

Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Issue no. 9 June 2013

Inside the issue:

International Assistance and Justice Sector	2
Bulgaria-Serbia CBC Programme Contracts Signed	2
USAID Plans Direct Partnerships with Local Governments and NGOs	2
Norwegian Assistance to Serbia	3
SHAPE Project	3
GIZ TVET Project	3
New Apartments for Refugees and Displaced Persons	4
Swedish Support to Environmental CSOs through Regional Environmental Center	4

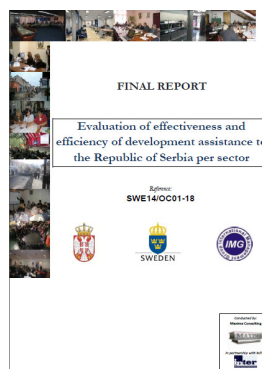
Did You Know?

New border crossing between Hungary (Ásotthalom) and Serbia (Bački Vinograd) was opened in May, supported by IPA.

Evaluation of Development Assistance to Serbia

Within the preparations for new financial perspective of the EU 2014-2020, national institutions involved in planning, programming and implementation of IPA are intensively working to prepare the main national planning and coordination document for all Official Development Assistance (ODA). SEIO started the process of drafting "National Priorities for International Assistance in the Period 2014-2017, with projections until 2020" (previously known as NAD), that will serve as the basis for prioritisation and donor coordination in the coming years.

One of the most important inputs in the planning stage are the evaluation findings on effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance. With the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), SEIO has, therefore, initiated the Evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance to the Republic of Serbia per sector. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide an impartial and comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of the international development assistance to Serbia for each sector in the period 2007-2011.



The subject of this evaluation is not only efficiency and effectiveness of aid provided to different sectors, but also successfulness of different implementation modalities as well as different forms of international assistance (grants vs. loans).

Ultimately, the evaluation seeks to answer the questions: what has been achieved with ODA, what worked, what did not and why, as

well as to provide recommendations for improving effectiveness, sustainability, efficiency, impact and relevance of aid.

From January to May evaluators contacted and interviewed various national institutions, development agencies, embassies, implementation partners and beneficiaries in order to gain a comprehensive picture regarding the projects approved and implemented in this period.

The evaluation report is available at www.evropa.gov.rs, section Documents.

Conference - Results of Western Balkans Investment Framework

Serbia has been approved 28 grants worth 34.3 million € for projects that created conditions for further investments and loans amounting to 1.7 billion €. As noted at the Conference Celebrating Western Balkans Investment

Framework results, that took place on 28th May, Serbia also participates in 6 regional projects.

WBIF contributes to a firmer cooperation between countries in the region and provides assistance



in the areas of energy, transport, environment and infrastructure. This joint initiative of the EC, CoEB, EBRD, EIB, WB, KfW, bilateral donors and governments of the Western Balkans provides grants to projects of smaller

value, which contribute to a more efficient implementation of loans for capital projects.

Conference material can be found at ISDACon, www.evropa.gov.rs/Evropa/PublicSite/Documents.aspx

International Assistance and Justice Sector

Author: Department for preparation of projects in the area of judiciary and public administration, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration

The Justice sector plays key role in development of a stable and democratic society, ensuring access to justice, protecting human rights, and is essential for country's economic growth.

Reforming processes defined through National Judicial Strategy (2006) and its Action Plan mainly directed at introduction of transparency, independence, accountability and efficiency into the Serbian judicial system were supported from international development assistance through overall improvement and strengthening of the legal framework, institutional and infra-structural capacities as well as professional competences.

The EU IPA provided over 40 million € between 2007-2012 as assistance to preparation for EU membership. Equipment was provided to the Supreme Court of Cassation, prosecutors offices and Administration for Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions. IPA funds also supported institutional and capacity development of Judicial Academy, Anti-Corruption Agency and Directorate for management of confiscated and seized assets, and assisted improvement of infrastructure and harmonization of Serbian prison system with the EU through strengthening alternative sanctions system and VET programs development.

