



Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia

Issue no. 13 December 2013

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NAD 2014-2017 with 2020 Projections Adopted

Document "National Priorities for International Assistance 2014-2017, with projections until 2020" (NAD), was adopted on 8 November 2013.

NAD is the fourth in the series of programming documents since 2007, and the first one that intended to become the basis for implementing a Sector Approach. It is also the first external assistance planning document in Serbia to contain indicators and to set verifiable, annual and mid-term targets which can be used for assessing the progress of reforms in each sector /thematic area.

This document defines 9 different sectors (justice; home affairs, public administration reform, competitiveness, energy, environment and climate change, transport, human resources and social development, agriculture and rural development) and 3 thematic areas (civil society, media, culture).

As a reminder, implemented international assistance to the Republic of Serbia amounts to approximately 8.9 billion € for the period 2001–2012.

Estimated new commitments for the period

2014–2017 amount to around 1.1 billion €, i.e. 275 million € per year.

The Republic of Serbia will be the beneficiary of EU pre-accession assistance through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2014–2020 (IPA II), while the budget of IPA II for all beneficiaries will remain at a similar level as in the current financial perspective, which amounts to approximately 200 million € annually for Serbia.

NAD is strategic programming document which provides a means for increasing the alignment of international assistance with national priorities so that targeted donor interventions will support mainstream public spending on policy reforms from the national budget. In addition, the NAD makes it possible to eliminate the duplication of donor activities and to rationalize these activities so that they are as cost-effective as possible.

This document defines priorities and measures per sector to be supported by IPA II of development assistance.

NAD can be downloaded from the section Documents/International Assistance.

In Brief

Over 60 participants, representatives of the Western Balkans IPA beneficiary countries and Turkey, participated in the 2-day coordination meeting of the Multi-Beneficiary IPA. Meeting was held on 20th of November in Belgrade.

By: CBC

Under the IPA CB Programme Serbia-Montenegro, promotional events for projects "Preventive Actions in the Reproductive Health Sector" (implemented by Public Health Institutions Nikšić and Raška, and Sandžak Economic Development Agency "SEDA" Novi Pazar) and "Right for Life" (implemented by Public Institution "Hospital" Bijelo Polje, Medical Center Novi Pazar and "SEDA") held on 25 November



in Raška and Novi Pazar.

The most valuable outcome of the projects was purchase of equipment for neonatal intensive care and maternal healthcare units of hospitals in Bijelo Polje and Novi Pazar, as well as equipment for regular reproductive health checkups in Public health institutions Nikšić and Raška. Main activities of the projects aimed to reduce infant mortality and morbidity rate, as well as improvement of medical care for both pregnant and other women in this cross-border area. Cumulative value of the projects is close to 600.000 €.



Recent Developments of the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF)

The IX Steering Committee meeting of the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) was hosted by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and took place on 4th of December 2013 in London. Several issues were discussed but the main focus was on the evolution of the WBIF programming in the IPA II context. Also, projects which were positively assessed by the Project Financiers Group (PFG) were approved by the Steering Committee. Three projects were approved for the Republic of Serbia, related to the transport sector, energy sector and social infrastructure. Total value of approved grant funds is at the amount of 2.3 million €.

Detailed review of the WBIF project pipeline was presented by the Infrastructure Project Facility I (IPF I). Final report related to detailed review is expected to be completed in March 2014. Also, idea of single project pipeline which would be the basis of the future programming was discussed and Serbian representatives used that opportunity to present Methodology for selection and prioritization of the infrastructure projects, as a tool which should improve performance of infrastructure projects in the transport, energy, environment and business related infrastructure.

Joint Committee between the Republic of Serbia and the Czech Republic

The seventh meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Serbia and the Czech Republic was held from 11th to 12th December 2013 in Prague.

During the meeting the following topics were discussed: overview of the economic situation in the Republic of Serbia and the Czech Republic, bilateral economic cooperation, cooperation in areas of mutual interest: trade, investments, regional development, industry, energy, mining, environment, transport and transport infrastructure, agriculture, finance and development cooperation.

