

Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



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Did you know?

"United in diversity" is the motto of the European Union. It signifies how Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages.

The second meeting of the National Investment Committee

By:



The second meeting of the National Investment Committee was held in Belgrade, on the 7th May. The meeting was attended by: Ms. Jadranka Joksimovic, Minister without portfolio responsible for European Integration and National IPA Coordinator, Mr. Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and the Enlargement Negotiations, Mr. Dusan Vujovic, Minister of Finance, Mr. Jean Eric Paquet, Director-General of the European Commission responsible for enlargement in charge of Serbia, H.E. Michael Davenport, head of the EU Delegation in Serbia, and representatives of the relevant ministries, European Commission, embassies



and international financial institutions. At the National Investment Committee meeting in Belgrade, Mr. Han said that the European Commission had already explored the ways in which to provide the EU funding for certain projects but that it wanted to make sure that the expropriation issues were either resolved or in an advanced stage before committing to providing assistance for priority investment projects. "We want to support mature projects. Naturally, we want to support the projects that have a great strategic value both for the country and for the region", said Han. He stated that, as far as the EU was concerned, Serbia would get maximum support to realize its goals concerning infrastructure development, adding that all financial instruments at the Commission's disposal would be mobilized to provide timely implementation of those investment projects that are part of

the expansion of the central transport network. We will also finance other priority sectors covered by the single project pipeline in energy, environment and business related structures, said Han. Mr. Han noted that the National Investment Committee is essential in determining priority investment projects and that the countries in the region should follow Serbia's example and establish a body that would function in a similar way. Stating that a well developed and interconnected transport and energy infrastructure was a driving

force of the economic development, job creation and attracting new investment, Han underlined that it required good prioritization. The Minister for European Integration

Ms. Jadranka Joksimović said that timely planning and preparation were key to the realization of the most important infrastructural projects and that the establishment of the National Investment Committee was one in the series of steps that the government had made in that direction. Ms. Joksimović added that the NIC was working to put into practice the agreements made last year in Berlin, where it was said that all Western Balkan countries should work together on the development of infrastructure projects, especially concerning transport and energy networks. She pointed out that the process of bringing the entire Western Balkans closer to the EU membership was underway. It is important that the entire government and line ministries reach a consensus on what the key projects are, and that they get political support, she concluded.

Support to the Energy Sector

By: Ministry of Mining and Energy

In the period 2007-2013, total disbursement within IPA component I to the Energy sector amounts to € 77.4 million and covers both, key reform and investment topics such as harmonization with EU Energy acquis, capacity building in developing and implementing regulatory policies and strategies, strengthening the capacities of gas transmission system operator, promotion of measures to stimulate energy efficiency and use of renewables, protection of environment aimed at reducing emissions from thermal power plants for improving air and water quality by building waste water treatment plants in line with EU directives, contributing to security of electricity supply in South Serbia, and implementation of the energy component of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. Currently, the support is focused on facilitating the access to finance for investments in priority infrastructure projects in the region, reflected in the development and implementation of relevant investment strategies. Through the Western Balkan Investment Framework, value of approved grants to the national energy sector is around € 5,6 million for the preparation of the technical documentation or technical assistance for the electricity transmission projects which are part of Trans-Balkan Corridor, Gas interconnection Serbia-Bulgaria etc. Some other WBIF grants allocated for regional projects with Serbia participating are currently in implementation phase such as: Gas Ring and Gas to Power

study, Establishment of a Regional Energy Efficiency Programme for the Western Balkans, Sector Study on Biomass-based Heating in the Western Balkans. The donor community and International Financial institutions have also been prominent in financing projects in energy sector. Areas supported by the bilateral donors are as follows: strategic planning, and the foundations of expecting Law on efficient use of energy and improving municipal planning in energy efficiency (Norway); capacity-building for monitoring and evaluation of energy efficiency policy and feasibility studies for district heating and biomass projects (Germany); study of energy management and Flue Gas Desulphurization Project for Nikola Tesla Power Station (Japan); modernization of the monitoring and control system in a thermal power plant (Switzerland); giving guidance on the implementation of EU renewable energy directives focused on biomass and bio fuels, but also Biogas and electricity/heat production from organic waste and Utilization of Geothermal Warmth for Heating Public Buildings in Serbia (Netherlands); while Spain funded the feasibility study for GHG emission reduction, as well as Development of capacities to use and promote the solar energy in Serbia. Soft loans and grants have been provided by EBRD, KfW, World Bank, including huge amounts for the re-financing of credit lines for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments of households, SME-s and municipalities through the Serbian banking sector.

