



EUROPEAN RETURN FUND



RETURNING HOME: STORIES FROM KOSOVO

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WELCOME!

The present publication, brought to you by the Budapest office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a collection of stories told by Kosovar migrants who had been supported within our Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme.

Reading these stories, one should keep in mind that leaving your home is never an easy choice to make – and the decision to return can be just as hard. Our aim has been both to help the migrants to make informed decisions about their future and to guide and support them on the path they have chosen.

Many of the stories in this booklet tell about people who left their homes with the hope of a better tomorrow that would ensure steadier living conditions, not just for themselves but for their families at home as well. Such efforts often come with notable sacrifices, both financial and personal. When migration is not successful, the prospects for a thriving future back at home tend to appear even less encouraging than before.

To combat the problems that have motivated emigration, and could do so again, AVRR assistance is granted to facilitate sustainable reintegration. By offering a dignified process of return, and assistance in achieving economic independence, we aim to help such people start a new chapter in their lives. The individuals who have shared their stories in this publication are living proof that our work is bearing fruit.

These stories allow migrants' voices to be heard and their experiences to come centre stage. In this way we hope to present a picture of how return and reintegration assistance can bring positive results for individuals and their home communities.

We hope you enjoy the stories!

Magdalena Majkowska-Tomkin
Chief of IOM Mission in Hungary



INTRODUCTION

The majority of the migrants taking part in the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme by IOM Hungary are people of Kosovar origin. Currently, the struggling economy, which results in a lack of prospects, is the major push factor for the people who decide to emigrate from Kosovo*. Since the first assistance programmes were implemented in 2006, more than one hundred Kosovar people have been granted reintegration assistance in order to contribute to a sustainable return and ease the highly vulnerable situation that these returnees often face.

Hungary, as both a destination and a major transit country close to Kosovo*¹, serves as a crucial location point for informing migrants about the possible scenarios they need to understand when making decisions about further travel or settlement. That is to say, well-informed consideration that leads to the choice of voluntary return might save an individual from the dangers of travelling and seeking opportunities as a vulnerable migrant. Furthermore, the reintegration assistance available is aimed at mitigating the harsh economic situation of returnees and protecting their dignity.

In order to obtain reintegration assistance, the returnees have to apply by preparing a reintegration plan. Applications that are found to be reasonable, feasible and sustainable can be granted assistance of up to EUR 3,000, which may be used to facilitate entrepreneurship, education or employment. Currently, the proportion of people who are granted this reintegration assistance is 11 per cent of all those assisted by IOM to return.

The funding for the programme is received from the European Union within the European Return Fund 2013 as well as from the Hungarian Ministry of Interior.

The people whose experiences are portrayed in this booklet have all received reintegration assistance within AVRR programmes implemented by IOM Budapest between January 2009 and December 2013, and they were interviewed during monitoring visits carried out between 23 February and 6 March 2015. These visits were carried out by a delegation from the IOM Budapest office with the dedicated help of IOM Pristina in February 2015. Special thanks should go to Mr Esat Alickaj for providing invaluable help to the delegation, Ms Linda Muqolli for providing interpretation during the interviews and Mr Latif Hasolli for making the photographs used in the publication.

¹Hereinafter referred to as Kosovo*. This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. All reference to Kosovo in this report, whether the territory, institutions or population in the text shall be understood to be in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Gëzim Gjuri – Apiary

In 2012, Gëzim Gjuri decided to return voluntarily to Kosovo*. He applied for IOM's AVRR programme and was granted a business grant as reintegration assistance to help his beekeeping enterprise, which consisted of only seven bee houses prior to migration. Since then he has used the grant to expand his previously owned, but then unprofitable, beekeeping business.

Despite his family's constant support, IOM's help was the only financial assistance his business received upon his return. He recounts that restarting his business was the most important factor in stabilizing his life on returning to Kosovo* – although he admits the political situation continues to influence his options. For him “the assistance was more than enough” and it allowed him to buy all the necessary equipment for his apiary. “For two years we have seen the results of it (the assistance),” says Mr Gjuri.

Since his return with the initial support of IOM, Gëzim Gjuri has managed to increase the number of his bee houses considerably. His skills as a beekeeper, and the financial assistance received from IOM, have enabled the business to thrive. “We fulfill the needs,” says Mr Gjuri happily. Before he left, apart from his seven bee houses, he also owned a couple of sheep and cows. The profit from his honey business has allowed Mr Gjuri to invest in buying an extra cow and a calf, increasing the income for his family and opportunities for further investment.

