



Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia

Issue no. 11 September 2013

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In Brief

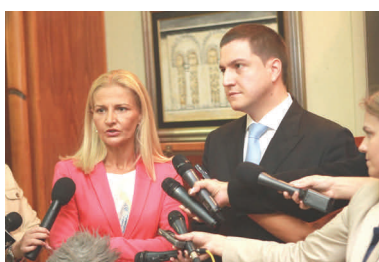
Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a consultative workshop on the draft SEE 2020 Strategy held in Belgrade on 18 September 2013.

EU Integration Process

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between the European Communities and their Member States, and Serbia, came into effect on 1st September 2013, after the EU informed Serbia on 24 July that the ratification process was finalized.

The most important commitments Serbia has undertaken in SAA are: to establish a free trade zone with the EU and harmonize legislation with the EU law in specified fields, to conduct political dialogue, further develop regional cooperation, define regime for movement of labor and capital, provision of services, as well as harmonization of the area of justice, freedom and security. The National Assembly elected Branko Ružić as Minister without portfolio responsible for EU integration, to coordinate the process of Serbia's EU accession.

The Serbian Government appointed Tanja Mišćević as the Head of negotiating team for the accession of Serbia to the EU on September 3rd 2013. The government has adopted a decision to



form a negotiating team for the accession of Serbia to the EU, to coordinate and manage the process of negotiations on all chapters in all stages of the negotiations. EU acquis is divided into 35 chapters.

Negotiations under each chapter are based on the following elements:

Screening - the Commission carries out a detailed examination, together with the candidate country, of each policy field (chapter), to determine how well the country is prepared. The findings by chapter are presented by the EC to the Member States in the form of a screening report. The conclusion of this report is the EC recommendation to either open negotiations directly, or to require that certain conditions – opening benchmarks – should first be met.

Negotiating positions - before negotiations can start, the candidate country must submit its position and the EU must adopt a common position. For most chapters the EU will set closing benchmarks in this position which need to be met by the Candidate Country before negotiations in the policy field concerned can be closed.

Seminars on EU Accession Negotiations Process Begin

By:

SEIO and GIZ launched a series of seminars on EU accession negotiations process for state administration employees currently or potentially involved in this process.

Altogether 8 seminars will be conducted by renowned experts with first hand experience in the EU accession negotiations and experienced SEIO managers. The first seminar on September 11-12 was dedicated to EU accession



negotiations within chapters: 10-Information Society and Media, 23-Judiciary and Fundamental Rights, 24-Justice, Freedom and Security, and 32-Financial Control. Seminars for all 35 Negotiation

Groups will continue throughout autumn 2013.

"Support to the EU Integration Process in the Republic of Serbia" project is implemented by the German Government through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Methodology for Project Selection and Prioritisation

SEIO with the support of the EU through the PPF5 developed Methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects in the investment-heavy sectors (environment, energy, transport and business related infrastructure).

Methodology is based on the analyses of the current state of play in the field of infrastructure projects selection and prioritization. Two main weaknesses have been identified in the existing selection procedures. Firstly, little attention is paid to the strategic significance of projects i.e. to their potential contribution towards achieving strategic objectives. Secondly, the assessment of project maturity does not take into account the reliability of data and completeness of planning and technical documentation.

In response to these weaknesses, it is proposed to incorporate additional assessments into the existing project selection process, namely the Strategic Relevance Assessment and the Gap Assessment of the projects before final selection.

The prioritization criteria is developed separately for the following sectors and sub-sectors: energy, transport, environment (waste management, water/wastewater), and business infrastruc-

ture (industrial zones, business parks, incubators). According to the Methodology, the 'long list' of projects derived from the respective strategies, action plans, existing project data bases etc. will be the subject of the strategic relevance assessment following the objectively defined strategic relevance criteria. Those projects proved as strategically relevant will be further analyzed following the criteria related to the scope of the project, comparison of alternative options and technical, institutional, financial, environmental aspects of the project.

A final list of priority projects will be produced and projects would be selected for subsequent preparation and implementation. This sequence of screening and assessment steps should ensure that only the strategic projects are selected for full preparation. This in turn should decrease the problems encountered during implementation.

Methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructure projects is adopted as an Annex of the document "National Priorities for International Assistance in the period 2014-2017, with projections until 2020". and it will be presented 30th of September, in the premises of the National Bank of Serbia.

CBC Events - Celebration of European Cooperation Day

As a part of European Cooperation Day celebration, the following events were organized:

-20 September, Vršac - IPA CBC Programme Romania-Serbia: a concert of Romanian band Pasărea Colibri and Serbian band The Frajle, and a flash mob moment

-21 September, Vidin (Bulgaria) - IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria-Serbia: a medieval knights' tournament



Photo: Emil Vas, Beta News Agency

-21 September, Palić (Serbia)/ Mórahalom (Hungary) - IPA CBC Programme Hungary-Serbia event: a bicycle tour "Hungarian-Serbian Tandem" from Mórahalom to Palić

-21 September, Belgrade: SEIO organized flash mob moment in Knez Mihailova Street.

For more details please visit:

www.evropa.gov.rs/CBC/PublicSite/NewsAndEvents.aspx.

The Netherlands: MATRA PATROL

MATRA PATROL Pre-Accession Training Programme is funded by The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The T.M.C. Asser Instituut, in cooperation with Ecorys Nederland BV and The Hague Academy for local governance will implement the Matra PATROL - Strengthening Institutional capacity in the Rule of Law - during the period 2012 – 2015.

The training programme aims to support the efficient implementation of the EU Acquis in the area of rule of law and strengthen relations between the Netherlands and target countries by sharing necessary knowledge and skills with policy advisors, mem-

bers of the judiciary and other civil servants.

The programme is divided into following training areas: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Quality, Enforcement & Implementation of Legislation, Administration of Justice, Integrity of Civil Servants, Legislation, Public Finance Management, Access to Justice, European Procurement, Decentralisation.

Participants from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey can apply. The Netherlands Government provides full fellowships to selected participants. Details on eligibility criteria and applying: www.asser.nl/matrapatrol.

European Orientation of Serbia's Citizens

Since 2002, SEIO conducts the public opinion research on regular basis to examine a rational assessment of the citizens, what their interests are, how they expect future for themselves and for their children, and their expectations from the politicians they give mandate to carry out reforms on the way to the EU.

The first public opinion research from this year "European orientation of Serbia's citizens – trends", carried out by the SEIO at the beginning of July 2013.

According to this research, if there is a referendum tomorrow with a question "Do you support Serbia's membership to the EU", 50% of Serbia's population would vote yes, 24% would vote no, 19% would not vote, while eight per cent does not know what their answer would be.

The majority of citizens thinks that the candidacy status will bring better life to Serbia, new jobs (38%), access to the European funds (33%), but in comparison to the December

research, there is a rise of five per cent of those who link the candidacy to more administrative burden, higher prices and taxes, so now this is the opinion of 21% of the population. Also, the citizens, 41%, put fight against corruption among the most significant reforms and most affecting their everyday life.

The level of awareness on EU funds has increased, so now 41% of the citizens see the EU as the biggest donor in Serbia since 2000, which corresponds to the real situation where the EU and member states are in fact the biggest donors and investors in Serbia, followed by USA, Norway, Switzerland and Japan. Around one third of citizens have heard about projects financed from EU funds

For the majority of citizens the EU still represents a way to a better future for young people, ability to move freely within EU borders (41%), and better employment opportunities (38%).

Complete opinion poll can be found at www.seio.gov.rs.

Did you know

A steam lift in Senjski rudnik mine dates from 1872, and is the only machine of the kind still working in Europe. More about the project funded by the EU is available at www.kultura.gov.rs/lat/senjski_rudnik

International Assistance in the Home Affairs Sector

By: Ministry of Interior (Department for EU Funded Project)

The Ministry of Interior (Mol), in the process of EU integration, has taken important reform steps through projects and other initiatives aimed at strengthening and further development of justice, freedom and security.

Supported by the largest donors, EU, Sweden, Norway, USA, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, police work has improved in the area of: amendments to laws, regulations and strategic documents, adoption of modern EU standards and working procedures, development and acquisition of new knowledge and skills, improvement of working conditions, etc.

