

# USAID MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY (PPMG)

NOVEMBER 2015



*Round Table participants during the panel discussion*

## ROUND TABLE ON TOPIC “YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT”

As a part of USAID’s Marginalized Populations Support Activity (PPMG), a round table was held at the Educational-Leisure Center for Youth SPAJALICA on the topic of “Youth entrepreneurship as part of the solution of youth unemployment.” The participants of the discussion were Mirnes Dedukić, Youth Officer of the Tešanj Municipality, Bosa Kalinić, Youth Officer of the East Ilidža Municipality, Aldin Alić, representative of the youth association “ReAktiv” Zenica and youth from 17 local communities. In addition to regular activities, such as

mentorship and individual trainings for representatives of organizations advocating for the rights of marginalized groups in BiH, PPMG also holds advocacy events, round tables and trainings. The biggest problem in BiH, and the society in BiH, is the high rate of youth unemployment. Job openings are few and far between. Very frequently dozens of youth apply for a single job.

One of the solutions, according to representatives of USAID’s Marginalized Populations Support Activity, is youth self-employment. The participants of the discussion agreed that youth self-employment has substantial advantages, but also several drawbacks. The main drawback, in their opinion, is the lack of youth informedness about all the opportunities and the advantages inherent in starting your own business.

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*Introductory panelists: Mirnes Dedukić – Youth Officer of Tešanj Municipality and Bosa Kalinić – Youth Officer of Ilidža Municipality*

Mirela Geko, from the Youth Council of Novo Sarajevo, says that support for youth is lacking in her municipality, especially in this area. “Youth are the strength of my Municipality. Still, the authorities do not regard the situation in this manner. We are not informed enough and have no advisory support. Essentially, the Youth Law of FBiH that genuinely managed the area is not followed at all. Certain improvements have to be done and fast” – said Mirela Geko. Mile Vujasin from Prijedor shares this opinion. He said that he applied to be given support by his municipality for starting his own business. However, he said things didn’t go according to plan. “I had a good idea, a good business plan with a clearly determined budget. Besides mine, the Municipality also recognized several more business plans. They decided to distribute incentive funds. The funds were not sufficient to finance my business plan so I gave up” – added Mile Vujasin.

However, the situation is not so glum, as proven by Aldin Alić, representative of the youth association “ReAktiv” from Zenica. His idea of making and selling tote bags made of eco-friendly materials, was recognized by the Institute for Youth Development KULT, which provided “ReAktiv” with a 6,000 BAM grant in the beginning of this year. Today, the business is going well, said Aldin. “Nothing can replace hard work. If you’re willing to work, why not work for yourself?” said Aldin in the beginning of his story. He added that everything would have been more difficult if he didn’t have advisory support.

Bosa Kalinić from the East Ilidža Municipality agreed that advisory support is possibly the most important segment of starting a youth business.

The Municipality of Tešanj is the best example of providing support to youth in starting youth businesses. Mirnes Dedukić, Youth Officer from this municipality states that in Tešanj, youth business ideas are evaluated by businessmen and that is probably the principal reason for their success.



*Mirnes Dedukić, Youth Officer of Tešanj Municipality*



The aim of this discussion, according to the USAID PPMG representatives, was to actualize the real problems and youth requirements in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to provide institutionalized support to youth entrepreneurship, to animate youth with the purpose of starting youth businesses and defining a clear framework of cooperation of youth representatives with representatives of authorized institutions for the purpose of an a more efficient involvement of youth in social processes.

## **GRANT AWARD SIGNED BETWEEN THE USAID AND THE ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CLUB "BAMBI" (ŽKKuK)**



In Sarajevo, on October 29, 2015, a Grant Agreement was signed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Citizens' Association «Women's Wheelchair Basketball Club Bambi». USAID's

Marginalized Populations Support Activity will fund the purchase of sports equipment and sports wheelchairs for the club «Bambi», in the amount of USD 31,955. The Women's Wheelchair Basketball Club «Bambi» is the only basketball club of its kind in our country. Although their only choice is to compete with their male counterparts, these active young women are resolute in their efforts to keep their club alive. The biggest problem the club is currently facing is the lack of sports wheelchairs, which are significantly more expensive than wheelchairs for home or everyday use. Through this grant, the Marginalized Populations Support Activity is enabling the purchase of the necessary wheelchairs for all members of the club «Bambi». PPMG will also provide them with sports equipment needed for the club to function – sweatpants, sneakers, T-shirts, bags and other sports equipment. Additionally, participation fees will be paid for competitions organized by the Wheelchair Basketball Federation of BiH, enabling the club to compete for the next two years. Long-term conditions for routine training activities of the club members were also secured by paying for the use of a sports hall.