Although the demand for honey from bee hives oscillates in the Kosovar economy, Mr Gjuri can sustain his business. Last year he was able to sell his produce wholesale to a company and he “got more money and in one go”. The income was a big help in further improving his family's living conditions by investing in the house where they live.

Moreover, the same profit allowed further investment: in a tractor, more cows and other

commodities that the family could not previously afford. Mr Gjuri has been able to sell his honey as far afield as Dubai in recent years.

Mr Gjuri and his family were very happy when their grant was approved as they knew it would be of great help in supporting the livelihood of all ten members of the family. “First we did not believe it was going to get approved but when it got approved... we could not sleep all night



from happiness,” recounted Gëzim Gjuri and his mother about their feelings over the experience.

Securing the business grant had been a smooth and easy process according to Mr Gjuri, who says that “with IOM I had only positive experience”.

Now he and his specialist products are becoming increasingly well-known in the area. The market for

honey, which is especially built on trust, has welcomed Mr Gjuri's organic, sugar-free and quality product. By expanding his initial market of family, relatives, friends and their acquaintances through word of mouth, he has now started to build up a permanent customer group and is being approached by potential buyers. Even though these are just the first steps, the business – from his judgment – seems to be going very well.

For the future, Mr Gjuri's plans include expanding his apiary to 100 hives and opening a small store in the centre of Podujevo or Pristina, where he can sell his honey.

Gëzim Gjuri's migration from Kosovo* in 2012 was “the first and the last time”. His achievements and the prospects for the apiary make him confident that “he would never go again”.



2. Alban Mali – Car Repair Shop

Alban Mali returned to Kosovo* after spending a month in Hungary. Upon returning to Kosovo* with IOM, Mr Mali applied and received a reintegration business grant, which he used to establish a car mechanic business in Gjakova, one of the biggest towns in Kosovo*.

The financial aid received from IOM enabled Mr Mali to equip his car repair shop with the necessary tools. He says that this assistance, the only financial help he received upon his return, and his willingness to work hard, were the two main factors behind his subsequent success.

Alban Mali has many years of experience as a car mechanic. However, before leaving Kosovo* he was only an employee at a car repair shop, “willing to work and a professional” as he says. Returning to Kosovo* with IOM gave him the opportunity to start



his own car repair business with the knowledge, experience and networks he already possessed.

Previously, it had been lack of funds that hindered his ability to start his own enterprise. The funds provided by IOM were sufficient to overcome that entry barrier and acquire the fundamental tools needed to start his business. “Even though I would need more tools, it is a very good start,” he remarks.

Mr Mali’s experience with IOM was “a correct one and very good”. Both offices, in Budapest and Pristina, were very helpful he says. The office in Budapest “told me I had to wait for one month to get the answer, and that is what I waited,” he says, while the IOM office in Pristina “waited for me several times and met me for the tools”.

The other step of registering the car repair shop with the state authorities in the municipality went smoothly as well.

Currently he rents a garage located just a few meters from his family home and the centre of the town of Gjakova. The rent for the garage “is not a problem, because I can easily cover the expenses,” he claims.

Mr Mali, who lives with his parents, wife and two children, says that the business he built with the IOM assistance has changed everything in his life. His living conditions have significantly improved in the last couple of months and now he can support his family better. “My wife doesn’t work and my son is six to seven months old. Everything we need, I can cover from this business”.

Mr Mali feels that nowadays the repair shop is progressing very well “since there are cars coming every day”. He has many regular customers who trust his experience and quality of work. The local competition is not that fierce either as the other car mechanics in the area specialize in different types of repair (window repairs, painting, and so on), which gives Mr Mali greater prospects for his machinery repairs.

Although fluctuations in workload occur often, Mr Mali believes that his shop will continue to progress. He closes the door to re-emigration, and states that he “will never leave”. Just recently, Mr Mali hired an employee living in the same neighbourhood who is a returnee as well. Thus the assistance granted is resulting in further jobs in the area.

For the future, Alban Mali would like to remain in Kosovo* and continue working in his own car repair shop, where he has “many clients and many friends” to help him grow his network.

3. Sadik Klodi – Carpenter

Mr Sadik Klodi returned voluntarily to Kosovo* with the help of IOM after his migration journey to Sweden was halted in Hungary. Having returned under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme of IOM Hungary, Sadik had the opportunity to apply for a business grant to support his reintegration process back in Kosovo*.

