

Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Issue no. 21 November 2015

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By:



The first donor coordination meeting on migrations was held on 30th September, and was followed by two operational donor coordination meetings on 8th October and 9th November organised by Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO). Purpose of these meetings was to discuss overview of potential needs, activities, sources of funding, as well as ongoing and announced donor assistance to the Republic of Serbia (RoS) in order to achieve maximum synergy of donor assistance and avoid overlapping. The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) has established the Migrant and Refugee Fund (MRF) beginning of October with the aim of pooling funds from the international community and administering them in form of financial assistance to CEB's Member States confronted with the migrant and refugee crisis in their efforts to ensure that migrants and refugees who arrive on their territory enjoy basic human rights, such as shelter, food and medical aid as well as personal security. RoS immediately applied for a contribution from MRF, which was approved for the amount of 2.3 million in mid-October in form of a grant to be used by the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs to provide emergency aid to migrants and refugee reception centres and to enable better coordination of in-

creasing demands for emergency aid and donor support in the framework of the RoS measures undertaken in order to adequately respond to the influx of migrants. The CEB grant agreement was signed 30th October in Belgrade jointly by Minister Jadranka Joksimovic and Minister Aleksandar Vulin on one side, and Stephan Sellen, CEB's Deputy Director General on the other. CEB grant will be used for providing necessary materials, equipment, goods, and strengthening capacities for coordination through establishment of project implementation unit, and unit for providing assistance and staff training, as well as setting up contingency resources. As regards to the EU special measure from the Multi-Country IPA in the amount of 7 million EUR, first Steering Committee for the implementation was held on 25th November. These funds will be used for procurement of emergency equipment for Ministry of Interior and Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations of Serbia (CRMS), covering running costs of reception centres through action grant to CRMS, and improvement of infrastructure through direct grants to NGOs selected by European Commission – DRC (Danish Refugee Council), ASB (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund) and HELP (Hilfe Zur Selbsthilfe).

Did you know?

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) will be held in Paris, from November 30 to December 11. Serbia was among the first countries to submit its climate Action plan ahead of Paris agreement.

Katarina Milošević is the winner of the public photo contest organized by the European Integration Office on the occasion of the European Cooperation Day. The campaign entitled "Street Art without Borders" was marking 25 years since the establishment of the European Territorial Cooperation Programme.



Winner of the photo contest "Street Art without Borders", Katarina Milošević

Sector Budget Support

By:



Sector budget support is a financial assistance modality which has been envisaged within the IPA II regulation as the alternative type of support, and its general objective in the context of pre-accession assistance

is to support the beneficiary countries in implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required to bring the countries closer to Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership.. This kind of support modality involves dialogue, financial transfers to the national treasury account of the beneficiary country, performance assessment and capacity development, based on partnership and mutual accountability. The key benefits of sector budget support programme in pre-accession countries include: increased impact of EU assistance by providing an incentive to implement reforms at sector level, increased ownership and accountability of the beneficiary country through greater government control over the allocation of funds and the selection of projects, clearer link between the political agenda reflected through the identified sector reforms and the financial assistance, very strong incentive to reform and modernization of governance of the whole public administration and increased transparency in management of

Agricultural policy development in Serbia

By:



The Chapter II: Agriculture and rural development covers a large number of binding rules. Their proper transposition, implementation and effective enforcement and control are essential for the functioning of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Common Market Organisation (CMO) is a set of very different measures applied in different agricultural sectors in the EU, which, through specific policy tools, helps in functioning of markets and ultimately contributes to the competitiveness of agriculture sector. In order to address important issues linked with CMO in Serbia PLAC project provided a comprehensive support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, comprising several activities performed throughout 2015. The most recent assignment carried out from May to September built on the results of the previously carried out analysis of the current situation in the field of organisation of market of agricultural products in Serbia, and included assessments of current administrative capacities and institutional and legal analysis of Common Market Organisation, as well as development of transposition plan. Thus, the following draft legislation was prepared:

