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#### Did you know:

Europe is a world leader in environmental technologies. This global market is forecast to triple by 2030.

## Sector Budget Support for Public Administration Reform (IPA 2015)



By: The Sector Budget Support (hereafter: SBS) represents a new modality of financial support by the EU, which was introduced in 2014 as an alternative type of support, and it differs from the usual projects by the way of its implementation. It includes a very intense dialogue between the European Commission and the Government of the beneficiary country on the topic of implementation of sector reforms, assessment of the achieved impact on annual basis (during the period of implementation of SBS) and finally, direct financial transfers to the national budget of the beneficiary country. The essence of SBS is to promote sectoral policies. The SBS to the sector of Public Administration Reform (hereafter: PAR) is the first EU support programme of this type to the Republic of Serbia, and it focuses on key areas of PAR which are defined within the Strategy of PAR and its Action Plan. The Financing Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Serbia in the amount of 80 million euros, intended to support implementation of reform measures in the area of public administration reform, was signed 5th of December 2016 in Belgrade by Jadranka Joksimović, the Minister in charge of European Integration at the Government of the Republic of Serbia, and Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, the Director for Western Balkans at the European Commission. It is an EU grant, through which 70 million euros will go directly to the budget of the Republic of Serbia in several tranches over the period of three years, while 10 million euros shall be allocated to support the implementation of the Sector Reform Con-

tract. This Financing Agreement represents the first Sector Reform Contract for the Republic of Serbia, and is financed from the funds of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2015 of the EU. According to the planned dynamics, the period of implementation of SBS to the sector of PAR lasts from the signing of the Financing Agreement, i.e. from end-2016, up until mid-2019. It is expected that the implementation of the SBS shall contribute to the achievement of the following results: improvement of the organizational and functional structure of the central government (public administration), improved system of preparation and coordination of public policies, greater participation of citizens and civil society organizations in the policy-making process, improved system of human resource management in the public sector based on the principle of promotion and remuneration according to merit, reduced administrative burden for citizens and businesses through the provision of support to the reforms of inspection services, improved process of planning and budgeting of public expenditure, gradual introduction and the practice of preparing sectoral Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks, and better implementation of internal control in the civil service. Among the institutions responsible for the implementation of this support are the following: The Ministry of Public Administration, as the leading sectoral institution, the Ministry of Finance, the General Secretariat of the Government and the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies.



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА - Влада - Канцеларија за европске интеграције  
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA - Government - EU Integration Office

# 2017

Срећни новогодишњи и божићни празници!  
Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

## The OSCE and Serbia: a Strong Partnership for Sustainable Reforms

By:  Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
Mission to Serbia

Development assistance typically refers to donor organizations, but in the OSCE case, the situation is different. The OSCE is an inter-governmental organization bringing together 57 participating States. Its field operation in Serbia provides advice and assistance to the Serbian authorities in the reform process through in-house and external expertise. Since its establishment in 2001, upon invitation by the Government of the then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the OSCE Mission to Serbia has been helping the host country advance in its reform goals, fostering its ownership, and to that end partnering with state institutions and civil society. The key features of the Mission include the continuity of programming and the flexibility in delivering assistance and advice in response to the country's needs. This is why, even with limited resources (a total annual budget of EUR 6.5 mill), we are often in a position to punch above our weight. In addition, having been here since the very beginning of the host country's reform process, we have built close working relationships with our counterparts, based on trust and partnership. The Mission's mandate sets out key areas of activity: assisting Serbia in strengthening its democratic institutions, fostering the rule of law, restructuring the police as a service to all citizens and supporting media freedom and professional journalism. Through its Rule of Law and Human



Rights programme, the Mission works to foster an independent and impartial judiciary, human rights-aware criminal justice, with a particular focus on an efficient penitentiary system, as well as effective civil justice. As sustainable reform of law enforcement agencies is crucial to fighting corruption and organized crime, the Mission's Police Affairs programme focuses on assisting the Serbian police in transitioning to a more effective, representative and accountable service. Through its Democratization programme, the Mission works to strengthen democratic institutions, foster principles of good governance and combat discrimination, by partnering with the legislative and executive, independent institutions, national minority representatives and civil society organizations. The Mission's Media programme focuses on helping the country create an environment in which the media serve the public interest. We support the implementation of media legislation aimed at enabling the citizens to have access to accurate information on issues of public importance. To the same end, we work with journalists to promote quality journalism and ethical standards. In sum, the OSCE Mission to Serbia is a partner of Serbia in the endeavour of fostering a fully functioning democratic system accountable to its citizens, with no space for discrimination or privilege - a system governed by a well-harmonized set of rules enforced by an equitable justice system.

