



Aid Matters



Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

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Did you know?

Serbia was making an important step on its European integration path by opening two new chapters - 6 and 30. "We continue on our European path, and this is another important step in the accession process. With these two chapters, Serbia will have altogether 12 open chapters, which is a satisfying and reasonable pace, but it can and must be faster", emphasised Minister of European Integration, Jadranka Joksimović.

Republic of Serbia and the European Commission Signed Two Financing Agreements

By:  REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Ms. Jadranka Joksimovic, Minister of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia and National IPA Coordinator, and Ms. Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, the Director for Western Balkans at the European Commission signed 2 Financing Agreements related to the Action Programme for Serbia under IPA 2016, during December 2017. Two signed agreements, including: Financing agreement related to the sector budget support in the area of integrated border management (€28 mill) and Financing agreement referring to the EU support which is going to be implemented directly by the institutions of the Republic of Serbia (€15,9 mill), provide a legal basis for implementation of EU support in the amount of €43,9 mill. It is expected that implementation of support covered by first Financing agreement will result in further harmoniza-



tion of national legal framework with the EU acquis, increased capacities in the area of integrated border management, improved border surveillance at the land borders and increased number of joint intra-agency activities as well as improved inter-agency and international cooperation. As regards the support envisaged through second Financing Agreement, it will contribute to participation of relevant national stakeholders in EU programmes but also to the exchange of experience with the EU member states within the process of harmonization with the EU standards. During 2017 four financial agreements have been signed within the IPA 2016 package, amounting to €166,4 mill. Minister Jadranka Joksimovic said that EU money will be spent in a transparent manner as it had been the case thus far. "The EU is by far the biggest donor in Serbia, with over €3 bill in non-refundable aid in the last 15 years," Joksimovic said.

KfW Finances EPS-Windfarm Kostolac

By:  **KFW** Serbian Energy Supplier

EPS and the German Development Bank KfW entered into a new project on the construction of a wind park for which the Loan and Financing Agreements were signed on 29th of November 2017. The investment costs of the project amount to €96.4 mill. They are financed through a loan of €80 mill and a grant of EUR 1 million, both via KfW on behalf of the German Government. The remaining investment costs of €15.4 mill are financed by EPS. The project concerns the construction of a wind park with an installed capacity of up to 66 MW in Kostolac, 90 km east of Belgrade at the river Danube. The purpose of the project is to increase and diversify Serbia's

energy resources, as well as to promote renewable and thus climate-friendly energy resources in Serbia. The wind park will produce 135 GWh of electricity yearly. Also, it shall contribute to the reduction of 120,000 t of CO2 equivalences a year, which equals the emissions of some 80,000 cars. The wind park will thus contribute to an increase of the use of renewables within Serbia's energy mix which is planned to be 27 % in 2020 (currently approximately 23%). Project completion is estimated until end of 2020 - full operation in 2021, when the wind park will supply some 30,000 households with electricity.



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
МИНИСТАРСТВО ЗА ЕВРОПСКЕ ИНТЕГРАЦИЈЕ

2018

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

A Glance at the Development Assistance Provided to Serbia by China

By: **The Embassy of the People's Republic of China**

China and Serbia have long-standing traditional friendship, which is ever-stronger since the comprehensive strategic partnership was established between our two countries in 2016. Considering Serbia as a reliable cooperation partner for China in the Balkan region within the "Belt and Road" Initiative, the Chinese side has been attaching great importance to the development of Sino-Serbian relation, and has been devoting lots of efforts in form of development assistance to help the economic and social development of Serbia and the improvement of Serbian people's living standards. So far, the Chinese government has provided development assistance to Serbia in various fields including medical care, education, public administration, public security, etc. Besides, the Chinese government has been holding personnel training seminars and courses within the frame of development assistance. Since 2011, more than 1800 Serbian officials, professionals and



technicians from central and local governments, public institutions, chambers and industrial associations, companies, universities and colleges, hospitals etc. have been recommended to attend the seminars or training courses sponsored by the Chinese government. Among these seminars and courses, wide-ranging areas such as economy and trade, finance, medical care, education, agriculture, Chinese language and culture are covered. In future, the Chinese side will continue providing development assistance to Serbia, and will find new ways to conduct the assistance and explore new areas to be covered. It is believed that the assistance provided by the Chinese side is a sincere support for Serbian government and public institutions, and a witness of the development of Serbia, as well as the constantly deepening bilateral cooperation and communication between Serbia and China.