The business idea that Mr Klodi presented as part of his business grant application at the IOM Pristina office was to continue his family's traditional profession of carpenter, which began with his grandfather. His grandfather had worked as a carpenter producing tables, while Sadik says he "learned the skills from (his own) dad".

With the exception of the IOM grant, Sadik Klodi received no additional help to start his business. His only contact with the state authorities was to register his business, otherwise: "It was (his) idea and (he) started alone". Sadik Klodi returned to his village where he now lives with his family and works on his business. "I am satisfied that I am back," he says about his return.

Mr Klodi declares himself happy with the grant received from IOM to help start up the carpentry business. Because of the grant he now has more "opportunities", and "things" he could not possess before. Through hard work he can support his family because he has more income than when he left Kosovo* to try his luck with opportunities abroad. "We have always money now," says Sadik Klodi with regard to the income generated by his business.

Sadik Klodi focuses on producing tables, which are sold not only in neighbouring villages and communities but further afield in other Kosovan regions and cities like Drenas, Peja or Skenderas. The IOM grant has turned him very optimistic about the future of his business. "With hard work you can succeed," he says, as he concentrates on expanding his business even further.

His experiences with IOM Budapest and Pristina have been good and he says the process of applying and getting the grant was very



smooth. The only recommendation he makes is for an increase in the funds provided. "More money would be better," he says because as an entrepreneur he could invest in more machinery to increase the capacity of his enterprise and employ people to help him. There is a big market for the products he produces, according to Mr Sadik Klodi, and "the more you work, the more you can sell".

Such progress and business success have made Mr Klodi more optimistic about the future and he reconfirms that he has never again thought of leaving Kosovo*.

4. Ilir Toska – Agriculture

Prior to his return to Kosovo* Ilir Toska obtained information about the assisted voluntary return and the reintegration grant at the reception facility in Hungary, where he was accommodated.

The business grant Mr. Toska submitted at IOM's office in Pristina was to enable him financing the purchase of agricultural tools. The process of receiving the grant from IOM was a "very easy and very correct one" which he did not "find complicated".

Previously Mr. Toska had also received a one time financial assistance from the Kosovar government. However, nowadays the "the authorities' support for small agricultural ideas is very limited" according to him. After his return to Kosovo*, the IOM assistance was the only one he received to extend the agricultural family heritage.

Even though Mr. Toska had been a primary school Albanian language teacher prior to departing from Kosovo*, he was also involved in agriculture since his family has a long history of



working in the agrarian sector along with the rest of the members of his village. More than 20 families in a village of 120 families are involved with agriculture, according to Mr. Toska.

Prior to leaving Hungary Mr. Toska had applied for a salary subsidy in the profession of the teacher, an application that could not be supported by IOM's AVRR program. Consequently he came up

with the current idea: "After I returned I did not have many ideas... but I knew that I was going to work in agriculture so that is why I applied".

The success of his business depends on a lot of factors, often beyond his control, such as natural risks and the economic situation in the country leading to market price fluctuations of the products. For instance, the prices last year turned out to be lower

than expected. Regardless, Mr. Toska is able to sell his produce both wholesale in Pristina and Prizren, as well as at the local market on a weekly basis.

To counteract the factors mentioned above, Mr. Toska is looking for more creative approaches. He is currently selling seedlings to other local farmers from the area and extending his consumer base through informal networking and a word of mouth.

The assistance received from IOM apart from being a considerable help in stabilizing his life back in Kosovo*, has more than ever improved the working conditions and technology of Mr. Toska's agricultural business. Better working conditions and improved technological tools gave him the possibility to have less physical labour on the field. Moreover the support has enabled him to work faster and produce more.

Ilir Toska sees the support from IOM as a substantial factor which helped in re-establishing and stabilizing himself back in Kosovo*. The assistance received helped him and his family to establish electricity grid in the greenhouses, which should greatly increase his potential output. With a new heating system which is planned to be set up later on, Mr. Toska will have the possibility of entering the market at an earlier time and off season which would result in higher prices for his products.

Apart from extending the heating system in the greenhouses Mr. Toska and his family are planning to expand the irrigation land and further increase the number of greenhouses. "If I had the opportunity to do more I could go up to 10 or 15 more", says Mr. Toska. The plans for the future were already being implemented as the IOM monitoring visit was taking place. "When one is trying and if he is willing, there is more chance to succeed" were the remarks of Ilir Toska's father.