The most prominent bilateral donor USA supported efficient

administration of justice since 2008 through Separation of Powers Program, which assisted courts to improve case management and reduce case backlogs and delays. The Judicial Reform and Government Accountability Project, initiated in 2011, will work towards upgrading court facilities through design and financial assistance, improvement of transparency, openness, efficiency and safety of the courts, as well as assistance for court administration effectiveness and case processing.

Justice Sector also benefits from GIZ projects. Between 2011 - 2018 Legal Reform Project will focus primarily on major challenges - improvement of the overall legislative process, reformed laws and the popularization of legal provisions (particularly civil and commercial law). New legal professions notaries and private bailiffs were supported within this project.

Since 2010 Norway has assisted delivery of justice through strengthening court infrastructure, High Judicial Council capacity building, juvenile justice system improvement (implementing diversionary measures and alternative sanctions for juvenile offenders, strengthening Juvenile Justice Council, improving the situation of liberty deprived children).

The adoption of a new Judicial Strategy and its Action Plan will be ground for future cooperation with donors, predominantly oriented towards Justice Sector.

Bulgaria-Serbia CBC Programme Contracts Signed

Under the Second Call for project proposals for Bulgaria-Serbia IPA Cross-border Programme, the official signing ceremony for the second group of awarded subsidy contracts was held on 25 April in Niš, with more than 180 people taking part in the event.



During the ceremony, 65 subsidy contracts were awarded with the total value of over 17.6 mil €.

More information and photo gallery can be found at

<http://www.ipacbc-bgrs.eu/page.php?c=1&d=213>

USAID Plans Direct Partnerships with Local Governments and NGOs

Source:



USAID recently embarked on an ambitious task of making extensive reforms termed "USAID Forward." One of the changes is to increase aid effectiveness by embracing new partnerships and directly funding local governmental and non-governmental partners.

USAID/Serbia performed a comprehensive review of Serbia and the government entities that it was considering for direct funding. This appraisal, used to evaluate whether to use partner

country systems for implementation of USAID-funded assistance, identified two Serbian government entities that USAID will work directly with.

On April 17, USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Agency for Regional Development to support private sector development in two of the poorest regions in Serbia. Additionally, USAID is looking to work directly with the Office of Cooperation for Civil Society. USAID will also be working more directly with local non-government partners and expects to expand partnerships and enable local organizations to have a more active stake in Serbia's development.

Norwegian Assistance to Serbia

Norway is one of Serbia's biggest bilateral development partners and among the first countries to grant assistance in early 1990s. Support has evolved since, to respond to the changing needs expressed by the Republic of Serbia. Initially, humanitarian aid was provided in 1990s, followed by support to democratisation from 2000. After progress attained in that area, Norway began providing development assistance and supporting Serbia on its European integration path.

Norwegian assistance is, generally, distributed through two channels: grants for peace and state building projects in the Western Balkans, and through bilateral assistance programme.

Sectors that have received support include: good governance, economic development and trade, education, health and social services, environment and energy, and emergency assistance.

The Call for proposals for funding from the Norwegian bilateral aid in 2013 was closed in May. Planned support in 2013

will be around 5 million €, and priority areas are rule of law, public administration reform, competitiveness, security sector reform and energy, environment and climate change. In accordance with the new role of SEIO in managing Norwegian bilateral assistance package (overall responsibility for the planning, implementation, reporting and monitoring of the bilateral programme) and with the aim of taking stronger national ownership over projects supported through this call, SEIO will enter into agreements with national institutions (project beneficiaries) holding them accountable for the project implementation.

Although primarily focused on supporting public administration reform, donations to local projects, through cooperation with municipalities and CSOs, have increased in recent years. The overall assistance in 2013 is expected to be around 10 million €. According to Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway will continue supporting Serbia through development assistance, in line with mutually defined priorities.

SHAPE Project

Source: *Italian Development Cooperation*

The project funded by the Italian Cooperation, implemented by IOM - "Strengthening Serbia's Human Capital through the Active Involvement of Young People" (SHAPE) provided effective pro-youth strategies and measures to ensure socio-cultural integration and active participation of young people in Serbia.