## **PPMG EXPRESSED SUPPORT TO FOUNDING MEETING OF UMBRELLA YOUTH BODY IN FBiH**

A meeting of representatives of Youth Councils in FBiH, organized and supported by the Marginalized Populations Support Activity (PPMG) was held on November 7, 2015 in Sarajevo.

Considering that the Youth Law of FBiH provides for establishing a Youth Council of FBiH (FBiH YC), the PPMG decided to support the advocating of establishment of the umbrella body youth association of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Important topics such as the establishing committee, election of delegates and the logo of the Youth Council of FBiH were included in the agenda.

With help and good advice from the Assistant of the Federal Minister of Culture and sports Adis Salkić, youth representatives from FBiH defined the Statute of the Youth Council of FBiH and generally agreed upon the positions within the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board and the Management of FBiH YC.



*Representatives of Youth Councils in FBiH*

The results of the meeting are clear, because the Youth Council of the Federation should be established by the end of this year. Mate Lončar, the President of the Youth Council of the County of West Herzegovina says that the establishing session should be held in mid-December in Sarajevo. "We discussed the candidates for management of the Council and there is definite progress. The Federal Council will work from the start. We will give our best to help in resolving the youth issue in the Federation of BiH. We will work on a more quality implementation of Youth Law" - emphasized Lončar.

Mr. Salkić expressed that he was glad to see that the establishment of an umbrella body for youth in the Federation is becoming more certain. He promised to provide support that is extremely important for

youth. Representatives of the FBiH YC also rely on this support. "I hope that the cooperation between Youth Council of the Federation and the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports will be very good and serve as an example, both for youth and the whole BiH society, as an example that hard work and diligence indeed pay off. I hope that through establishing the Youth Council, the Youth Law will finally be implemented" - says Mirela Geko, the representative of the Youth Council of the Sarajevo Canton.

Representatives of cantonal Youth Councils also discussed the visual identity of the Youth Council of FBiH, but also the current state in the field in local communities.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING HELD**

Administration and human resources were the topic of the training held from November 10 to 12, 2015 in Sarajevo for representatives of organizations from all over BiH that focus on protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The 27 training participants are enough evidence of the interest that the topic raised as it indicated to several important goals.

After the training on topic Legal and Organizational Structures that was held last month, this training was the logical continuation for strengthening the capacities of



*FBiH Youth Councils representatives with Adis Salkić, Assistant of Federal Minister of Culture and Sports*



these organizations through the following stages:

- The concepts and elements of managing and developing human resources,
- The process of building a team as a precondition for a successful functioning of an organization and
- The practical skills required to manage human resources with special emphasis to the areas of hiring and evaluation of staff's work.



*Working groups during the realization of the training*

Zlatko Sarić, an expert on organizational development and also the trainer who held the 3-day workshops and lectures on topic Administration and Human Resources stated that “the range of discussed topics was relatively wide” and that “participation methods of learning were used to discuss the characteristics of a true leader manager, the teambuilding process, defining priorities, manners of decision-making and procedures related to employment and employees’ work evaluation processes”. In addition to defining the traditional in comparison to the democratic form of management, leadership in the function of development of human resources, management styles and managing through the prism of the ideal team and decision-making processes within the team, but also other relevant topics necessary for strengthening the organizational management, the participants had the opportunity to engage in a session on topic Gender Issue in the Context of Developing Human Resources that was presented by Vedrana Frašto – the representative of the CURE Foundation. In the context of development of the organization, this topic clearly invoked interest among the participants, since this was one of the rare opportunities to approach such a thematic in a detailed and strategically oriented manner.



*Session held by Vedrana Frašto, representative of CURE Foundation*

The 3-day training was concluded by reflecting on time management during the process of determining priorities on activities of an organization, for which the trainer Zlatko Sarić stated that “it is necessary to repeat the idea that all successful managers often emphasize; the people are the most significant and the greatest resource of every organization and the extent to which the goals and the mission itself will be fulfilled depends precisely on them.”



*Different methods were used during the training, through group or individual work, in order for the material to serve in the purposes of strengthening the capacities of the participants’ organizations.*

**Marginalized Populations Support Activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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