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In Brief:

European Commission's report on Serbia's progress in 2016 was published on 9th of November. Report for 2016 can be downloaded [here](#).

Turkey Study Visit to Serbia with the Aim to Learn Civil Society and Government Institutionalized Cooperation Models

By:  In the period of 24th – 27th October, the Republic of Serbia hosted 18 representatives of the Turkey study visit where the main objective of the visit was to improve cooperation among key government stakeholders and CSOs on development of civil society enabling environment and public - CSO cooperation for participatory policy development in Turkey. More specifically, to get to know the legal and fiscal framework regulating the CSOs position in Serbia, to learn about institutionalized cooperation models used between civil society and government - SECO and EU Convent mechanisms and the context with different stakeholders, and to enhance networking and cooperation among Turkey and Serbia CSOs and relevant stakeholders. During the four days study visit, Turkey representatives were hosted by the Serbian European Integration Office, Civic Initiatives, Government Office for cooperation with Civil Society, EU Convent representatives and had a chance to meet with the European Integrations Parliament Committee and SECO consortiums members. Delegation was interested in learning about SECO mechanism, a unique model for participatory programming of EU financial support, so the topics covered



were different - overall picture of EU integration process in Serbia with the focus on programming of EU financial support, Serbian practices and lessons learned regarding the SECO mechanism model for participatory programming of EU financial support (function, structure, challenges and opportunities), the socio-political context and the main factors that influenced the development of the civil sector and Civil Society in Serbia, the legal framework for the development of Civil Society, the process of establishment of the Office for Cooperation with CSOs (mandate, organizational structure, services it provides), the role of Civil Society in the process of European integration and the basic mechanisms of cooperation between state administration and NGOs in this process, as well as the National Convention on European Union (NCEU) model as permanent body for thematically structured debate on Serbian accession into the EU (regular consultations, definitions of recommendations and opinions, transparent and open dialogue and higher quality of informing the public). CSO members gave them opportunity to get inside the mechanism and shared their experience and lessons learned from this model in Serbia.

Supporting the EU accession negotiations

By:  Project funded by the European Union
Projekat finansira Evropska unija
 Through the project Legal Support for Negotiations (PLAC II), the EU assists Serbia in:

- ⇒ Improving compatibility of national legislation with the EU acquis, and supporting its implementation;
- ⇒ Enhancing capacities of relevant institutions to successfully carry out accession negotiations.

The project activities are focused on particular areas in 10 chapters of the acquis: Chapter 3 - Right of establishment and freedom to provide services, Chapter 4 - Free movement of capital, Chapter 6 - Company law, Chapter 9 - Financial

services, Chapter 11 - Agriculture and rural development, Chapter 12 - Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, Chapter 15 – Energy, Chapter 24 - Justice, freedom and security, Chapter 27 - Environment and climate changes and Chapter 28 - Health protection. The activities of this 2.6 million EUR project, which started in June 2016 and will last for 30 months, will also include other chapters, responding to the needs identified by the stakeholders. The main beneficiaries are the Serbian European Integration Office and the Negotiating Team for Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, while beneficiaries also include line ministries and institutions which coordinate legal harmonisation in specific areas.

Serbian Participation in the Union Programmes 2014-2020

By:



2013, there are still some changes in terms of new modalities of the programmes.

Novelties in relation to the financial perspective 2007-2013:

1) The name EU Programmes (Community Programmes) changes to Union Programmes; 2) The title of Memorandum of Understanding changes to International Agreement; 3) Merging Youth programmes and Education programmes into the Erasmus+ programme; 3) Merging the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the Research and Innovation Programme into the Horizon 2020 programme

The following has not been changed:

1) The legal basis for the participation of Serbia in Union Programmes in the perspective of 2014-2020 continues to be the document "FA between the EC and Serbia and Montenegro on the general principles for the participation of Serbia and Montenegro in Community programmes". 2) For participation in each Union Programme, it is necessary to sign an International Agreement (formerly Memorandum of Understanding) with the EC.