It supported the efforts of Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sports to establish regional and local Youth Offices in 10 target municipalities and provided specific programs for youth development. Youth workshop program was designed in accordance with the youth needs assessment carried out in the first project quarter,

and was followed by mini grants and study visits. Through this process, SHAPE has invigorated youth participation and activism in local communities. Youth offices have become the nucleus for youth participation in local communities and are an essential vehicle to successful participatory policy development and implementation. SHAPE has been instrumental to the inception and development of this process. Opportunities offered by SHAPE to combine travel with education and cultural/social exchange has contributed significantly to youth mobility. This has been recognized as particularly important and beneficial in inspiring youth activism and promotion of European values through cultural interaction among peers.

GIZ TVET Project

Source: 

GIZ project "Reform of Technical Vocational Education and Training in Serbia (TVET)" attended as co-organizer the 5th National Fair of Virtual Companies in Bor on 17-18 May. The fair was organized by the School for Economic and Trade from Bor.

In April 2013, GIZ started a new, V, phase of the reform of vocational education with the focus on three-year technical profiles. The German government has allocated 2 million € for this



Project to be implemented until September 2015. The main partner is Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.

During the past 10 years, within its Project "Reform of Vocational Education and Training in Serbia", GIZ developed five new educational profiles in Serbian schools: business

administrator, financial administrator, bank clerk, insurance clerk and commercialist. The main aim of introducing these new profiles is offering practical knowledge and skills and preparing students for realistic world of work.

New Apartments for Refugees and IDPs

Source: UNHCR Serbia

Forty families of refugees and internally displaced persons currently living in collective centres in wider Belgrade area will move into their new apartments in Veliki Mokri Lug early June. The two residential buildings executed within the framework of "Social Housing in Supportive Environment" are funded from EU IPA 2009, co-funded by UNHCR and supported by the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees and Migration. The City of Belgrade donated construction plots, secured infrastructural equipping of the location, construction of garages and shelters as required by the town-planning regulations. The project is implemented by NGO Vizija.

The first building following the concept of Social Housing in Supportive Environment for refugees and internally displaced persons from collective accommodation on the territory of the capital was put at the disposal of the beneficiaries on the same location in April 2012. The construction of that 20-apartment building was funded by the US/BPRM with Humanitarian Organisation Divac providing furniture and equipment. "

Events

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|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 June | EU Programmes Coordination Meeting, Belgrade |
| 13 June | Western Balkans Investment Framework Steering Committee, Athens |
| 24 June | 1st Steering Committee of Italian Programme "Support to Serbian Economy through Supply of Goods to Five Line Ministries", Belgrade |
| 25 June | Negotiations between Governments of Serbia and Germany on development cooperation, Belgrade |

Check out upcoming events at ISDACon — News and Events section, www.evropa.gov.rs

In Brief

Sector inputs (priorities, measures and indicators) for "National Priorities for International Assistance in the Period 2014-2017, with projections until 2020" were discussed during Sector working groups meetings 20-22nd May. Consultations included representatives of national institutions, donor community and civil society.

Swedish Support to Environmental CSOs through Regional Environmental Center

Source: Sida

On April 23rd the Embassy's Development Cooperation Department attended a meeting with the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and representatives of 8 selected applicants under the first "Sense Programme: Supporting environmental civil society organizations in Serbia" call for proposals funded by Sweden. The aim is to stimulate CSO capacity for proactive advocacy for concrete policy changes in the environmental field. By strengthening CSOs capacities they will be properly equipped to monitor and evaluate the implementation of poli-

cies, strategies and laws in the EU accession process.

Selected projects aim, inter alia, to increase collection of recyclable materials, strengthen capacities of youth offices/ organizations to raise the level of youth awareness on environmental issues, and build partnerships for inclusive policy and decision-making processes.

The current programme runs from October 2012 – October 2015 with a total budget of approximately € 2.2 million. For 2013, Swedish assistance to Serbia amounts to approximately € 13 million, which makes Sweden the third biggest bilateral donor.

About Aid Matters Newsletter



Aid Matters Newsletter on development assistance to Serbia is developed within the project Support to 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 for effective partnerships for improved aid effectiveness, funded by Sida.

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 150 words.

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