1. Draft Law on organization of agricultural markets, as the main legislative framework for market organization measures;
2. Draft Rulebook on school milk scheme, connecting benefits

public funds and implementation of sectoral policies. Budget support programmes are subject to the following four eligibility criteria covering: stable macro-economic framework, sound public financial management, transparency and oversight of the budget, national/sector policies and reforms. These criteria need to be met both when a programme is approved, and at the time of each budget support disbursement. At each disbursement, progress made towards the fulfillment of policy commitments and changes in the macro-economic environment will be assessed. Sector budget support requests sound PFM system since it is essential for the implementation of policies, and the achievement of development objectives and in line with that European commission identified adopted PFM programme as one of the crucial eligibility criteria.

In Brief:

European Commission's 2015 report on Serbia's progress has been published on November 10.

- ⇒ Progress Report for Serbia in 2015 can be found at: http://www.seio.gov.rs/upload/documents/eu_dokumenta/godisnji_izvestaji_ek_o_napretku/izvestaj_o_napretku_nov_2015.pdf
- ⇒ Enlargement Strategy can be found at: http://www.seio.gov.rs/upload/documents/eu_dokumenta/strategija_za_prosirenje/strategija_prosirenja_15.pdf

of healthy nutrition habits of school children with the placement of local producers' products;

3. Draft Rulebook on producer organizations, which aims at adjusting supply and demand and placement on the market of products of members of producer organizations, as well as increasing negotiation power of producers. The aim of the support provided is to contribute to the creation of the conditions for activating certain measures of market regulation and gradually transpose key EU legislation governing this area. For more information about PLAC project activities, please visit www.euinfo.rs/plac



UNHCR support to Serbia

By:



The UN Refugee Agency has provided close to two million Euro worth of support to the refugee response of the Government of Serbia since early June. Refugees are receiving food, water, personal hygiene items supplied by UNHCR and handed out by the Red Cross of Serbia and

other partners. Medicines and medical supplies for the refugees have been funded by UNHCR and distributed through the Danish Refugee Council in Miratovac, Presevo, Belgrade and other refugee aid points across Serbia. To date, four medical containers have been provided by UNHCR – all of them fully functional in Miratovac, Presevo, Belgrade and Kanjiza. UNHCR has also been supporting medical teams of the Ministry of Health who provide basic medical assistance to refugees and referral of more serious cases to specialized health institutions. UNHCR has also been helping the Serbian authorities, including the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, with computers, technical equipment, furniture and aid items to increase the registration capacities at the Reception Centre in Presevo. As a result, registration capacities increased from 1,200 persons/day to more than 4,000 per-

sons/day as on 07 October. UNHCR is mobilizing another 5 million Euro to further help the Government of Serbia managing the refugee situation humanely. A network of governmental and non-governmental partners of UNHCR deployed across the country, at entry and exit points of refugees, continues to monitor the situation promptly addressing protection and humanitarian needs of refugees as they arise. As refugees continue arriving at a rate of around 5,000 persons per day, UNHCR is trucking-in additional emergency stocks to supplement the aid procured in Serbia. With the cold weather and rains setting in, and ever more children and other vulnerable persons amongst the refugees, the composition of aid is adapted to include baby supplies, blankets, raincoats and other winter items. On 25 September, the Government of Japan approved an emergency grant of USD 472,000 to UNHCR for help Serbia cope with the influx of refugees and migrants in Europe. These funds will be used for provision of food and hygiene supplies, medicines, improvement of water and sanitation conditions at various points as well as for additional staff to provide psycho-social support to especially vulnerable groups – children and women.

Symposium "Joint Vision- Youth Employment in Serbia"

By:



giz

GIZ new Project "Youth Employment Promotion"

initiated a national expert dialogue by gathering a large number of experts from different areas at the recently concluded international symposium "Joint Vision- Youth Employment in Serbia". The Project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Labour, Employment Veteran and Social Issues on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Develop-



ment (BMZ). The objective of the Project is to improve conditions for better positioning of youth on the labor market, enable enhanced availability of necessary staff to companies, and promote entrepreneurship in Serbia. The Project has initiated the National Expert Dialogue on Youth Employment Promotion, with the intention to integrate recommendations, experiences and knowledge acquired in the course of the Project implementation in the political dialogue in scope of the *German-Serbian Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Employment*. At the same time, the focus of will operate in four pilot districts: Niski, Jablanicki, Sremski and Juzno banatski.