EU Programmes Management is centralised by the European Commission (except for Erasmus + programme, which is managed by the National Agency in each of the EU member states and candidate countries), which means that a specific EC Directorate or Executive Agency is responsible for each programme. The websites of EC Directorates or Executive Agencies designated with managing any respective programme contain details re-



garding each individual programme, their structure, aims, purposes, as well as information on calls for applications, the manner, terms and conditions for applying, etc. Information is available to all potential applicants from EU member states, as well as from candidate countries and potential candidates for EU membership. Submitting applications for published invitations regarding any Union Programme shall be done by directly visiting the web site of the specific programme that is within our interest. Under the rules of the European Commission, competent national institutions i.e. designated ministries, associations, organizations and offices, are responsible for the participation of the Republic of Serbia in Union Programmes. Coordination of participation in each Union programme for which a financial contribution has been paid by the Republic of Serbia to the general budget of the EU has been entrusted to National Contact Points in relevant national institutions. The Sector for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU funds and development assistance of the SEIO, is responsible for overall coordination of the participation of Serbia in Union Programmes. In the previous financial perspective 2007-2013, the Serbia participated in 12 Community Programmes, while in the new financial

perspective 2014-2020, Serbia shall take part in the following Union Programmes:

1) Horizon 2020- Framework Programme for Research and Innovation; 2) COSME -EU Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SME; 3) Employment and Social innovation Programme -EaSI; 4) Erasmus +; 5) Creative Europe; 6) MEDIA sub-program of the Creative Europe program; 7) Europe for Citizens; 8) The Third EU Health Programme (Health for growth); 9) Fiscalis 2020; 10) Customs 2020; 11) EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

USAID's 2016 Business Survey Shows Positive Trends in Serbia's Business Environment

By:



On November 17, USAID's Business Enabling Project released the findings of its 6th annual Business Survey. The survey, which reflects 1,000 Serbian busi-

nesses' opinions on the state of Serbia's business environment, showed recent reforms are making it easier for them to operate. "One of the greatest improvements shown by this year's survey results is the positive change in the private sector's perceptions of the Serbian government's inspection system and its inspectorates. This year, we also saw the impact of the Government's efforts to reform Serbia's construction permitting system. This reform was recognized as one of the most important business reforms implemented in Serbia in the last several years," said U.S. Ambassador Kyle Scott. USAID played a leading role in the Government's efforts to reform Serbia's construction permitting system and inspections oversight. Areas in which businesses still face challenges are para-fiscal charges, administrative procedures, and access to finance. This is a major barrier to Serbia's economic growth since micro, small

and medium sized businesses make up close to 99% of Serbian companies and account for 70% of employment. The USAID Business Survey was carried out in collaboration with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Ipsos Strategic Marketing. For Survey details go to <http://bit.ly/2g25M0s>.



Turkey and Serbia Development Cooperation

★ Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) ★



By: **TIKA** The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), belongs to the Office of the Prime Minister of Turkey. As a legal entity in Serbia, it has been in service since 2009 through its Programme Coordination Office in Belgrade. Nowadays, Republic of Serbia is one of the most important TIKA partners among Balkans countries, and will continue to remain important partner country in the future. Strong cooperation between Turkey and Serbia continues in all fields including particularly education, culture, health and agriculture with a focus on mutual development. Since its establishment in Serbia, irrespective of ethnicity or religious affiliation of aid recipients, almost 200 projects have been implemented across the country. In mentioned sectors, TIKA implements projects in cooperation with the public institutions, universities, non-governmental organizations and local beneficiaries throughout the Republic of Serbia. By its mission in reducing unemployment and promoting sustainable rural development, TIKA focuses on income generating projects. In order to improve living standards and average income of the communities that depend on agricultural production, TIKA distributed greenhouses to 300 families



from 15 municipalities in Serbia, provided saplings and agricultural equipment to the farmers. Through the establishment of forecasting and reporting system in Toplica District, TIKA set up a system of disease models with meteo stations for the improvement of agricultural production according to meteorological data. Treating education and health services as a fundamental human rights, TIKA continued to construct, repair, renovate and furnish schools, hospitals and health clinics to ensure the continuity of formal education and health services, especially in the less developed regions of the Serbia. By respecting priorities and needs of its partners, TIKA has continued to provide significant contributions in Serbia. In that regard, after the devastating floods that hit Serbia in May 2014, TIKA implemented river side embankment projects in 7 municipalities, constructed a new bridge in Razanj, provided aid to 30 families and a kindergarten in municipality of Svilajnac with a total budget of 1.350.000 euro. Building on already established strong friendships, Republic of Turkey, through TIKA, will continue to strengthen cooperation in the years ahead.