With regards to the development cooperation, it was emphasized that Serbia continues to be the leading beneficiary of the Official Development Assistance of the Czech Republic, as one of the Priority Project Countries. Identified areas of special interest for further cooperation between two sides are: environmental protection, especially water and sanitation, health care, economic development and renewable energy sources.

In this respect, the Protocol of the seventh meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation was signed by the relevant authorities.

Total Allocations of EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

Following table presents an overview of total allocations of EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020* (million €, 2011 prices) by the member states:

Countries	Cohesion Fund	ERDF and ESF				ERDF	Total
		Less developed regions	Transition regions	Special allocation for outermost and sparsely populated	More developed regions		
BE	-	-	962	-	868	231	2.061
BG	2.384	4.623	-	-	-	145	7.153
CZ	6.562	13.646	-	-	79	298	20.585
DK	-	-	64	-	230	199	494
DE	-	-	8.750	-	7.609	847	17.207
EE	1.123	2.198	-	-	-	49	3.369
IE	-	-	-	-	869	148	1.017
EL	3.407	6.420	2.105	-	2.307	203	14.443
ES	-	1.858	12.201	432	10.084	542	25.116
FR	-	3.147	3.927	395	5.862	956	14.288
HR	2.676	5.225	-	-	-	128	8.029
IT	-	20.333	1.004	-	7.006	998	29.341
CY	286	-	-	-	388	29	703
LV	1.412	2.742	-	-	-	82	4.236
LT	2.145	4.189	-	-	-	100	6.434
LU	-	-	-	-	39	18	57
HU	6.313	13.452	-	-	416	318	20.498
MT	228	-	441	-	-	15	684
NL	-	-	-	-	908	342	1.250
AT	-	-	66	-	823	226	1.114
PL	24.274	45.917	-	-	2.017	615	72.823
PT	3.000	15.008	232	103	1.148	108	19.599
RO	7.251	13.773	-	-	405	397	21.826
SI	939	1.134	-	-	763	55	2.891
SK	4.361	8.489	-	-	40	196	13.086
FI	-	-	-	272	911	142	1.325
SE	-	-	-	184	1.355	300	1.840
UK	-	2.126	2.335	-	5.144	760	10.364
interregional cooperation						500	500
Total	66.362	164.279	32.085	1.387	49.271	8.948	322.332

*The youth employment initiative (top up) of EUR 3 billion is not included in the table

Transport Sector

By: Ministry of Transport (European Integration and International Cooperation Department)

Over the period 2007-2013 approximately 105 million € of IPA funds have been already committed for the transport sector under the Serbia national programmes. Support has been provided for harmonisation of legislation with the Acquis in all transport modes, construction and supervisory works on Corridor X, as well as on development of River Information Services and River Training and Dredging on Corridor VII.

Serbian transport legislation is still partially harmonized with the Acquis, and further needs exist especially regarding legal alignment on road transport, accident investigation procedures, rail transport, support to the European Common Aviation Area (ECAA) and Implementation of the Common European Sky in South East Europe (ISIS). Assistance is also needed for supporting administrative capacity for implementation and enforcement of new legislation in all modes of transport, especially because a

number of new regulatory bodies have been or will be set up. Detailed priority areas will be elaborated in a document Sector Support Programme for the period of first three years under IPA 2 (2014-2020).

Currently one of the ongoing projects, Twinning Light Project “Improvement of the process of accident investigations (the procedures and the related organisation) in transport sector“ is responding to the needs. The purpose of this project is to improve the safety level of the Serbian transport system, through implementing a reliable and efficient organisation for investigations of transport accidents. The Project consists of mandatory results: the operational organisation of accident investigations assessed, an adequate institutional set up for Serbia proposed and initial documentation of the new set up developed. Within the project which started in September 2013 and will be running until end of February 2014, a Study Tour to France was organised. Representatives of the Ministry of Transport visited French Accident Investigations Body for Land Transportation (BEA TT) and French Accident Investigations Body for Aviation (BEA).