### IT chance for everybody

By: 

Since 2003 the German-Serbian development cooperation has contributed via the GIZ ACCESS project

on private sector development to the strengthening of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the IT sector. A lot has been achieved during this time mostly in the cities of Belgrade and Novi Sad, where a new generation of IT and tech start-ups recently create innovative ideas and solutions and viable job opportunities for young people. However the main challenge now consists in spreading this dynamics to other parts of Serbia as well. In this regard under the slogan "IT chance for



everybody" the program contributes to a newly designed activity. In close cooperation with the Development Agency of Serbia (RAS) and the city of Niš, the Niš Cluster of Advanced Technologies (NiCAT) is supported to overcome a bottleneck of IT developers in cluster member companies. Therefore in a 6 month training course from October 2016 until March 2017, 24 participants will be trained and equipped to become front-end and back-end developers, most of them in cluster companies.

They have been selected in a challenging assessment out of 300 applicants with basic knowledges in programming, which shows the enormous interest for jobs in the IT sector.

## Gender Mainstreaming in the Processes of Programming and Implementation of Actions under the IPA in Serbia

By:  The workshop "Gender Equality in the Processes of Programming and Implementation of IPA 2017 in Serbia" was organised by the European Integration Office and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) in Arandelovac on 28 and 29 November 2016. The workshop was intended for the representatives of the ministries and institutions involved in the process of programming and monitoring of implementation of the programmes/projects financed from the European Funds. The participants had the

opportunity to gain practical experience required for the inclusion of gender perspective in the processes of programming, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting within the programmes and projects financed from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.



## “Fruits & Berries Program”

By:  Over 800 jobs created. More than 12,000 participants in training sessions. Farmers' revenues increasing by EUR 1.3 million. These are just some of the results of the “Fruits & Berries Program”, initiated by the Danish government in close cooperation with and support from the Serbian government. Through its Neighbourhood Programme, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed EUR 5.4 million to the development of the fruits and berries sector in South Serbia over a six-year period (Nov'10 to Nov'16). The Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection provided a total of EUR 3.3 million. In addition, local governments in the districts covered by the program contributed with EUR 0.3 million. F&B Program based in Niš, Serbia has had as its aim the development of high quality and competitive fruit and berry products for export and home market. The Fruits and Berries Program (F&B) supported improvement of productivity and quality with a focus on education and training of extension service providers and producers, investments in the fruit and berries sector through its grant program, capacity building among producers and

market initiatives, and improvement of post-harvest management, research and control. The Program also provided support and co-financing for farmers' equipment, so many were able to purchase new tractors and modernize their production. Total Danish donations to Serbia amount to more than EUR 17 million through The Neighbourhood Programme in the past 10 years.



## Blowing the Whistle on Corruption

By:  Serbia's new Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers went into effect in June 2015. One year later, Marija Beretka, employed at City Inspection Services in Novi Sad, won a whistleblowing case against her employer, marking the first court ruling in a full lawsuit under the new law. She reported irregularities in the office's collection of parking fines due to which the city lost a significant amount of revenue. In what the court deemed an act of retaliation by her employer, she was demoted to a position in another administrative body. The court ordered Beretka's employers to reinstate her to her previous position and pay damages. USAID assistance was pivotal in Serbia's development and adoption of the new whistleblower law

which incorporates global best practices and added protection mechanisms to shield whistleblowers from retaliation. Serbia's law also specifies channels for blowing the whistle and insists on reverse burden of proof to ensure whistleblowers stand a chance against their employers and authorities when seeking justice. In the first nine months the law was in effect, 27 out of 36 court rulings were in favor of whistleblowers who filed motions for protective measures. For more information see <http://uzbunjivaci.rs/>.