BEST PRACTICE CBC PROJECTS IN SERBIA

CROSS-BORDER FLOOD PROTECTION AND RESCUE

By: **CBC** This project was financed through IPA CBC programme Serbia - Montenegro 2007-2013, with total amount for Serbia of € 165,826.10. The project objective was reducing the risk of accidents caused by natural disasters in Serbia and Montenegro. During the implementation of the project, both partners were provided with the necessary rescuing equipment. 45 members of the local units for the protection and rescue of both countries have been trained for rescue in the rapids or in the event of flooding. Equipment used in the field was obtained in the framework of the project and includes the vehicle, a trailer to transport boats, rescuing boats, diving suits and thermal suits for diving, overalls, diving boots, vests, suits for fishing, rescue ropes, protective helmets, sleeping bags, first aid kits, warning lights, signal whistles, buoys, etc. During catastrophic floods in Serbia in May this year, Serbian Ministry of Interior rescue team from Prijepolje participated in the evacuation and rescue of some 200 people, mostly children, women and elderly people in Konjevići, Preljine and Baluga near Čačak. About 150 inhabitants were rescued in Majur, Dragojevac and Bogatić. In addition, the team was engaged in the field work, which included control of the situation and evacuation, and protection of the factory "Zorka" in Šabac, and also participated in the rescue on the territory of Vladimirci municipality, in Provo

and Dragojevac, because of the dam burst risk on the river Sava. On this occasion, 150 people from around 50 households were rescued and evacuated. 19 rescuers from Montenegro trained for rescue in the rapids in this project participated in these actions. Fire department from Berane sent to Šabac 10 trained rescuers, while the Fire department from Nikšić sent five rescuers to the territory of Obrenovac municipality for five days.



Zaječar Trained Employees the Sign Language

By:



Sponsored by: **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Due to various circumstances of life, persons of impaired hearing, live in a “world of silence”. Therefore, some of the easiest tasks, which involve talking to them, often represent an insurmountable obstacle. In order to facilitate communication with municipal officials, City of Zaječar has decided that their employees should learn the sign language. So far, 15 employees were trained. Compared to some other categories of disability, deaf people do not have the opportunity to have a personal assistant, who would assist them in everyday life. Because of that, trained people who know their language will enable a sense of belonging and a much simpler communication with everyone in the community. All employees of the city administration in Zaječar have agreed, people with impaired hearing are equal members of our society, with the same needs and desires. In order to facilitate their everyday communication and life, it is only necessary to learn their “sign” language. Project of

training the employees in local administration in Zaječar was implemented with the support of German Development Cooperation implemented by GIZ and and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).



Upcoming Events

- ⇒ 28-29 November - 2nd Annual Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the Processes of Programming Resources and Implementation of Actions in the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) in Serbia, will be held in Arandjelovac.
- ⇒ November/December 2016 - Opening of the remediated landslides and roads through the “EU Support for the Reconstruction of the Road Structures Affected by the Floods in Serbia”

EU Support for Safer Transport in Serbia

By: UNOPS

Since the May 2014 devastating floods, the EU still remains by far the largest donor

to the Serbia in the recovery process with total of €172 mill. The focus of the EU assistance has shifted from relief to prevention and protection. Houses and public buildings are still being reconstructed, grants for revival of economy and agriculture sector are in their final phases, while cleaning of the drainage channels, regulation of the river flows and risk mapping are initiating, and the remediation of roads and landslides has taken the momentum. The Project “EU Support for the Reconstruction of the Road Structures



Affected by the Floods in Serbia” implemented by the UNOPS envisages the remediation of up to 48 landslides and reconstruction of 14 bridges in 23 municipalities until the end of 2017. The reconstruction within the Project worth €10.49 mill. began in June 2016 is currently implemented on 26 locations in 13 municipalities. The project, implemented in partnership with Government of the Republic of Serbia Office for Public Investment Management (PIMO), Public Enterprise Roads of Serbia (PERS), the Delegation of the EU and local self-governments, should be completed until December 2017, with additional 12 months for the Defects Notification Period.

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.



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