



# Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia

Issue no. 14 February/March 2014

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## Programming of IPA II and the Annual Program for 2014

The IPA II Regulation covering the period 2014-2020 was voted by the European Parliament in December 2013, and it is expected to be adopted in March 2014. In the meantime, national administration has been working on designing the multi-annual perspective per sector, through consultations on topics, priorities and measures to be supported and programmed in years 2014-2015-2016. As a result, first drafts of 3-year Sector Planning Documents (SPDs) have been produced in February 2014.

Given the varying dynamics of different processes as mentioned above, this requires parallel work on multi-annual and annual documents per sector, with references to draft documents (such is Country Strategy Paper for Serbia) at least in the first programming phase.

This has been confirmed by the representatives of the DG ELARG and EU Delegation during a round of meetings of Sector Working Groups (SWGs) for programming and monitoring of EU funds and Development Assistance, during Febr. 24-28, dedicated exactly to programming of IPA II. It has been agreed to put emphasis on defining the IPA 2014 Action Documents per sectors in the first half of the year, with simultaneous reflection on 3-annual SPDs, which are to be

finalized in the second half of 2014. Such dynamics for SPDs will also allow for better alignment of needs as observed throughout year 2014 during screening per different chapters and the future IPA financing. In the case of IPA 2014 Program, representatives of the EU took the opportunity to pass several key messages content-wise:

- 1) IPA funds are to be used to support implementation of national sector strategies, such as the recently adopted PAR Strategy;
- 2) IPA funded actions need to follow needs per negotiation chapters and shall address the possible benchmarks, such is the asylum issue;
- 3) IPA 2014 shall finance only those investment projects which are assessed as most strategically relevant and mature under the Methodology for prioritization and selection of infrastructure projects;
- 4) 2014 IPA Program shall finance IPARD measures, which shall require the successful adoption of the IPARD program by the end of the year.

Complementary to the programming process, tailored trainings are provided for members of the SWGs both on SPDs and Action Documents. Training material is available at: <http://ppf5.rs/documents/training-documents/>

### In Brief

On February 11th, SEIO held a presentation of the Norwegian Bilateral Program for 2014 for authorized applicants, presented basic information, main differences between previous and the current call and answered applicants' questions. Deadline for submitting project proposals is March 3rd.

By: CBC

The SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme Journalists Workshop was held on 25 February in Belgrade. Participants learned about the results of the programme and its importance in the process of territorial, economic and social integration. The workshop was organised by SEIO which coordinates the programme implementation on the territory of Serbia within the Department for CBC and



## CBC - The SEE Journalists Workshop

Transnational Cooperation Programmes. Journalists were welcomed by Branko Ružić, Minister without Portfolio responsible for EU integration, Assistant Director of the SEIO Sanda Šimić, and Milosav

Georgijević, professor at the University of Novi Sad, who presented good practices of the project Development of the Danube Ports. Catalogue of projects funded under the SEE Transnational Programme in which Serbia participates can be found on the website [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs).

## International Assistance in the Health Sector

By:



Nada Markovic MD MSc - Ministry of Health

Health sector in forthcoming period will be closely attached to EU integration process. Main goals will be to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable and communicable diseases

through implementation of prevention programmes aimed at decreasing the risk factors and also to strengthen healthcare management capacities and introduce new technologies in order to provide better conditions for treatment and rehabilitation.

There are number of projects currently implemented in health sector through IPA and other donors (Czech Republic, JICA, China, TICA, Italy etc). Project *Enhancing the position of residents in residential care institutions for persons with mental disability and mental illness and creation of conditions for their social inclusion in the local community* will create the basis for deinstitutionalization (DI) of 5 special psychiatric hospitals to community based mental health services. Twinning project for fight against drugs is the joint project of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), aiming to provide assistance in creating main documents, procedures and structures for making system

functional and IPA Project related to palliative care established the system for treatment of dying patients by adaptation palliative care units, education for health professionals, etc. Medical waste in healthcare system of Serbia is built by IPA 2008 project which has been finished very recently. Project *Integrated Health Information System (EU-IHIS)* will contribute to further development of a standardized and sustainable Electronic Health Record (EHR). Twinning Light Project Proposal *Improving tobacco control in the Republic of Serbia* will contribute in aligning of national tobacco control legislation with the EU legislation.