National Conference “Quo Vadis TVET Serbia”

By:



The national conference on technical vocational education “Quo Vadis TVET Serbia” took place on 26-27th November at the Metropol Hotel in Belgrade. It was organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (MoESTD) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. GIZ is implementing the project “Reform of vocational education and training in Serbia, Phase V” on behalf of the German Government. The conference was attended by more than 150 participants including the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Mr. Tomislav Jovanovic, PhD and the German Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Heinz Wilhelm.

It was agreed that it is necessary to harmonise the education policy with demographic trends, because of the constant



decline in the number of students in schools, rationalise the network of schools and make admission policy more flexible. It is important to modernise schools curricula, work on the professional development of teachers and improvement students' knowledge of information technology. Professional orientation and

career guidance programs should be expanded from primary to secondary schools, students should be included in creating strategies that affect them and the needs of the economy should be followed with greater attention. Furthermore, improvement of the image of technical occupations in Serbia is essential.

Having in mind the fact that the same problems affect the entire region, Mr. Zoran Kostic, Assistant Minister in the MoESTD, announced a regional conference on this topic to be held in two years' time.



SWGs Meetings in November

Meetings of Sector Working Groups (SWG) for for Programming and Monitoring of EU funds and Development Assistance were held in the period November 25-28, 2013.

The following topics were discussed:

- Discussions on the optimal strategic framework and recommendations of the document "Strategic framework per NAD sector";
- Comments on draft Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for IPA 2 for the period 2014 - 2020;
- IPA mid-term and short term priorities - preparatory steps for programming carried out in accordance with the IPA2 programming roadmap, The first sector programming documents to be prepared are the Sector Planning Documents for each of 9 NAD sectors for 2014 - 2016;

Evaluations of Development Assistance to the Republic of Serbia

Within the preparations for the new financial perspective of the EU 2014 - 2020 and development of new national programmatic document for international assistance (NAD), a number of evaluations were carried out in 2012. and 2013. The aim was to assess effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact and sustainability of development assistance provided in the period 2007-2012. Recommendations of those evaluations serve as inputs in the future assistance planning and programming processes.

During 2013, Development Assistance to Serbia has been covered by a number of evaluations. Sectors Agriculture and Rural Development, Civil Society, Media and Culture, Transport, Human Resource Development, Competitiveness, and Rule of Law were evaluated through specific sectoral evaluations, while sectors PAR along with Environment, and Multi Beneficiary programmes reports for Serbia, were evaluated through Interim evaluation for countries of Western Balkans and Turkey.

Works, supply and grant contracts implemented and financed by

Upcoming events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 17 and 26 December | Užice (Serbia): Implementation workshop on reporting for beneficiaries awarded under the IPA CB Programme Serbia – BiH |
| 20 December | Zrenjanin (Serbia): Workshop for journalist under the IPA CBC Programme Serbia - Romania |
| 28-29 January | Joint Monitoring Committee meeting for IPA CBC Adriatic Programme |

- Follow-up of recommendations of the evaluations of Development Assistance to Serbia carried out during years 2012-2013.

IPA and CARDS programme and EIDHR in various areas of interventions were covered by a separate evaluation. Mentioned evaluations have been initiated and contracted by the EC. The SEIO initiated 2 evaluations with the assistance of SIDA. The Evaluation of effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance to Serbia per sector provided an overall overview of development assistance for all 8 sectors (period 2007-2013), and derived recommendations for improving development assistance in the subsequent programming period. The Evaluation of participation of Serbia in the EU programmes during 2007-2012 provided an overview of partnerships effects and served as a significant feedback in defining guidelines for improving aid effectiveness of participation in Programmes of the Union in the new perspective 2014-2017. Complete evaluations are available on ISDACon website www.evropa.gov.rs/Evropa/PublicSite/Documents.aspx under the segment Evaluations.

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.

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