The Swiss Program „Property Tax Reform“ Starts

By:  Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland
Swiss Cooperation Office in Serbia

Memorandum of Understanding with 45 municipalities and 11 cities is signed, and "Property tax reform" program begins its closure

cooperation with local self-governments from mid-December. Ceremony of signing was attended by Mr. Branko Ružić, Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, H.E. Swiss Ambassador in Serbia Philippe Guex, Ms. Ursula Läubli, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Serbia, Mr. Đorđe Staničić, General Secretary of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Mr. Alexander Grunauer, team leader of the Program "Property Tax Reform", as well as 56 mayors of program partner municipalities. In total, 92 municipalities from all over the Serbia have expressed their interest to join the program. In order to encourage inter-municipal cooperation, one of the key selection criteria was the joint application. "We are very happy with such a great interest. Beside the more efficient collection of property tax, we also aim

at encouraging municipalities to govern better. It means that through our assistance we would like to increase citizens participation in local government decision making processes including the decisions on spending the money collected through the taxes", said Ursula Läubli, Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Serbia. The total value of the program is six million francs. One million is dedicated to the five most successful municipalities in the process of tax collection. The program will last for four years.



Public Call Announced for Innovative Ideas for Climate Resilient Communities in Serbia

By:  Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

On November 22, 2017, Goran Trivan, Minister of Environmental Protection, announced the Public Call for innovative solutions for reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in local communities throughout Serbia, and for improvement of climate-related data collection and management. The Minister invited local governments, public and private companies, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions, and individuals, to jointly identify opportunities for decreasing GHG emissions created by public services and facilities in Serbian cities and municipalities. In addition to creating environmental benefits,

the proposed solutions, to be submitted by January 31, 2018, should also contribute to social and economic development of local communities. The Public Call encompasses the Open Data Challenge and the Innovation Challenge, and invites for partnership approach in tackling the climate-related issues in Serbia. More information and application forms may be found at <http://inovacije.klimatskepromene.rs/>. The Call is organized within the "Climate Smart Urban Development Challenge" project, implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and UNDP, and financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters

By:  Project funded by the European Union
Projekat finansira Evropska unija



Pravna podrška pregovorima

What is primacy of EU law? How are EU Regulations, Directives and Decisions applied? What are the roles of the Court of Justice of the EU and of the national courts, and why is the dialogue between them important? Recognising the complexity and significance of EU *acquis* related to judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters, the PLAC II Project and the Judicial Academy organised two workshops in Belgrade and Niš, on 22 and 23 November 2017. More than 45 judges and civil servants of the Ministry of Justice learned about the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters, and the ways it facilitates judicial and legal cooperation between Member States,

supporting local courts in cross-border cases related to business, consumer or labour disputes, divorce, custody of children and inheritance. The participants were introduced with the ways to improve and speed up the delivery of judicial and extrajudicial documents, as well as with the methods to simplify and speed up cooperation between courts in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters. More about the PLAC II Project: <http://euinfo.rs/plac2/en/>.

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LSGs from South Serbia Improved Good Governance by Relying on Swiss Experience

By:  EUROPEAN PROGRES
 @LANGOS

The public opinion survey on European integration process, conducted on behalf of the Ministry of European Integration, shows that 66% of the respondents

consider the reform of the country's governance is crucial for citizens' wellbeing. Opting for Switzerland as an example of a regulated country - stability, efficient municipal services, equality, minimum bureaucracy, accountability and transparency of the local authorities' operations are the good governance principles identified as priority areas that require improvements. Accordingly, the Government of Switzerland and the EU have supported, through European PROGRES development Programme, 34 local self-governments (LSGs) from the Southeast and Southwest of Serbia to advance these principles. As the result 22 municipalities established an institutional framework i.e. set up good governance competence centres, while 27 representatives of the local authorities were trained on practical application of good governance principles



thus establishing a permanent resource for future sustainable development. Additionally, 13 municipalities have implemented local governance reforms by adopting or revising 21 regulations, which include, inter alia, improvements in transparency, planning, responsible management of human resources and public property, while 16 infrastructure projects have successfully improved relevant policies at the local level, which will increase their positive impact on the lives of people. "Over the last 15 years, we have invested a lot into tailoring our knowledge and experience to the the local context and transferring it to local administrations. Application of these principles in the daily work of LSGs ensures improved public services and consequently better lives for the citizens," Ursula Läubli, Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Serbia, said. Underlining that success of development efforts largely depend on how the country is governed Switzerland pledged commitment to further good governance efforts in the future.