5. Nertil & Enver Sulejmani – Construction

Nertil and Enver Sulejmani are very close cousins, who have previously migrated twice from Kosovo*. On both occasions they left Kosovo* together for France hoping to be granted asylum status, but each time they were stopped in Hungary. On their second migration attempt they chose to return from Hungary voluntarily.

At Budapest airport, prior to their departure, they were counselled by an IOM Budapest representative about the possibility of receiving reintegration assistance from IOM's AVR project. After their arrival in Kosovo*, Nertil and Enver applied for the business grant as a business partnership at IOM's office in Pristina.

Since their return, Enver Sulejmani's father has been a considerable resource and support. Together, the three men planned to further develop their construction business and use the funds from the IOM assistance to buy more equipment. Enver and Nertil first got involved in the construction business by helping their father/uncle after they finished secondary school. Since that time they have acquired a lot of experience and are considered to be very skilled. Enver's father is the one who usually manages the business, by keeping in touch with customers and using his previous contacts to find new clients. His help and experience have made it significantly easier to develop the business.

The grant provided by IOM was the only financial assistance the cousins received for their construction enterprise. For both men, the family's role in supporting the business has been very important, but unfortunately it has not involved much financial support.

While so far their living conditions have not significantly changed, the assistance received has helped them considerably in finding work. "It has helped me even more because I work with them, and there is more work," says Nertil Sulejmani. Moreover, with the funds available the cousins have been able to afford better equipment, making their work physically easier and the pace faster. "The life is much better this way, because of less physical labour," Enver says.

The economic and political situation of the country negatively impacts their construction business because of the lack of finances to pay for such services, according to the cousins. However, their



business is going very well, as their projects are mostly located in Albania within 75 km, or a relatively short commute from their home. They have chosen to work more in the north of Albania because "the pay is better there". Moreover, through many years of working there, Enver's father retains many friends and contacts, which are an important resource for such businesses.

During the nine months of the year that they can work, there have been several occasions when they have had to turn down a job or contract. In 2014 they had to turn down five clients due to pressure of other work. "Last year the company had around 20 contracts, while now with better equipment and easier working conditions there can be expected even more."

By focusing mainly on residential buildings, working with the facades of estates and hydro isolation of houses, the three men are able to support a combined family of 15 members.

Although initially they thought they would never get the assistance, the two cousins recount how the procedure of acquiring the IOM grant had been very good, and say they did not have any difficulties at any stage of the application process. They considered it to have been a swift and simple procedure without obstacles or challenges. However, because the entire process from application to grant allocation took about six months, they suggest an area for improvement could be the speed with which the grants are allocated.



6. Faik Kulla – Tile laying service

Faik Kulla had to wait for one month in Kiskunhalas reception centre in Hungary before returning to Kosovo about a year ago through IOM's AVRR programme. At the airport prior to his departure, he was informed about the possibility of applying for a business grant at IOM's Pristina office as support for his reintegration and life stabilization back

in his home country. The reintegration grant he applied for was used for the purchase of new tools for his tile laying business, which since then has flourished.

Mr Kulla has always been involved in the tile laying business, even before he left Kosovo*. The decision to leave Kosovo* was tough for Mr Kulla, but the economic situation forced him to try his luck in tile laying by migrating to Germany.

Through the reintegration grant he received, Mr Kulla bought new tools to put his skills into practice, and the improvements in both quality and quantity have enabled him to run a successful enterprise. The quality he provides is instrumental in building the trust he needs with customers and in expanding his network in the future.

His situation and that of his family have greatly improved since acquiring the tools that

have enabled him to enhance his business. Faik Kulla believes that if he'd had the same tools and conditions before he decided to leave he would not have tried to migrate to Germany.

Since his return, his tile laying business has been a success. Through the income from his business he has been able to repay all the debts he had incurred to help him migrate from Kosovo*. Moreover, he employs two of his brothers,



thus the same assistance is supporting other family members. There is a big demand for his work, so he counts on being able to maintain a stable business in the future. Although his income does not enable a luxurious lifestyle, he is able to easily cover everyday food expenses for himself and those dependent on him.

The business grant from IOM was the only aid he received upon returning to Kosovo*. He received no state aid, and the only contact he had with the authorities was to register his business. He maintains that he was satisfied with the services offered by IOM and says that presently all he has to do is "focus on how to further develop the business, which is the key concern".

Since returning and receiving the assistance, Mr Kulla has not thought about leaving Kosovo* again. On the contrary, he would

like to expand his business to find bigger contracts and more work, or perhaps buy more tools. To expand his business he would need extra help, that is, more employees apart from his brothers. He recalls that in recent months it could have been even easier for him to migrate again, but it did not even cross his mind because he is "concentrating on building something here".

