

# Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



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## In Brief

Accreditation package for Decentralised Management System of IPA I-IV components was officially submitted to the European Commission on Monday 25th June.

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Macro-regional strategies take an integrated approach to the priorities and challenges macro-regions are facing, seeking specific results aimed at a better future for the regions and their population. Compared to individual initiatives, the macro-regional approach makes it possible to achieve better results and use resources more efficiently, through coordinated action across different sector policies.

After the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the EU Strategy for the Danube region was adopted in June 2011, as the second strategy following the macro-regional concept. It is very significant that the Danube Strategy explicitly recognizes the importance and the role of the Danube countries that are not yet EU Member States, but are in the accession process.

The countries involved in this Strategy are: Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova and Ukraine.



The concept of macro-regional strategies is characterised by the principle of "three NOs". In other words:

- no new institutions,
- no new legal framework and
- no new funds are envisaged to implement a strategy.

Since there is no direct financial support to implement projects under macro-regional strategies and financing needs in the first period of implementation are modest, the Republic of Serbia has committed €18.5 million of existing IPA 2011 funds for two large and several smaller Danube projects in Serbia which will be implemented through Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

The agreement between the EU Delegation and ADA was signed on June 29, 2012 during the visit of EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn to Serbia on its way down the Danube.

The Strategy and Action Plan can be downloaded from ISDACON, and more information is available at [www.dunavskastrategija.rs](http://www.dunavskastrategija.rs)

## EU Progres

European partnership with municipalities – EU PROGRES is a three-year programme, supported by the EU (14,1 million €), Swiss Government (2.5 million €) and Serbian Government (1.5 million €), covering 25 least developed towns and municipalities in South and South West Serbia.

Through four components it contributes to the development of social, economic and environment infrastructure, improving quality of services for citizens and economy, promoting development potential of this part of Serbia, and respecting good governance principle, The programme has



Primary school Radoje Domanovic, Kumarevo near Leskovac

supported implementation of over 30 infrastructure projects contributing to the promotion of business opportunities and job creation, such as Green Zone-Leskovac, or Pester Development Centre-Sjenica. Over 40 smaller projects aimed at improving conditions for socially vulnerable and marginalised groups

through cooperation with civil and public sectors, as well as preparation of dozens of project documents for further investments have been supported.

For more information on the programme implemented by UNOPS, visit [www.progresprogram.org](http://www.progresprogram.org)

## EU Assistance to Serbia

The EU assistance has been consistent throughout the years, adapting to needs and stages of economic and democratic development of Serbia. During the 90s, the prevailing form of assistance was humanitarian, aimed at addressing urgent and ongoing problems of the most vulnerable groups, such as refugees and internally displaced persons, socially disadvantaged, elderly persons, ethnic and religious minorities. CSOs and media were also supported in promoting human rights, conflict resolution, freedom of expression, reinforcing local communities, etc.

Since 2000, Serbia has been a beneficiary of standard EU assistance instruments CARDS (2000-2006) and IPA (2007-2013), whereby funds are allocated to address national capacities for assuming the obligations in the process of EU accession, including overall socio-economic reforms related to the establishment of functioning market system, rule of law and development of human potentials. The EU has profiled as the lead development partner in Serbia, providing financial support through projects in the following areas: Justice and Home Affairs, Public Administration Reform, Social Development, Private Sector Development, Transport, Environment, Climate change and Energy, Agriculture and rural development.

Since 2000, 2.3 billion EUR has been disbursed through CARDS, and 1.4 billion has been allocated through IPA. The EU grant assistance through annual national IPA and Multi-Beneficiary IPA are complemented by EU Programmes, as well as technical assistance instruments TAEX and SIGMA. Concessional loans, provided through the European Investment Bank, are aimed at complex, financially consuming, mostly infrastructure projects.

Although the EU assistance is sometimes related to long-term, strategically oriented projects which, nevertheless, are of utmost significance to Serbia, in many cases it is associated with day-to-day life of the Serbian population. Reconstruction of Sloboda and Žeželj Bridges in Novi Sad, procurement of more than 200 Ambulance vehicles, housing solutions for refugees, revitalisation of Golubac historic site, numerous land fields construction, are just some of the examples.

Moreover, Serbia is the only IPA Beneficiary to which the EU approved Direct Budget Support in the amount of 100 million EUR (in the scope of IPA 2009 allocation) to mitigate the negative impacts of economic crisis.

For more information, visit ISDACON, [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs)

## Switzerland's Support to Education Reforms

Source: Swiss Cooperation Office Serbia

Aligned with the national priorities, Switzerland's support to Serbia aims at enhancing efficiency, equity and quality of education system, ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable population.

In Serbia, thousands of children, mainly Roma and disabled, are still not attending primary school. The Swiss Government with its partners Red Cross of Serbia and UNICEF, has put in place models of inclusive education and appropriate institutional frameworks in more than 60 municipalities. Enhancing the quality of education has been supported in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, in particular by the creation and institutionalisation of an in-service teachers training system at the central and local level, with over 50,000 teachers trained (2007 – 2012).



Through Swiss funded programmes, 15,000 Roma and marginalised children benefited from inclusive and diversified services in education, over 1,000 Roma adults were trained through functional adult education, and 1,000 children / young people with disabilities acquired work related skills and access to the labour market.

Since 2002, the Swiss Government has invested over 30 million EUR in inclusive education, professional development, school and preschool infrastructure, science and research, students scholarship, and in the dialogue about the country's educational policies. The results are encouraging, but many challenges still remain.

For more information, visit [www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/serbia](http://www.swiss-cooperation.admin.ch/serbia)

## Serbia at Rio+20



Source: Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning

Delegation of the Republic of Serbia has successfully participated in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the final negotiations on the Outcome Document (Future We Want).

