

# SUCCESS STORY

## TRAINING – A HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

**N**evena Nacic, a 23 year old girl, lives in the village Berivojce with her family of five. Nevena has completed secondary medical school and graduated as pediatric nurse. However, living in Kamenica, eastern part of Kosovo, where employment opportunities are very limited she was not able to get a job. As Nevena says “Considering the family financial situation I was not able to even think of continuing advanced studies”. Her mother gets a social assistance of 75 Euro monthly due to health disability, while her father barely manages to get some income through his skills in auto gas mounting. Her sister and brother are unemployed too.



# SUCCESS STORY

---

The 1999 conflict had left behind many consequences. One of the most severe consequences is the dispute between Serbians and Albanians. Berivojce is a multi-ethnic village in Kamenica municipality with about 1,500 inhabitants where Albanians, Serbs and RAE (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian) live in houses next to each other. They are overcoming this dispute, as in their daily life they use the same shops, same bakery and the same market. However, they attend schools in separate buildings. International and national organizations continue promoting inter-ethnic relations.

In October 2014, Nevena leading a learning group of seven members consisting of 4 Serbs and 3 RAE, completed a training provided by S4RE in tailoring at a design house owned by an Albanian woman. During three months training the group was able to learn how to use the tools and machine, sewing - use of needle and thread, measurements, garment making and materials – estimating the materials required to make a specific garment etc.

“I would not be able to make it without the support received from S4RE project. Supported by Helvetas, the group and I have managed to adopt the premises and purchase machines, tables and some materials to establish a tailoring shop. Apart from receiving income, we want to increase women’s awareness and self-confidence, be a role model for the youth,” says Nevena.

Nevena and the group have started to provide tailoring services. “I had a happy childhood. I remember my mother singing while she tailored. I never thought I would do the same, tailor and sing. It happened recently when I got to practice my tailoring skills. The group and I have managed to attract customers and provide design and tailoring services especially for prom and evening dresses. I received some income and was able to buy a gift for my mother, bringing tears of happiness to her,” she says.

Tailoring skills gained through the training have brought hope for a better future for Nevena. It is in her dreams to further develop the business, she plans to attend fashion events to present her creations and promote the business. “I think I have made a solution, I believe that tailoring is currently a rescue for me and my family. Of course, I do this job with dedication and as soon as I rise financially I will purchase professional machines. I have learnt a lot during the training. Through the project I became self-confident, I have learnt to be independent, interact with people of different ethnicity and built inter-personal skills, and I believe all this experience will lead to a better life for me and my whole family. I am deeply grateful to Helvetas for this wonderful opportunity,” says Nevena, with a cheer in her face.

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Kosovo Nazim Gafurri str.nr.33, PO Box 2  
10000 Pristina, Republic of Kosovo | Tel: + 381 (0) 38 517 715 | Fax: + 381(0) 38 518 833  
Web: <http://www.helvetas-ks.org/s4re>