

CASE STUDY:

YOUTH PROGRAMS EASE ENTRY INTO EMPLOYMENT



Background

A growing economy and a stable business environment are basic requirements for investment and job creation. Access to energy and infrastructure and a skilled workforce are also important. With many of these basic requirements a challenge, areas like Dragash have particular difficulty in creating employment for youth.

Intervention by S4RE

Whilst a project of the scale of S4RE cannot solve all these issues, increasing the opportunities for youth to enter the labor market can be enhanced by improving their skills.

Meat processing requires specific skills on preparing and working with the products. Businesses in the region of Dragash are well known for their



delicious meat dishes. Summer is an especial busy time, due to the diaspora community visiting their families and tourists visiting the Sharr Mountains. Sevdil Mehmeti has been working at a kebab shop in Montenegro, and in 2012 he has

moved to Dragash and opened his own business. Having seen an increased demand for kebab shops, Mr. Mehmeti was seeking a possibility to open another shop. However, an obstacle was skilled workforce to capture the market during the peak season. Meeting with Skills for Rural Employment (S4RE) staff was a great opportunity for the business to express its needs. S4RE helped find a group of local youth who was willing to learn and get into the labor market.

The training started before the summer season so as to prepare them for when the season starts. The project provided a 9 day training for 5 youths that acquired skills in meat processing products like hamburgers, sausages and kebabs. This is a competitive business, and DPH Lezeti recognized that better skills amongst new staff would provide him with a competitive advantage.

Results of collaboration

The collaboration with DPH Lezeti resulted in 4 people from the training group starting work.

Organizing youth and improving their skills through training and on the job experience is proving a successful model to improve the livelihoods for young people in Dragash.

According to Rushid Rushiti who was unemployed for 2 years, the training helped him to learn a lot of things about this business. Now after he has a job he is also able to help his family. Active programs for youths are a very important way of reducing unemployment and if more job opportunities would be accessible to young people this has the potential to also reduce migration from rural areas to the urban centres.