Faik Kulla considered the process of applying and receiving the reintegration grant to be a relatively easy process. After filling out the application and creating a business plan, the process went smoothly.

With regard to recommendations for the IOM offices in Budapest and Pristina, he says that the obligation of providing financial support for purchasing tools was kept, therefore there is nothing else the IOM offices could have done better.

7. Bujar Fusha – Agriculture

Bujar Fusha returned to Kosovo* from Hungary in 2013, after he was stopped when illegally crossing the border between Serbia and Hungary. Previously he had spent 17 years altogether in Germany. In 2013 he returned to Kosovo* with the IOM's AVRR program. Upon return, and after visiting the IOM office in Pristina, he applied for the IOM reintegration assistance business grant to help his family's agricultural business.

Mr Fusha and his family already owned the land they now use. However, before Bujar's return and receipt of the IOM assistance, the family had struggled to maintain the land "with the opportunities and based on the conditions".

Therefore the assistance from IOM was of great assistance to him and his family.

The IOM grant provided was used to purchase a mechanical plough. This greatly increased his efficiency and ease of work as previously human labour had been used to manually plough the land.

Mr Fusha believes that his living conditions have become easier and his life has improved a lot.



Because of the new machine he can yield more profit from his agricultural production. Moreover, the machine he owns now lets him take on more jobs and plough other people's land. This enables him to cover his expenses easily and the money he earns can also be reinvested in his own agricultural enterprise. The resulting income has also given Mr Fusha the opportunity to employ other workers in his agriculture business. At the

time, he was not employing anyone because of fluctuations in his business, however, "it happens but rarely, case by case" he says.

Mr Fusha does not have his own family yet, but he is engaged and plans to get married in the summertime. Currently he lives with his parents and two of his younger siblings. His cousins live close to his home and they work together, cooperating and helping each other. When he returned

to Kosovo* he received a lot of support from his family and this continues today.

Mr Fusha is satisfied and grateful for all the assistance he received from IOM as without it he would not have been able to establish his business. Apart from the IOM business grant, he did not receive any other state aid because he did not meet the necessary criteria. Furthermore, state support remains very limited, especially

in cases of natural damage, which are common in the agricultural sector.

Bujar Fusha has very clear plans for the future of his business. With a little more assistance he would be able to start a cattle farm. Raising cattle will generate more income as "the value of meat never goes down" and he would be able to sell milk and produce cheese as well. By his own calculations, he would need about five cows to start

his farm, which would entail an investment of approximately EUR 10,000.

Although he sees keeping cattle as much more profitable and valuable, he does not intend giving up on cultivation of the land. He could feed the cows with his planted wheat and recycle the remaining hay. At this moment, he sells hay to other farmers around the area, but he maintains that using it for his own additional cattle farm would be "much more profitable".

8. Flamur Kodra – Decoration Business

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Flamur Kodra returned to Kosovo* in 2010 with the IOM's AVRR program. After his return, within a month he applied for the reintegration assistance's business grant at the IOM office in Pristina. Initially he had left Kosovo* because of the lack of economic opportunities at home. Mr Kodra learned about the possibility of assisted voluntary return and reintegration from detention centre staff and other migrants.

When applying for the business grant, Mr Kodra's idea was to use the IOM assistance to help to establish his decoration business. He already had five years experience with a previous decoration business prior to leaving Kosovo*, and owning such a business had always been his childhood dream.

Aside from the reintegration assistance provided by IOM, Mr Kodra received help from family savings, which he still sees as very important in supporting his enterprise. Government

and other types of assistance were unavailable to him as he left Kosovo* after 2010 .

Currently the business is operational, and it provides a steady income with which Mr Kodra supports six family members. Mr Kodra's business produces decorative objects depicting many different themes and made from wood, metal, plastic, Styrofoam and locally found crystals. Many of his products are sold to the



Kosovo* diaspora, but a large proportion are sold locally too.

His export business has started on a small scale but Mr Kodra has plans to increase its capacity. He wishes to focus on promoting his products to Kosovo* migrants living abroad.

Through his interior design service business Mr Kodra provides specific paintings and decoration to mainly business premises and facade works.

The grant has solved the problems that initially motivated him to leave Kosovo*, and currently he does not plan to leave again as he considers himself to be in a better position than before he left.

