

Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Issue no.1

February 2012

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Busan Partnership



제4차 원조효과 고위급 회의
4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
29 Nov. – 1 Dec. 2011, Busan, Korea

Ministers from developing and donor countries, representatives of governments, parliaments, civil society organisations and private sector gathered for the 4th High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011. Approximately 2,000 delegates reviewed global progress in improving the impact and value for money of development aid and made new commitments to further ensure that aid helps reduce poverty and supports progress in meeting the MDGs.

Participants agreed on the “Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation” – the Forum outcome document establishing a new and inclusive Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, to further enhance efforts globally and within countries, making aid more effective in reducing poverty and achieving the MDGs.

The delegates supported common principles that form a foundation of mutual cooperation for effective development: i) ownership of development priorities by developing countries; ii) focus on results; iii)

inclusive development partnerships; iv) transparency and accountability to each other.

The Republic of Serbia has been internationally recognised as a good practice example on coordination of development assistance. In the recent years Serbia has put in place a number of measures to make coordination and management of external assistance effective.

To learn more on 4th HLF on Aid Effectiveness, you can visit www.aideffectiveness.org/busanhl4/.

Useful Busan Forum documents can be found in IS-DACON Documents - Aid Effectiveness section.

Development Cooperation with Germany

Through development cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and Federal Republic of Germany, assistance of one billion EUR has been committed between 2000 and 2010. Development projects are implemented by German Development Bank (KfW), and technical assistance projects by German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ).

German development funds in Serbia are directed to implementation of projects in three priority areas:

- public infrastructure (energy and water): electricity, heating and water supply, sewage infrastructure (waste water management)
- sustainable economic development and employment: improvement of financial and economic legal frameworks, financial sector development, support to SMEs, support to VET reform
- democracy, public administration, civil society: support to development of decentralised, results oriented and efficient administration, especially in the field of improvement of rule of law transparency,

judiciary system and balance of powers among different parts of public administration.

Beside projects implemented at the national level, Germany provides financial and technical support to regional programmes.

In 2011, Germany programmed 137 million EUR (113 million of financial assistance, 9 million of technical assistance and additional 15 million of KfW promotional loan) directed at three priority areas. Furthermore, in December 2011, Germany has granted additional 110 million EUR to support the development of biomass market.

In the framework of development cooperation with Germany, the first monitoring mission for technical and financial cooperation took place 14-15 December 2011. To improve efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation and overall bilateral cooperation, several monitoring sessions were held, to jointly assess the results and potential issues in projects' implementation. This initiative may serve as an example of good practice.

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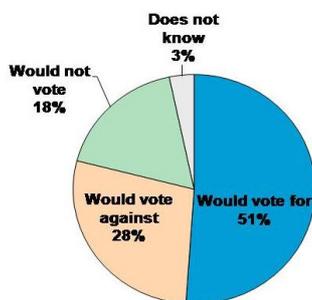
European orientation of Serbian citizens

SEIO conducts periodical public polls on European integration process and reforms. The latest survey was done on 22 December 2011, following the decision of the European Council not to grant our country candidate status for EU membership.

Director of SEIO Milica Delević presented the results on January 13th 2012. If a referendum were called tomorrow with the question: "Do you support Serbia's EU membership?", 51% of citizens would say "yes", 28% would say "no", 18% would not vote, while 3% do not know how they would answer.

Delević noted that more and more citizens state that they are not informed on EU funds, while 41% believe that Russia is the biggest donor in Serbia, followed by Japan, the

EU and China. The actual data show, however, that the EU and its member states are the biggest donors in Serbia, followed by the USA, Norway, Switzerland and Japan.



Results of the survey demonstrate that 85 % of citizens believe that the reforms should be implemented even if not required for EU accession, for creating a better Serbia, for ourselves.

The support for Serbia's EU accession was at its highest in December 2003, when 72% of citizens endorsed it. The current rate of support to joining the EU is at its lowest since 2002, which is when this research started.

Results of previous opinion polls can be found at www.seio.gov.rs/documents/national-documents.223.html

Aid Coordination

In line with the recommendations on setting up an improved mechanism of aid coordination, the following Aid coordination groups (ACG) met:

- The meeting of Agriculture ACG was held on 25 October, in

order to informally discuss developments in agriculture, brief donors on the policy and institutional issues, and to identify ideas and initiatives for future projects.

- Transport ACG meeting took place on December 13, 2011, with the aim to discuss the establishment of donor coordination mechanism and discuss Terms of Reference defining objec-

tives, tasks and activities, as well as to identify the next steps necessary for the Group establishment.

- During the Donor Conference in the area of environment, mining and spatial planning that took place on December 15, 2011, the National Environmental Approximation Strategy as well as legislation updates concerning the new Law on Communal Services were presented. The participants received the draft Terms of Reference, comprising description of the Environment ACG scope of work, objectives and activities to be performed and were invited to submit comments to the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning.

Next aid coordination activities include meetings of Public Administration Reform and Public Finance ACG, Energy ACG, as well as Roma Integration ACG.

Did you know?

There are over 30 development partners active in Serbia.

To find out more about donor profiles, you can visit [ISDA CON—Development Partners](#) section.

Cooperation with Civil Society

SEIO has established a consultative mechanism based on sectoral civil society organizations (SECO), ensuring their participation in planning development assistance, especially programming and use of Instrument for Pre-accession.

During the meeting held on 22nd December 2011, the status of IPA 2012 programming package, new approach to IPA I programming, scenario for IPA III-V, the trainings planned for 2012, as well as the involvement of civil society in the IPA

programming process, as early as in the identification phase were discussed.



