

SUCCESS STORY

TRAINING THAT CHANGED MY LIFE PERSPECTIVE

Berivojce is a multi-ethnic village, only 4 km away from city of Kamenica, inhabited by about 1,500 Albanians, Serbians and RAEs (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian). Before the conflict of 1999, the inhabitants used to live a happy life because there were operating two factories, ceramic producing factory and magnesium processing factory. After privatization, the factories changed to restaurants and the employees remained unemployed. Many youth left and migrated to Western countries.



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Egzona Maliqi, a 20 year old girl from Berivojce, decided not to migrate. Her father, a municipal worker, was striving not to let his children leave the country. "After completion of secondary school, I decided to study Economics, hoping to get the necessary knowledge and contribute in improving the economic situation of my country", Egzona expresses her pride for the Kosovo country.

"It was extremely difficult for my father with a monthly salary of 350 Euro to finance my studies and support a household of eight, while my mother is unemployed", Egzona expresses her concern for continuation of studies.

Having heard about S4RE project she immediately approached the project. "To tell you the truth, when I heard about the project and the opportunities the project provides for youth it made me very happy. I had a feeling I will find a solution for either employment or self-employment", says Egzona.

Two sisters got married recently, however Egzona's father had to finance university education for two sons and her, as well as another daughter at primary school. The challenge was unaffordable despite of a life with great savings.

Egzona was one of the learning group members who attended training on tailoring with a private business "Er-Rosi", owned and managed by a woman. She completed the training successfully in June 2014 and got employed with "Er-Rosi". "I am full-time employed, eight hours a day, and I spend another 4-5 hours studying", with a bright face full of joy "I can make 150 Euro monthly and I'm very happy I can cover study expenses. I feel worthy and complete now", admits Egzona.

During these months with "Er-rosi" she did not learn only to sew, the experience with "Er-rosi" has equipped her with customer relationship skills. "The tailoring job is new in our family. Based on the great results I'm having with my studies and the skills I have gained in tailoring, I'm confident that my dream is coming true thanks to Helvetas", says Egzona and continues: "I will continue my studies and the tailoring job, because I have realized the tailoring is a business that generates income continuously. My objective is to become a very famous designer and open my own business, and one day enable other girls to benefit from my skills in tailoring. My heart is broken as recently many youth left the country aiming to find a better life as immigrants", closes Egzona with a confidence.