Mr Kodra is satisfied with the reintegration assistance he received from Hungary and Kosovo*. He did not have any problems or difficulties with the process of acquiring the grant; the process was smooth, clear and relatively fast. His own recommendation would be to increase the maximum amount of the reintegration grant per person. In general, Kodra believes that the grant was useful, though on its own it would not have been enough to help in his reintegration.

In the future, Flamur Kodra would like to expand his business using the income it generates. He says that there is a lot of potential for his type of work as it currently does not face any competition in the market. Buying further tools and creating a workshop could be a way in which he achieves his goal.

On a personal note, he plans on settling in Kosovo* and getting married.

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9. Dorian Dielli – IT Education

Dorian Dielli learned about IOM's AVRR program from the social workers in Kiskunhalas reception centre where he had been accommodated. Using IOM's multi-lingual phone line also gave him further information on the voluntary return process and the possible reintegration assistance he could receive.

He decided to participate in IOM's AVRR project and before returning to Kosovo* submitted his application for reintegration assistance at IOM Budapest. At IOM's office in Pristina he received further information and help regarding the process and procedures.

After submitting his application he waited one month before receiving his grant.

The financial support from IOM was the only support he received to help with his reintegration back into Kosovo*. However, due to the economic difficulties, he remains in need of other external sources of income to maintain his livelihood.

Mr. Dielli applied for educational assistance and 'needs-based assistance' with IOM. As part of this assistance he began attending IT educational courses and was provided with a laptop to facilitate his studies.

The IT courses Mr. Dielli has attended are provided by the American University in Kosovo* (AUK), one of the most prestigious universities in the country, with courses that are highly regarded by employers. The university staff who have worked directly with Mr. Dielli praise him highly for his behaviour, engagement and the skills he has gained from the courses.

Once he graduates from the university, Mr. Dielli will be a certified CISCO instructor, which should considerably increase his employment opportunities in the Kosovo* labour market.

The Kosovan community he returned to was sceptical at first about the reintegration assistance he received, but he

was given a lot of support from his parents, with whom he currently lives.

Dorian Dielli initially left Kosovo* because of the better economic and study opportunities available abroad, but upon return the reintegration plan partially mitigated the problems which motivated him to leave.

He is satisfied with the amount of information and reintegration counselling he received in both Hungary and Kosovo*. However, as feedback, Mr. Dielli proposes both speeding up the process of application and evaluation, as he had waited four months, and increasing the maximum amount of reintegration grant provided.

Dorian Dielli believes that he is now in a better situation than before leaving and he is satisfied with his decision to return. In the future, he would like to find better employment.



10. Fatos Tokaji – Agriculture

Fatos Tokaji decided to return voluntarily to Kosovo* with the assistance of IOM's AVRRO programme. Within a month following his return, he applied for the reintegration assistance's business grant at the IOM office in Prishtina. The main reason he left Kosovo* was the bad economic situation at home and the hope for better opportunities abroad. Mr. Tokaji received about the

possibility of assisted voluntary return and reintegration grant through the other migrants, the reception center staff as well as the IOM staff who visited the reception centers.

His family has been involved in agriculture for a long time. Mr Tokaji decided to use the

funds of the assistance to purchase a motor-cultivator for the small parcel in the family estate. Parts of the funds were used to purchase more land for the family to increase the productivity.

Prior to his return, Mr. Tokaji had six years of agricultural experience. The assistance provided helped him mitigate some of his problems and he feels that he is currently in a better situation than before leaving Kosovo*. Although the economic situation is not as prosperous as he might have wanted, he is satisfied with his decision of returning to Kosovo* and he does not think about leaving again since the IOM assistance he received.

The business Mr. Tokaji started with the help of IOM is operational, but it is not generating any income yet, as he will be able to use the motor-cultivator this season only.

Mr Tokaji decided to grow watermelons and potatoes, since these are considered

“easy” crops and bringing a good return. The produce from the farm is sold at the local market, while some of it is being retained for the family's own use for food and the livestock. To maintain the business, the family still uses extra sources, such as their savings, and for the time being the income generated by the enterprise is reinvested entirely into the farm.

Fatos Tokaji lives with his family, his parents and his brother and sister. Apart from the IOM grant, he used family savings and relied on family support to start his business, but he did not receive any other assistance from the state.

Mr. Tokaji is satisfied with the reintegration assistance he received from IOM Budapest, although as he recalls, he would prefer if the waiting time for approval at IOM Budapest and assistance at IOM Prishtina was shorter and the evaluation process was quicker. His main feedback to both offices would be to make the process of receiving the grant smoother.