

Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Република Србија
Влада
Канцеларија за европске интеграције

Republic of Serbia
Government
Serbian European Integration Office

Issue no. 29 June 2017

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Financial agreement (IPA 2016) worth €96,2 million signed by Minister Joksimović and Commissioner Hahn in Brussels

By:  The Serbian Government Minister in charge of European Integrations, Jadranka Joksimović and European Commissioner

for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, signed today in Brussels the Financial agreement worth €96,2 million, of which the EU financial support is in amount of €95.1 million. This agreement is first of four financial agreements that are going to be signed in this year with the aim of realization of the annual IPA program for 2016 with the total



amount of €166.4 million. The grant will be used for project that will assist Serbia in implementation of reforms in key sectors, focusing on: stimulating competition in Serbia and support to small and medium enterprises in Serbia; Stimulation of competitiveness of economy and support to small and medium enterprises; improvement of infrastructure for ensuring better access to public buildings for persons with disabilities and reduced mobility; continued works on Golubac fortress

reconstruction and promotion of efficiency of judicial institutions. This agreement will also support the activities in the areas relevant for the realisation of rights of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees, but also in the fields of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, statistics, transport, environment and energy. Later in the year, another three financial agreements are to be signed, the funds wherefrom will be allocated to promotion of border management system (28 million euro) and reform of education sector (27.4 million euro). The last out of four agreements will be funded by the EU in the amount of 15.9 million euro and it will, among other, ensure the participation in other EU programmes. With more than three billion euro of grants invested in Serbia in the past 15 years, the European Union is the largest donor in Serbia, but also the first partner of the country considering the support to development and ongoing reforms.

Swiss Trams for Better Public Transportation in Belgrade

By:  Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland
Swiss Cooperation Office in Serbia

After 15 years, and 4.589.000 Swiss Francs, after 66 tramcars and 49

trams, the successful cooperation between Belgrade and Basel is finished. Thanks to this cooperation, the Belgrade Public Transport Company's (GSP) tramway passenger capacity has increased by 30 percent. On the occasion of the end of the project delegation from the city of Basel, led by Barbara Schüpbach Guggenbühl, State Chancellor of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, visited Belgrade. "Trams in Switzerland extremely well kept, so Belgrade has got a high quality trams that are in the Serbia "found new life".", said Swiss Ambassador in Serbia Filip Ge. The Tram project was funded by Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). „In spring 2001 SECO conducted a fact-finding mission in order to identify actual needs related to trade promotion and infrastructure financing. The mission stated an urgent need related to the public transport sys-



tem, where the existing trams were damaged and spare parts were missing", explained, Priska Depnering, deputy head of cooperation of the Swiss Cooperation Office. Except trams, SECO provided the program of Technical Assistance for employees in GSP Belgrade. Several collaborators of GSP visited BVB Basel, to be trained in the maintenance of the trams. Vladimir Pavićević, deputy director of GSP Belgrade, said how Swiss trams are important for the functioning of public transport in Belgrade. „15 years ago tramway traffic in Belgrade was in total collapse. These trams have helped us to make public transportation normalized. Today, Swiss trams are the most numerous in our fleet", said Pavićević. Besides the donation of trams, trailers and spare parts, the project included the rehabilitation of trams and trailers, their transportation and a range of measures and activities aiming at the improvement of Belgrade City's public transportation system.

Did you know?

Decision on the opening of Negotiation Chapters 7 and 29 has been adopted 20th of June, at the Sixth Intergovernmental Conference in Luxembourg. Serbia's Negotiating Positions for Chapter 7 - Intellectual Property Law, and Chapter 29 - Customs Union were presented at the conference.

Cooperation between Serbia and Japan through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

By:



Japan International Cooperation Agency

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as the world's largest bilateral development assistance agency, has been providing development assistance to Serbia through grant aid, technical cooperation and concessionary (ODA) loans, focusing on the private sector development, environment protection, education and healthcare. Some of currently ongoing projects in Serbia include Flue Gas Desulphurization Construction Project for Thermal Power Plant (TPP) Nikola Tesla A in Obrenovac, which aims to significantly decrease emission amount of SO₂ from the TPP in order to achieve EU emission standard. It is expected that the project will positively affect both the environment and the people's health. Project for enhancement of energy management system (EMS) aims to efficiently preserve and utilize energy by defining legal aspects of EMS and establishing a training system for Energy Managers and Energy Auditors. Through Breast Cancer Control Project JICA is going to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health and similar institutions, responsible for cancer control, by dispatching Japanese experts and providing trainings for Serbian personnel in Japan. The objective of the "Project for Research on Integration System of Spatial Environment Analysis and Advanced Metal Recovery to Ensure Sustainable Resource Development" is to