Serbia on the path of European integration - screening and after the screening

By: EU funded project



The Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) and PLAC project organized "Serbia on the path of European integration - screening and after the screening" conference on 31st March, presenting the screening process, achievements, challenges and the next steps. The participants were addressed by the Minister without portfolio responsible for EU integration, Jadranka Joksimović, Chief of the Negotiating team for the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, Tan-



ja Mišćević, Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, acting Director of SEIO Ksenija Milenković and the PLAC project Team Leader Marija Pejčinović Burić. The screening was carried out through 65 meetings attended by 2,000 participants, and expectation was expressed that the negotiations on first chapters will be opened by the end of the year. PLAC is an EU funded project which supports Serbia's preparation for EU accession by improving policy and legislation processes in priority areas which correlate with 11 negotiations chapters. For more information, please visit www.euinfo.rs/plac

USAID Launches Major New Civil Society Grant Opportunity

By: 

On Friday, April 25, approximately 50 people from civil society organizations throughout Serbia attended USAID's post-solicitation conference for its newly announced Annual Program Statement, Serbian Civil Society Partners. Through this second APS - which is essentially a standing, year-long call for proposals - USAID Serbia is soliciting applications from local NGOs to support democratic and economic development, with a funding range between \$200-300,000 for a period of approxi-

mately two years. The conference enabled potential applicants to learn about this mechanism and ask questions about USAID's grant making process, expanding understanding of how USAID does business and improving the chances of receiving quality proposals. The Serbian Civil Society Partners APS is a key component of USAID Serbia's strategic shift to deliver all civil society assistance directly through local partners. The APS is publicly available here: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=275704>.

Norway - one of Serbia's biggest bilateral development partners

By:  Norway is one of Serbia's biggest bilateral development partners and among the first countries to grant assistance in the early 1990s. Their support has evolved since, to respond to the changing needs expressed by the Republic of Serbia. Initially, humanitarian aid was provided in 1990s, followed by support to democratization from 2000. After progress attained in that area, Norway began providing development assistance and supporting Serbia on its European integration path. A large proportion of aid is now channeled through the bilateral cooperation program, which is managed on the Norwegian side by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo. Management of the bilateral cooperation program is on the Serbian side carried out by the Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO). In accordance with the new role of SEIO in managing the Norwegian bilateral

assistance package (overall responsibility for the planning, implementation, reporting and monitoring of the bilateral programme) and with the aim of taking stronger national ownership over projects supported through this call, SEIO will enter into agreements with national institutions (project beneficiaries) holding them accountable for the project implementation. The Call for proposals for funding from the Norwegian bilateral program in 2015 was closed on April 3rd. Planned support in 2015 will be around 2.3 million € and priority areas are rule of law, public administration reform, competitiveness, and energy, environment and climate change. In addition, the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade manages a general support program for smaller projects (The Embassy Fund) and a program for supporting the development of civil society in Serbia (Strengthening Civil Society).

GIZ at RENEXPO fair

By:   April 22 – 23: GIZ supported organization and participated at the Second International Trade Fair on

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - RENEXPO at BelExpoцентar in Belgrade, with more than 60 exhibitors from 12 European countries. Two GIZ Projects: "Advisory on Energy Efficiency in Buildings" Project and Programme "Development of a Sustainable Bioenergy Market in Serbia - DKTI" hosted a joint info-booth where interested parties could get informed on both projects, and exchange information and ideas with GIZ team members, representatives of key national and local partners and experts. In the course of the fair DKTI programme organized a workshop titled:



"Straw-Combustion - Economic Opportunities for the Serbian Agro-Industry" with the aim to present the straw potentials in Serbia. Over 50 participants from the public and private sector from Serbia, but also representatives from Germany, Denmark and Austria attended the workshop. Energy Efficiency in Buildings Project organized a one-hour presentation on best practice examples within the Renexpo Open Forum section which gathered more than 150 Project partners from the national and local level, experts and interested Fair participants. Municipalities of Kučevo, Vrbas and Pirot and City of Kraljevo are just four out of 169 local self-governments supported by GIZ to implement new regulations and particular energy efficiency measures in the field.