Marija Beretka speaks to USAID about her motivation to seek the truth.

## “APPLIED NOSTALGIA BELGRADE - BRATISLAVA”

By:  The eleventh photo exhibition “Applied Nostalgia Serbia-Slovakia”, organized by the European Integration Office on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the European Union, opened on 6th December 2016, in the gallery of the National Bank of Serbia. The project “Applied Nostalgia” has been designed as a sequence of exhibitions of photographs of two eminent photographers - one from Serbia and one from the EU Presidency country. The project is promoting cultural values of Serbia in Europe, as well as promoting European ideas and values in Serbia. Since 2013 the project has been implemented by the Serbian European Integration Office, Government of Serbia, which is one of the ways to implement Communication Strategy for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union. Ksenija Milenković, the Acting Director of the European Integration Office, reminded that next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the “Applied Nostalgia” project, which began in Lisbon with an exhibition held on the occasion of the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. “During these 10 years, we have had an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with cities in more than 10 countries that have presided the EU, both in the so-called old and new Member States, and observe the

transformation experienced by their major cities in the process of European integration; on the other hand, we are able to gradually follow Belgrade's transformation over the past 10 years in the process of EU accession”, stated Milenković.



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# German-Serbian Financial Cooperation: Grant Agreement on “Strengthening of Social Infrastructure in Municipalities affected by the Refugee Crisis” signed



KfW

Within the German-Serbian Governmental Negotiations on Development Cooperation in November 2015, both countries agreed on jointly implementing a program aiming at improving the resilience of Serbian municipalities strained by the refugee crisis. The objective is to improve social infrastructure services for the local population, in particular vulnerable groups such as minorities and displaced migrants. A grant funding volume of 5,4 million Euro was provided by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The program is implemented via KfW Development Bank. The respective Financing Agreement for the Program was signed on November 9th, 2016 be-

tween the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and KfW. The Ministry is also the Project Executing Agency for the Program, which will be physically implemented from 2017 - 2020. Program measures include the rehabilitation, expansion and rebuilding of social infrastructure facilities in structurally weak Serbian communities affected by migrant movements. This includes specifically the rehabilitation of kindergartens, schools and health care facilities. In total, some 30 individual projects in 12 municipalities will be realised. These are mainly located in south eastern communities of Presevo, Bujanovac, Vranje, Leskovac, Surdulica, Vladicin Han, Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad and Pirot, as well as in the north western communities of Subotica, Sid and Backa Palanka. The measures intend to serve about 10,000 school children, 2,000 kindergarten children and 5,000 patients.

## In Brief:

The Third meeting of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee for the IPA component I – Technical Assistance and Institution Building (TAIB), organized by SEIO, was held in Belgrade on 30 November 2016. The meeting was attended by representatives of Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia and representatives of national institutions responsible for centralized and decentralized management of EU funds within IPA I – Component I. The main topics included the challenges in centralized implementation of IPA programmes managed by EU Delegation, the status of contracting under decentralized IPA, as well as the state of play in Decentralized Management System under IPA 2013 and IPA 2014.

## BEST PRACTICE CBC PROJECTS IN SERBIA

### Active Youth for Active Societies



This project was financed through the IPA CB programme Serbia - Montenegro 2007-2013, with total amount for Serbia of €

59,310.10. The overall objective of the project was to promote and protect human rights in the Sandžak region through capacity building and networking of formal and informal groups of young people, including youth office, in the field of youth activism, human rights and fostering multiculturalism and diversity in their communities. Youth bus (traveling caravan) in the period from 24 - 29 June 2013, visited six municipali-



ties of Berane, Plav, Novi Pazar, Sjenica and Prijepolje, where the young people who participated in the project had the opportunity to have public dialogue with representatives of local authorities in urban promenades and draw attention to the problems of youth in the region. Plav municipality, as a direct result of the project, began with the development of the Local Action Plan for Youth, and in Rožaje the local government decided to support the opening of the Youth Club. A handbook on multiculturalism and human rights was published, and level of support in response to these questions was increased.

## 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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