evaluate and analyze pollution situation while developing technical methods of detoxification and recycling resources from contaminants, found in the mine drainage water. The project is carried out in collaboration with Akita University, Mining and Metallurgy Institute Bor and Belgrade University-Technical Faculty Bor, while JICA provides machinery and equipment necessary for the research. Beside the aforementioned projects, JICA has also conducted a survey with an aim to research and analyse the current situation of public services delivered by the municipalities that are affected by inflow and stay of refugees and migrants in Serbia. Recently, JICA has provided medical equipment to Vranje and Presevo, as a form of support to healthcare sector, based on the result and analysis of this survey. JICA has been organizing training courses in Japan for the employees of the governmental institutions from Serbia. So far more than 700 participants attended JICA training courses in fields such as development of private sector and investment promotion, security, environment protection, energy etc. Dispatch of Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Senior Volunteers) is another form of technical cooperation. Since 2010, 16 Senior Volunteers from Japan have been dispatched to Serbia where they engaged in Kendo instruction, assistance and the education of the persons with special needs, Japanese language teaching etc.

In Brief:

The Republic of Serbia has achieved a remarkable result in the decentralised management of IPA funds by signing 143 contracts in the period from 6 June 2014, when the Financing Agreement for the National IPA 2013 Programme was signed, until 6 June this year. This represents a high rate of contracting of 86.18% while the total value of these contracts is €130,411,635.51. The National IPA 2013 Programme is the first programme to be implemented under the decentralised management of EU funds, and a large number of contracted projects contributes to the fact that Serbia is ready to apply the rules and procedures of the European Union and absorbs funds, at the same time pointing to the strong commitment of all stakeholders.

The Roof of the Health Centre in Novi Pazar Reconstructed

By:

Norway in Serbia
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade

The reconstruction of the roof in the Health Centre in Novi Pazar, financed by the Kingdom of Norway with 62,000 Euros, was completed on 25 May 2017. These works were performed within the Norwegian funded "Serbia Rehabilitation Support after Floods" Project amounting 4.2 million Euros implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Even though the deadline for the completion of the works that started on 21 April 2017 was set for 24 June 2017, the reconstruction of nine roof surfaces covering 2,874 m² was finalised a month earlier due to the efficiency of the contractor. The roof reparation encompassed the installation of thermal insulation which will contribute the improvement of energy efficiency of the facility. It also included the installation of new hydro-insulation layer out of the PVC roof membrane which will pre-

vent future leaking in case of heavy rainfalls. The roof reconstruction will enable better access to health for 110,000 citizens of the City of Novi Pazar, as well as adequate and uninterrupted working conditions for over 400 employees who enable monthly provision of approximately 50,000 medical checks.



EU PROJECTS FAIR IN PIROT

By:  EU projects fair “EU and Serbia at work,” organised by the EU Delegation to Serbia, Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) and the City of Pirot, which showcases a part of EU assistance to South East Serbia was held at the

Kej sports hall in Pirot, June 15th 2017. EU projects fair was launched by Vladan Vasic the Mayor of Pirot, Ksenija Milenkovic the Acting Director of the SEIO, Oskar Benedikt the Acting Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia and H.E. Radko Vlajkov Bulgarian Ambassador to Serbia. The Fair focused mainly on projects implemented within the Bulgaria – Serbia Cross Boarder Cooperation Programme and actions within the European PROGRES programme which is frequently associated with this region, but it also provided information on other forms of EU support such as the assistance to



SMEs, boosting job creation, support for socially vulnerable groups, etc. EU projects fair featured more than 40 on-going projects financially supported by the EU in this part of the country. K. Milenkovic said that Serbia was rather successful in implementing projects and absorbing EU funding from the

Bulgaria - Serbia CBC Programme. “Not counting the cross-border cooperation, multimillion support has also been provided through the European PROGRES programme, aimed at improving infrastructure in the South of the country, i.e. hospitals, schools and kindergartens and business areas. We have seized the opportunity today to award certificates for 14 new projects contracted in the framework of the IPA 2013 programme, the first to have been implemented under the decentralised management of EU funds,” she said.