The first in the series of trainings for SECOs on programming and implementation of EU funds available to the Republic of Serbia took place in Subotica, on 13th January 2012. The training, that gathered 36 participants, was organized by the SEIO and Centre for Ecology and Sustainable Development, which is the lead partner in SECO for environment and energy.

Programming in 2012

SEIO organised the kick off meeting for international development assistance programming cycle in 2012 on 3rd February. The programming cycle includes all development assistance with a special focus on programming IPA 2013.

The event represented the occasion to clarify the Calendar of programming activities, roles and responsibilities of institutions, as well as specificities of EU funds programming.

Programming of IPA 2012 is in the final stage. According to the new methodology, 2012 national programme will include sector and project fiches.

Furthermore, during the meeting SEIO also presented the new format for entering project proposals in ISDACON, as well as the guidelines for proposing project ideas. The anticipated deadline for applicants to enter project ideas in ISDACON is 1st March 2012.

The SEIO has prepared the Action plan for programming and reporting on EU funds and development assistance in 2012 which can be downloaded from ISDACON - Documents section.

DIS progress



Mirjana Nožić,

Assistant Minister for the National Fund at Ministry of Finance

In order to manage EC funds independently Serbia has received assistance from the EC and Norwegian and Swedish governments, as to follow "EC Roadmap to Decentralised Implementation System (DIS) for IPA", namely to pass through 5 procedural stages leading to DIS.

As of January, Serbia started with Stage 3 - Compliance

assessment which basically means that after all necessary institutions had been

established and procedural arrangements made, after most of staff in newly established institutions had passed through extensive training exercise, an external, independent audit is commissioned to test the compliance of this system with EC requirements.

During 4 months of Compliance assessment, auditors will assess the quality of procedures and competence of the staff involved in DIS process. As an output, we expect a positive

opinion on our systems and procedures, possibly with minor suggestions for changes and corrections which would enable Serbia to apply for Conferral of Management powers with ex ante control.

If Serbia is not granted a candidacy status in March this process would be affected in a way to disqualify Serbia's chances to implement a portion of available IPA funding through mechanisms that resemble those that are ultimately being used by Member states in management of Cohesion and Structural funds (IPA III, IV and V).

Ministry of Finance, SEIO and line ministries have put a lot of effort in establishment of DIS institutions, preparation of procedures and training. The risks for DIS grow with a possible significant change in structure or personnel after the elections. The most important message for the new Government is to make sure to keep the staff that has been trained for DIS for more than two years now.

EC Roadmap to DIS defines 5 stages in DIS implementation process. For more information, you can download IPA Glossary from ISDACON - Publications section.

Exhibition - My family's history and history of the region

Within IPA Croatia-Serbia Cross Border Programme, "Hands Across the Border – Identity and Cultural heritage of the Danube Region" project, implemented by Nansen Dialog Center (Osijek) and the Center for Youth Work (Novi Sad), a traveling exhibition called "My family's history and history of the region" was organised.



Throughout November, the exhibition material was presented to the general public in five communities: Tompojevci, Vukovar, Bač, Bačka Palanka and Novi Sad, emphasizing the importance of implementing projects that strengthen inter-ethnic dialogue and cross-border cooperation in post-conflict and multi-ethnic communities of the Danube region.

Norwegian Bilateral Programme 2012

SEIO, in cooperation with Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has launched call for proposals for the bilateral assistance programme in November 2011.

Available funds for new projects amount to approximately 6.5 million euros. Priority objectives for bilateral assistance are: good governance, defense and security sector reform, energy and climate change, equality, women rights and minority rights.

Project ideas have been submitted by various national institutions and appraised. Currently, they are being developed in full project proposals.

It is expected that final package of projects is completed by the end of February, while formal decision on projects to be supported is expected to be taken by the end of March 2012.

Did you know?

The Danube flows through four capital cities, more than any river in the world. Find out if you can name them. Check out the new EU quiz at <http://kviz.seio.gov.rs/login/index.php>



Events

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|------------------|---|
| 28 February 2012 | Conference: 10 years of Japanese assistance to Serbia |
| 28 February 2012 | Annual review of USAID development assistance results |
| 27-28 March 2012 | EU-Serbia Permanent Dialogue Sectoral Meeting on Internal Market, Health and Consumer Protection |
| 24 April 2012 | Donors Conference on the Regional Cooperation towards Durable Solutions for the remaining refugees displaced from 1991-1995 |

WBIF: 7th Round Call for Projects

Within the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), new Call for Projects for the year 2012 was launched. While the 6th round was focused on private sector development, 7th round will primarily target energy efficiency projects. The deadline for the submission of new applications was 20th February 2012.

SEIO is coordinating preparation of project proposals that will be submitted by Serbia. A new version of the Project Grant Application Form (PGAF) template is available on the WBIF website, www.wbif.eu.

IPA CBC Calls for Proposals

Within Bulgaria—Serbia IPA Cross-border Programme, the 2nd Call for Project Proposals was open until 20th February 2012.

Available funds amount to 8,741,808 EUR (7,430,536 EUR of grants).

Call for Project proposals within Hungary – Serbia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme is expected to be launched in March 2012, with 15,082,615 EUR available.

For more information, please visit ISDACON - IPA CBC section.

About Aid Matters Newsletter



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The newsletter aims at improving communication between stakeholders and exchange of information relevant to development assistance activities in the Republic of Serbia.

If you would like to contribute, please send your text to majamilenkovic@seio.gov.rs. An ideal word count is around 100 words.

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

Office for the EU Integrations of the Republic of Serbia

Nemanjina 34, Belgrade, Serbia

011/3061-100

www.seio.gov.rs

www.evropa.gov.rs