Within the Mol more than three years ago, a Department for EU Funded Projects (also known as IPA Unit) was established. It consists of 17 employees, dealing with Programming (preparation of projects proposals and documentations), Implementation and monitoring of projects, and control/audit.

Mol is involved in more than 30 projects (IPA, CBC, Multi-beneficiary, bilateral), envisaged to support, solve problems in the area of fighting against organised crime, corruption, money laundering, terrorism, drugs, criminal intelligence operations, forensics, illegal migrations, community policing, emergency situations, joint actions of border patrols, strategic analysis,

human resource and project management etc.

Significant reform projects from IPA 2010-2012 (total value of 17,650,000 €) are: Implementation of Strategy for combating drugs, Establishment of an effective system for preventing illegal migration in Serbia, Development of strategic planning and improvement of horizontal communication in the Mol,

Establishment of stationary and mobile video surveillance system for the protection of the state border, Police reform and migration management and Support to development of criminal police directorate through capacity building of the laboratory for physico-chemical and toxicological expertise of National Criminal Technical Center in Belgrade.

Under IPA 2013 HA Programme, there are two reform projects: Sector Fiche - Strengthen law enforcement bodies in the fight against organised crime, asylum management and legal aid to IDP's, refugees and people from readmission and Project Fiche - Prevention and Fight Against Corruption, where the Lead beneficiary - Ministry of Justice and Public Administration.

With the support of development assistance funds, the Mol will continue to develop human and material resources, its strategic and legal framework, as well as further improvement of cooperation with other institutions.

SIEPA-JICA Kaizen Seminar

By: JICA Balkan Office

On September 11, seminar "Japanese Practices of Production Improvement in Serbia" was organized by SIEPA and JICA.

Through Senior Volunteer program the aim is to establish kaizen system (Japanese word for good change) to Serbian companies. In production, kaizen refers to activities of continuous improvement in manufacturing and engineering processes or business management. Mr. Norihiko Imamura has introduced this production process improvement in 14 Serbian SMEs.

In December 2013, SIEPA will welcome another Senior Volunteer who will continue with further promotion of kaizen and production improvement of Serbian SMEs. JICA's volunteer programs support activities by citizens who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development as well as the reconstruction of developing and countries in transition. Senior Volunteers

Upcoming events

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 9-10 October | Stuttgart (Germany): Danube programme Task Force programming meeting |
| 23 September - 23 October | The EU will organise a month of online debates on the EU Single Market (http://www.yourideasforeurope.eu/) |
| 28-29 October | Bucharest (Romania): 2nd Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region |

are people between the ages of 40 and 69 who have a strong desire to participate in cooperative activities, utilizing their solid experiences, including specialized knowledge and technologies, cultivated over long years.

USAID Five-Year Plan Envisions Assistance through 2017

By:  **USAID**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Washington recently approved USAID/Serbia's five-year plan for assistance efforts in Serbia through September 30, 2017. A core principle for the 2013-2017 Country Development Cooperation Strategy is the sustainability of USAID's initiatives.

The U.S. Government's long-term objective is a democratic and prosperous Serbia that is a full member of the Euro-Atlantic community. Similarly, USAID's strategic goal is to advance Serbia's stability and Euro-Atlantic integration by pursuing two development objectives: 1) USAID will continue to strengthen the accountability of Serbia's key democratic institutions; and, 2) it will improve conditions for



broad-based, inclusive economic growth.

Most of USAID's proposed activities will emphasize civil society, gender equality, youth, and human and institutional capacity development.

"USAID's resources will be concentrated on a handful of activities that will help Serbia on its European Union membership path," said Mission Director Susan K. Fritz. She added that programs financed by other donors would contribute to these efforts by advancing the stability of Serbia's institutions guaranteeing democracy and

the rule of law, and by improving the functioning of Serbia's market economy.

USAID/Serbia's CDCS can be found at

www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1863/serbia-CDCS-2013-2017.pdf

About Aid Matters Newsletter



Aid Matters Newsletter on development assistance to Serbia is developed within the project Support to the Sector for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Assistance of the Office for the EU Integrations of the Republic of Serbia for effective partnerships for improved aid effectiveness, funded by Sida.

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

If you wish to contribute, subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to Nataša Kalaba, nkalaba@seio.gov.rs

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