MoH made a precondition for entering into *EU Health for Growth Program 2014-2020* which will facilitate Serbian healthcare system in approaching EU standards. The Chinese Government is improving health care in Serbia by provision of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment. Turkey Agency for International Development delivered seven modern ambulances equipped for disposal in emergency situations. Japan has awarded a few grants for the improving quality of health care. Since 2000, the total development assistance from the Japan, as one of the most important donor in health sector, exceeds the amount of 220 million€.

## Rehabilitation of the Hydro-Power Plant "Bajina Bašta" – a Success Story

By: KfW Office Belgrade

Hydro-electric power plants generate up to 32 % of the electric power required in Serbia. They are valuable resource as they supply energy during periods of peak demand, and thus play a decisive role in maintaining the stability of the grid. The stock of the Serbian hydropower plants has become old and run down.

Serbia's second biggest hydro-electric power plant "Bajina Bašta", situated on the river Drina, was built in 1968 and had already exceeded its economic and technical life by quite some years. Against this background, Germany committed funds to support the complete overhaul of this plant. On this basis, KfW, the German Development Bank, provided a loan, with very favourable conditions, of 30 million Euros to EPS, the owner and operator of the plant. The value of the project was 65 mill €.

The project comprised of the overhaul and partial renewal of the turbines, the generators and the transformers as well as the modernization of the entire electro-mechanical operating equipment. The construction works began in the autumn of 2009. Subsequently, each year, one turbine and one generator were changed. By the end of January 2014, all works were completed and the funds had been fully disbursed. The project will prolong the life span of the plant by another 30 to 40 years. Furthermore, due to the increased efficiency provided by the new equipment the plant's capacity has increased by 52 Mega Watts (MW) from 364 MW to 416 MW. The project thus not only contributes to a sustainable, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly electric power supply in Serbia, but it also assists in protecting the climate by preventing CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions of around 1.5 million tons per year.

## Swedish Support to the Preparations for Screening and Negotiations

By:



The development cooperation in the environmental area is now entering an intense phase through the Swedish supported Environment Accession Project (ENVAP) and the Environmental Infrastructure Support Programme (EISP). Within the project of ENVAP, a first gap analysis has been concluded. During the first half of this year, local and international consultants will proceed in the process of managing identified gaps prior to the EU screening meetings.

Upcoming within EISP is a revision of the National Waste Management Strategy to clarify the government's strategic decisions

in this area in preparation for the EU screening process. EISP will also support the development of a financial direction, establishing the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection's overall approach to financing Chapter 27. The support will consist of financing strategies and capacity building in preparation for screenings. Developing practical implementation skills within the ministry to underpin the negotiating positions also remains a key element of EISP with two projects newly underway: Pancevo landfill and Arilje household waste separation.

Read more about ENVAP and EISP at: <http://www.openaid.se/en/countries/serbia>

## Danish Development Assistance to Serbia

By: Embassy of Denmark

Over the years Denmark has supported Serbia's development efforts significantly. Recently focus has been on supporting Serbia's EU integration and private sector development. This has been done through the LEDIB programme (Local Economic Development in the Balkans) that was based in Nis and focused on the Nisava district. LEDIB provided €10 million in support 2006-2012 and focused on improving the framework conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises e.g. by introducing very successful cluster cooperation and public-private partnerships.

In 2010 a joint Danish-Serbian support programme focusing on promotion of fruits and berries in southern Serbia was launched with € 5 million from Denmark and € 3.3 million from Serbia for the period until 2015 ([www.fb.org.rs](http://www.fb.org.rs)). The goal is to strengthen productivity, competitiveness and export of fruit and berry products. The programme focuses on capacity building of producers and processors by providing support for innovation, quality control and certification. The programme also operates an EU-based matching grant facility for investments in new crops,

equipment and machinery, storage, processing and sales. An international advisor based in Nis is assisting the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

Additional support has been provided by an EU expert who during 2010-2012 assisted the senior management of the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management with preparing Serbia for EU's acquis within agriculture. Denmark is also supporting the World Bank-led multi-donor fund supporting judicial sector reforms in line with EU's acquis. Finally, Denmark has recently decided to support Serbia's EU integration within the area of energy thereby confirming the continued commitment by Denmark to strongly support Serbia.

In 2013 the Embassy administered a small grants scheme worth roughly €135.000 to help regional cooperation through Igman Initiative, improve the business climate for businesses operating in Southern Serbia and Kosovo, information about Serbia's EU-integration and better environment through recycling.