Support to sustainable employment of Roma

By: EU funded project, implemented by OSCE Mission to Serbia



WE ARE HERE TOGETHER
EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION

The successful inclusion of Roma in Serbia requires a comprehensive approach - improving conditions for education, housing and employment. Within the programme of support to sustainable employment of Roma, 18 companies from Serbia, which created more than 62 sustainable jobs for the Roma were recognised as best practices in employing members of the Roma community. The mapping process showed that there are promising Roma employment opportunities and Roma entrepreneurship development in Serbia. Out of 249 companies and initiatives which applied for the programme, 18 were selected to receive support - 14 are Roma owned, eight of which are owned by Roman women. The companies are very diverse, from textile

and food production, through photography and footwear production, to recycling, and they receive support in equipment and professional counselling worth nearly 550,000



EUR. The programme is part of the 4.8 million EUR project "We Are here together – European Support for Roma Inclusion", funded by the EU and implemented by the OSCE Mission to Serbia. The project is also engaged in improving employment, education and housing conditions, as well as access to basic rights and civic participation of members of Roma community.

Conference on Climate Change in Belgrade

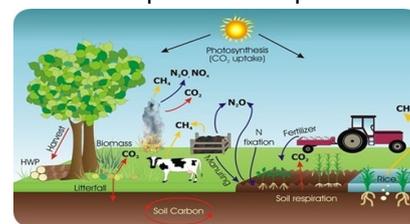
By:



Under the slogan “Time for Action”, the conference “Serbia’s climate talks - on the way to Paris - Forging climate-smart partnerships” was held in Belgrade on the 5th and 6th of October. The biggest summit in Serbia thus far of experts in the area of climate change, the event was organized by

the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of France in Serbia and with the support of the Global Environmental Facility. The Conference was organized ahead of the 21st summit of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris. The event resulted in an open dialogue between stakeholders on the questions of importance for the

creation and implementation of policies in the area of climate change. Of special significance is the participation of civil society organizations, which presents an opportunity in the future to consider measures and activities for implementation and further planning of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the reduction of green house gasses. As a good example of scientifically based recommendations for action, the publication “The Heating of Crops – How to Respond” can be pointed out. The publication was prepared as part of the ongoing joint projects of the Ministry and UNDP, and was presented at the conference.



Upcoming Events

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| 4 December | Belgrade (Serbia): IPA Adriatic CBC Programme, project DRINK ADRIA, 3 rd national workshop „Available and potential regional water systems in Serbia” |
| 9-10 December | Bologna (Italy): Adriatic-Ionian TN Programme launch event |
| November 30 to December 11 | Paris (France): The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) |

BEST PRACTICE CBC PROJECTS IN SERBIA

Promoting new ecological filler alloys

By: CBC

This project was financed through Romania-Serbia IPA Cross-border Co-operation programme 2007-2013. The main objective of this project was to develop new ecological filler alloys for soldering which do not contain toxic elements, but at the same time can satisfy numerous conditions in terms of mechanical and electrical characteristics, corrosion stability and cost effectiveness. The importance of the project was also reflected in the widening of the range and finding specific tech-



nology solutions for getting solders that can be competitive in the cross-bordering, but also on the world market. After research analyses, a selection of several types of solder alloys were made, and their mechanical and electrical characteristics have been further experimentally researched. Based on the results of those researches, a request for patenting one of the filler soldering alloys with best characteristics was submitted and a production plant has been in preparation. ECOSOLDER project was the result of a successful collaboration between ISIM Timisoara (Romania) and MMI Bor (Serbia).

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 Jelena Todosijevic, jtodosijevic@seio.gov.rs Sector for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Assistance

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