Enhancing Social Inclusion

By:  On 23 April 2015, the Mayor of the City of Požarevac, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations of the Republic of Serbia and UN High Commissioner for Refugees signed the Memorandum of Understanding for construction of 13 prefabricated houses in the municipality of Kostolac, municipality of Požarevac. The prefabricated houses will be constructed within the framework of the project "Support to the improvement of living conditions of forced migrants and closure of collective centers", financed by the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia from IPA 2012 pre-accession funds. The project aims at enhancing social inclusion of socially vulnerable persons and families of internally displaced persons accommodated in informal collective centers "Stari Kostolac" and "Kombinat Kostolac" in Požarevac. The 13 beneficiary families: 11 internally displaced families and 2 domicile socially vulnerable families will have the right to use the houses but and not to purchase them. Once the houses have been constructed, the total of 13 households will be provided with the conditions for a decent life. The houses will be equipped with

basic furniture and appliances. For the purpose of constructing the houses, the City of Požarevac will provide the land lot on a good-quality location in the municipality of Kostolac, developed urban planning documentation and issued all necessary permits. The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration is coordinating the process of closing the collective centres. The project is implemented by UNHCR in partnership with NGO Vizija.

In Brief:

This year, the European Integration Office, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia and the EU Info Centre, celebrated Europe Day in Obrenovac, the town hit by severe flooding whose reconstruction was greatly helped by the European Union. Europe Day, 9 May, is celebrated in memory of 1950 when, at the proposal of the then-Foreign Minister of France Robert Schuman, a supranational organization managing coal and steel industries, the predecessor of the modern European Union, was established.

GIZ supports the Bioenergy Partnership



By: Parliamentary Afternoon at the Representation of Baden-Württemberg in Brussels was organized at the 23rd of April by the Environment Ministry of Baden-Württemberg together with the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg and GIZ within the Bioenergy partnership between Baden-Württemberg and Serbia. High-ranking representatives of both countries and the EU discussed on the topic “Role of Bioenergy for Energy Security and Climate Protection in the Danube Region – Contribution of Baden-Württemberg and Serbia”.



gy partnership between Serbia and Baden-Württemberg was launched last September. It is based on the EU Strategy for the Danube region and it was founded with the objective to support

a sustainable bioenergy market, to contribute to the energy security and climate protection, with the aim to spread from Serbia to the whole region. The Bioenergy partnership is supported by the GIZ regional office South and the programme of the German Climate and Technology Initiative (DKTI) “Development of a Sustainable Bioenergy Market in Serbia”. For further information please contact Dr. Thomas Michel, GIZ DKTI

programme leader on thomas.michel@giz.de

Upcoming events:

- 9 June Bor (Serbia): IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria - Serbia, Joint Monitoring Committee meeting
- 16-18 June Bratislava (Slovakia): 12th Programming Committee meeting for Danube transnational programme and SEE MC meeting
- June 2015 Pljevlja (MNE): Kick-off event regarding launching of the 3rd CfP under the IPA CB Programme Serbia – Montenegro and Partner Search Forum for potential beneficiaries
- June 2015 Zlatibor and Vrnjačka Banja (Serbia), Žabljak and Bijelo Polje (MNE): Info sessions for potential applicants regarding 3rd CfP under the IPA CB Programme Serbia – Montenegro

BEST PRACTICE CBC PROJECTS IN SERBIA 2012 – 2014

Development of Harmonized Methods and Production of Common Database for the Analysis of Designer Drugs

By: CBC This project was financed through Hungary-Serbia IPA Cross-border Co-operation programme 2007-2013. The main objective of this project was to strengthen the capacity of the police forensic laboratory and criminalistic police officers for chemical analysis of drugs in the border areas of the two countries, in order to combat illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. Some of the main project results



are: forensic laboratories in Szeged and Novi Sad were equipped for both classical and designer drugs analysis, police technicians and forensic experts were trained, a common analytical designer drugs database was created. Project promotion enabled a public information share about the new terminology and issues concerning the analysis of designer drugs, as well as the information share about their harmful effects on human health.

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 Nemanja Jakovljevic, njakovljevic@seio.gov.rs

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