Thanks to the UNDP Serbia, and with the assistance of UNEP,

Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning has prepared a Study on Green Economy and Green Growth for the Republic of Serbia, which was presented on a high level Side Event "Green Economy: Achievements and Perspectives in the Adriatic-Ionian Region".

The Study and detailed information on the Conference are available at [www.ekoplan.gov.rs](http://www.ekoplan.gov.rs)

## Developing a Knowledge Based Society

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Education in the Republic of Serbia is based on principles of equity and accessibility, quality and efficiency. Reform of the system is focused on development of competences for “knowledge based society”, society that is ready to learn during all life and which should contribute to the economic and social development of the country.

In the system reform process, education sector receives support of the international community: World Bank, GIZ, EU, UNICEF, European Investment Bank, Council of Europe Bank, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Government of Israel, etc.

World Bank Delivery of Improved Local Service – DILS Project, finances projects that contribute to quality, equity, accessibility and efficiency in education for all children, especially for children from socially vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as: Inclusive education, Financing per capita, Common information system, and Parents are asked.

Results of SDC Support to Professional Development and European Initiatives in Education Project - PDP IV include: established network of Regional Centres for professional development of teaching staff, promotion of teaching competences, training of mentors for teachers.

Through a project financed by UNICEF, the Violence Prevention Unit within the Ministry of Education and Science was established and the line for violence reporting was opened.

The European Investment Bank School Modernization Program project financed construction of new schools and reconstruction of primary and secondary schools (in Novi Sad, Novi Pazar, Lapovo, Niš).

The EU assistance, through IPA 2007-2010, includes the following projects: Modernization of the VET System in the Republic of Serbia, Education for All, Support for Quality Assurance within the National Primary and Secondary Education Examination System, Second chance project, Improvement of Pre-school Education in Serbia - IMPRES Project, Education Infrastructure Investment Programme (HETIP).

Detailed information about projects is available at [www.mpn.gov.rs](http://www.mpn.gov.rs)

### Donor Coordination

The first donor coordination meeting of the Energy Sector Aid Coordination Group was organised by the Ministry for Infrastructure and Energy on 30th May 2012, with the aim of exchanging information and plans related to a more efficient coordination, planning and management of development assistance in the energy sector.

Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning organised the third donor coordination meeting, gathering international community and national partners, to discuss topics related to coordination

and management of development assistance within the environment sector.

During the Donor Coordination Meeting on 4th June 2012., SEIO presented the Report on International Assistance to the Republic of Serbia in 2011, as well as the IPA 2013 programming status and the complementarities with IPA 2012 activities.

More information and related documents can be found at IS-DACON, sections Documents and Aid Coordination, [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs)

### New GIZ project: IMPACT

Source: GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, an implementing agency of the German Government, supports Serbia's development priorities for over a decade. GIZ strengthens institutional capacities and supports reform processes on Serbia's path to the EU in the sectors of legal affairs, economy and finances, education and youth, energy, communal and environmental affairs, transferring practical experiences of the EU member states through 14 programs and projects in 118 towns and municipalities.



Electric and Electronic Waste Recycling station in Niš

(Photo: Matteo Di Giovanni)

A new GIZ project, IMPACT - Municipal Waste and Wastewater Management - is supported by the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning and will collaborate with 5 small municipalities with the objective to improve services in the waste and wastewater sectors in line with relevant EU legislation.

The project is focused on implementing innovative and clean technologies, which are sustainable and cost-effective for small municipalities. The first phase of the project has been commissioned for 2012-2014 with a budget amounting to 2.4 million Euro.

## SEIO Courses - a Click Away



Serbian Office for EU Integration website features two online courses in Serbian: ABC of the European Union and Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The courses are aimed, primarily, for civil servants, but also for interested citizens. Besides free access to lessons offering information on the EU, its institutions and functioning, as well as Serbian EU integration, final test is also available.

Check out the courses at [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

### Did you know?

Since 2008, 43 institutions from Serbia have participated in 48 projects within the EU programme Culture. For more information, visit Cultural Contact Point Serbia website, [www.ccp-serbia.org](http://www.ccp-serbia.org)

## Events



From mid August, check out the upcoming events at ISDACON - News and Events section, [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs)

## IPA CBC Programmes

Within the 2nd Call for Proposals for Croatia-Serbia Programme, 146 project proposals have been received. 4 projects were contracted in June, and the rest (at least 20) will be contracted in September 2012.

The 2nd Call for Proposals within Serbia-Montenegro Programme has been closed, with 103 project proposals received. At least 5 projects will be contracted in mid July, and possibly additional 4 by the end of this month.

Out of 195 project proposals submitted within the Romania-Serbia Programme 2nd Call for Proposals, 57 projects have been proposed for financing by the JMC (Priority Axis 1, Economic and Social Development: 21 projects, Priority Axis 2, Environment and emergency preparedness: 5 projects and Priority Axis 3, Promot-

ing "People to People" exchanges: 21 projects).

Hungary-Serbia Programme 3rd Call for Proposals is in the completion phase, and the results will be announced by the end of this month.

149 project proposals were received within the 2nd Call for Proposals for Serbia-Bosnia and Herzegovina Programme, that was closed in December 2011.

Within the 2nd Call for Proposals for Bulgaria-Serbia Programme 257 project proposals have been received. With technical evaluation of projects completed, JMC is expected to be organised by the end of July.

For more information, visit ISDACON - CBC section, [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs)

## About Aid Matters Newsletter



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The newsletter aims at improving communication between stakeholders and exchange of information relevant to development assistance activities in the Republic of Serbia.

If you would like to contribute, please send your text to [majamilenkovic@seio.gov.rs](mailto:majamilenkovic@seio.gov.rs) An ideal word count is around 150 words.

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