRC has the following short term goals: Expansion of contacts with the private sector; Developing forms of cooperation with potential employers and regular collection of information on job openings; Labour market surveys to be regularly updated on the demands of the labour market; Further enhancement, development of the capacities in provision of consultation and mediation services of the JCRCs.

Based on Czech experience on the needs of Georgia's employment sphere, IOM created also a new database of free job vacancies and updates from institutions providing retraining and skills upgrades (available at www.jcrc.ge). The Database is being created also thanks to endeavor of Ministry of Education and IOM Project support. The database serves as interlink between the job seekers and future employees and speeds up the reinsertion of the applicants at the labour market. **The Tbilisi and Batumi Centres have provided altogether almost 2000 clients** with counseling and referrals. Out of this number, **350 clients are already employed or self-employed**.

JCRC however also faces some challenges, such as the shortage of job openings, limitations in the recruitment, low qualification and mobility of job seekers, or limited options of qualification acquisition and absence of qualification recognition system.

In the end, thanks to the cooperation with Ministry of Education and Science, Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Interior and thanks to funding from EU, Czech and Polish Development Aid the migration and reintegration system in Georgia has been supported in a complex way reflecting both the outgoing labour migration, as well as migrants' reintegration needs.