Talk and Talk Social Enterprise A Place Where Business Meets Humanity

By:  german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT  giz

In December, social enterprise Talk and Talk opened its' doors in center of Belgrade for organizing and holding different types of events and conferences, as well for co-working needs. The main goal of this social company is to improve the social status of vulnerable groups through their employment and devoting a part of company profit for them. As a Social Enterprise, Talk and Talk applies commercial strategies for improving human rights and wellbeing. Business strategy is therefore built around three priorities: deliver exceptional value to clients, empower and employ vulnerable groups and invest in sustainable growth. Certain percentage of surplus will be transferred and donated to vulnerable population. Rest of the surplus will be reinvested in the business to continue its growth, making it able to create more and sustainable local employment. Recognizing the various obstacles for proper social integration of vulnerable groups, the Serbian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRH Serbia), supported by the German Development

Cooperation Project "Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups (SORI)", established Talk and Talk social enterprise (<https://www.facebook.com/TalkAndTalkBelgrade>) symbolically on December 1st, World AIDS day. The enterprise in Beogradska 52 offers a conference room (up to 45 seats), with four offices for freelance, creative and other activities. Each room is equipped with an LED TV screen with the possibility of organizing Skype video conferences. Also, translation equipment is available, as well as interpreters for all world languages with long-term experience. Modern equipped kitchen is available to users, with all necessary elements for creating new gastronomic experiences and exchange of existing knowledge among vulnerable groups.



Improving Infrastructure and Public Services in Municipalities Affected by the Migrant Crisis

By:  "The U.S. government provided \$2 mill to help the most affected municipalities in Serbia recover from the impact of the migration crisis and support their sustainable development," said U.S. Ambassador Kyle Scott. "In Preševo, USAID provided \$200,000, and the Municipality of Preševo provided an additional \$160,000, to build a new reservoir and to restore an existing reservoir. In Bosilegrad, we provided \$118,000 to build and furnish the new emergency care facility." The Preševo reservoir and emergency care facility in Bosilegrad are part of USAID's Enhancing Local Resilience to the Migration Crisis project, implemented by UNDP. On December 5 and 6, 2017, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Serbia inaugurated a new 1,000 cubic meter reservoir and a renovated 500 cubic meter reservoir in Preševo, as well as a new emergency care facility at the Primary Health Care Center in Bosilegrad. The two reservoirs in Preševo ensure the supply of a sufficient, reliable quantity of potable water for the city's residents and the migrants residing in the reception center. The new emergency care facility at the Primary Health Care Center in Bosilegrad provides residents, including migrants and refugees accommodated at the city's reception center, with access to essential emergency medical services.



Inauguration of the water reservoirs in Preševo



Inauguration of the emergency care facility at the Primary Health Care Center in Bosilegrad

European Union Scheme for Young Civil Servants in the Western Balkans

By:  REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Five highly motivated Serbian civil servants from the Ministry of Public Administration and the programme would contribute to the personal development of participants, who were already involved in strategic planning within their ministries and contributed to the work of negotiating groups, but also to the improvement and strengthening of the administrative capacities of their institutions through joint work on public administration reform. The Director of the British Council in Serbia, Clare Sears, reminded that this organisation was implementing the programme for young professionals on behalf of the EU, provided support to governments in implementing reforms, capacity building of state institutions and developing youth skills, adding that this EU funded project covered each of the three mentioned areas.



Gender Mainstreaming in the Processes of Programming and Implementation of Actions

By:  REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Gender Mainstreaming in the Processes of Programming Resources and Implementation of Actions in the IPA II in Serbia - 3rd Annual Capacity Building Meeting was organised by the Ministry of European Integration and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Arandjelovac on 14-15 December. The workshop was intended for the representatives of the ministries and institutions that are involved in the process of programming and monitoring of implementation of the programmes/projects financed from the European Funds. 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 framework of the programs financed by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. Gender Mainstreaming Capacity Building Meeting objectives: 1) Increase participants' gender awareness and knowledge on gender mainstreaming; 2) Increase participants' ability to apply gender mainstreaming tools in preparation of programmes and projects; 3) To take step forward in development of procedures and instruments for sustainable gender mainstreaming in IPA programming.



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 Ministry of European Integration.

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, natasa.kalaba@mei.gov.rs Sector for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Assistance

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