New Country Development Partnership Framework 2016 - 2020

By:  On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia Karla Robin Hershey,

signed on May 30, 2017 the Development Partnership Framework between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the UN Country Team for the period 2016 to 2020. This document presents a comprehensive basis for the cooperation and assistance of the UN system, including 19 UN agencies, funds and programmes, aimed at encouraging and improving the overall economic, social and environmental development of the Serbia. The Development Partnership Framework is fully aligned with the national development priorities of the Republic of Serbia, as well as with the process of accession negotiations of the Republic of Serbia and the EU and the UN Agenda for sustainable development by



2030. Estimated value of the programme activities for a five-year period covered by the Development Partnership Framework, amounts \$170 mill. With its five pillars and nine outcomes to be achieved by 2020, Development Partnership

Framework is a road map for the further promotion of good governance and the rule of law, development of social and human resources, economic development, growth and employment, environmental protection, fight against climate change and building resilient communities, and integrating culture into the overall process of sustainable development. At the signing ceremony, both sides have expressed expectations that the five-year Development Partnership Framework will give a new impetus to the joint efforts to further promote cooperation between the Republic of Serbia with the UN system.

New Schools - Foundation for Quality Education

By: 

Education remains a crucial factor in the development of every society, directly influencing poverty reduction and boosting economic growth, and social equality in general. As a result, the European Union and the Government of Switzerland through European PROGRES development programme, over the past three years, invested almost two million Euros in enhancing the quality of education in 34 less developed municipalities in the South East and South West of the country. A million euro project to construct the new building for the bilingual department of the Faculty of Economy of Subotica in Bujanovac was implemented through the Programme and twelve main designs that are technical prerequisite for the construction and renovation of



Construction of the new school for 50 pupils in Zapadni Mojsfir in the municipality of Tutin



education facilities were developed. With a view to reducing disparity between quality of education in urban and rural areas, the donors through European PROGRES also invested in schools situated in small or remote towns, which among other things should lead to fewer people migrating to bigger cities. Presently, five elementary schools are being reconstructed in the European PROGRES area of responsibility – in the City of Leskovac and within the territory of municipalities of Bela Palanka, Kuršumlija, Blace, Surdulica, and Tutin. According to Graeme Tyndall, European PROGRES Manager, investing in school infrastructure and education means investing directly in the future of one’s country. “By ensuring that all the children, regardless their national or religious provenance, place of birth or financial status, receive quality education, we create a society that offers equal opportunities to all”, says Tyndall.

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ June 27-28, 2017 - Training on the preparation of project proposals in Kolasin, MNE
- ⇒ June 29, 2017 - The fourth meeting of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee for the IPA Component I (TAIB Committee) in Belgrade, Palace of Serbia. Topics to be discussed will include centralized/decentralized implementation of projects financed under IPA Component I (TAIB), the Sectoral annual report on the decentralized implementation of IPA Component I (TAIB) in 2016, the implementation of recommendations from the previous meetings of the monitoring committees and the visibility of IPA in the Republic of Serbia.
- ⇒ July 2017 - Partner Search Forum in Višegrad, BiH

“Do not Gamble with Nature”

World Environment Day (WED) because Nature Deserves Winning Combination!



By: On the occasion of the 5th June, World Environment Day, German Development Cooperation projects implemented by GIZ organized a wide variety of programs. Activities were implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, UN Development Programme (UNDP) and partner institutions. The event symbolically entitled “Do not gamble with nature” promoted the

necessity of environmental protection and sustainable consumption. Within that contributing also to The Global Goals for Sustainable Development of UN and the German Sustainability Action Days. The program covered the wide specter of environmental topics from municipal waste and wastewater management, energy efficiency, across climate change, land management, tourism development in the Danube region, municipal services and biodiversity in Serbia and South-East Europe (SEE) region. Decision-makers in

the environmental sector and other sectors which largely affect and/or impact the environment, representatives of the Parliament, of embassies, international organizations together with children, young people and citizens exchanged ideas and creative solutions on environmental protection and used the opportunity to participate in various games with content related to the environment as well as visited the protected natural area – Great War Island as an example on how to access the complex topic of biodiversity and ecosystem services and thus contribute to a sustainable development in the urban environment.



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 Sector for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Assistance

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