## Call for Project Proposals in WBIF XI Round

The EC launched the 11th Call for Project Proposals.

This will be a more limited round than normal. Therefore, applicants are expected to apply for just a very small number of projects. The screening and assessment process will give priority to those grant applications that seek to:

- i) "unblock" an existing project where identified problems can be solved by targeted TA;
- ii) build on and/or enhance an existing project where additional

support either advances it to the next stage in the project development cycle or expands the benefits of the existing grant.

NIPAC invited relevant ministries to submit their proposal which fit with the above requirements. NIPAC will coordinate process of project identification and preparation with the interested IFIs, regional organizations and other beneficiaries. Deadline for submission of applications to European commission by NIPAC, or with the NIPAC support in case of applications submitted by regional organizations is 11th of March.

## GIZ IMPACT Project "Municipal Waste and Wastewater Management"

By:



G I Z  
IMPACT  
Project

"Municipal Waste and Wastewater Management", established for the first time in Serbia a so called "material flow analysis" in 5 pilot municipalities (Aleksandrovac, Bela Crkva, Krupanj, Kursumlija, and Svilajnac). This encompasses the measuring



of amounts and composition of waste and wastewater loads from households and the commercial and agricultural

sector. Results are basis for scenario development together with prefeasibility studies to select final design of needed new waste- and wastewater management systems in the pilot municipalities. They give also valuable information for biomass potential analysis and design of renewable energy production systems in the related regions. In 2014,

measurements and analysis will continue helping to respond to monitoring obligations of the Serbian Environmental Agency (SEPA) and to refine regional material flow management systems. Material flow analysis and management replace normally weak estimations often used for design and construction of all kind of municipal infrastructures preventing over- or undersized facilities. In consequence they have a positive impact on investment and operational/maintenance costs.

### In Brief

GIZ Project "Danube Competence Centre (DCC)" at the International Tourism Fair in Belgrade and ITB in Berlin presents new cultural routes in the Danube

# USAID Recognizes Three New Local Development Partners

By:



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has embarked on a new approach to development that relies on local organizations to manage their programs through direct funding. At a reception on February 24th, USAID recognized three new Serbian development partners and projects:

1) An 18-month, approximately \$215,000 grant to the Serbian Government's Office for Cooperation with Civil Society to improve the en-



abling environment for CSOs and to develop a National Strategy on civil society.

2) A two-year, \$441,400 grant to the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) to address the grey economy and to develop brownfields.

3) A 20-month grant that partners USAID with two successful Serbian companies, Orion Telekom and DNA Advertising, to generate new jobs and promote entrepreneurship by establishing a new ICT Hub for software developers.

## Combating Violence against Women in Serbia

By:



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

UNCT Joint Project „Integrated Response to Violence against Women in Serbia“ is implemented by three UN agencies: UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF in the period December 2012 - December 2014. The project is financially supported by

the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. National implementing partners of the Project are the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy (MoLESP), Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD) and Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality of AP Vojvodina (PSEEGE).

The project built local level service providers capacities in Central Serbia and in Vojvodina to better deliver “integrated service delivery model”:

- By providing specialized trainings at the local level and developing capacities of actors working on different aspects of violence against women (police, healthcare, judiciary, social workers, CSOs). By advocating for the commitment of local authorities to address gender based violence in a comprehensive manner and



in accordance with the National strategy against VaW and to ensure the framework for the successful implementation of the set of protocols. The joint project has been working in 20 towns in Central Serbia and AP Vojvodina and trained more than 500 professional service providers;

- By supporting specialist service providers (women NGOs) in a process of institutional recognition of their expertise and by supporting the process of establishing a unique SOS hotline as a 24/7 service for victims of violence. The project supports SOS helpline service providers for women survivors of violence;

Through cooperation with Police Academy and Judicial Academy, over 600 police officers, judges and prosecutors were trained to use more efficiently and effectively the existing policy and legislative framework.

In addition, UN is partnering with the Fund B92 in raising awareness and zero tolerance culture towards violence against women. We jointly established the first web-one-stop-shop-info-centre against VaW: [www.sigurnakuca.net](http://www.sigurnakuca.net)

## About Aid Matters Newsletter



Aid Matters Newsletter on development assistance to Serbia is developed by 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.

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](mailto:Nataša.Kalaba@seio.gov.rs)

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