

# Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Issue no. 18 December 2014

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## Did you know?

Law on ratification of the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Serbia and European Commission on the arrangements for implementation of union financial assistance to the Republic of Serbia under the Instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA II) has been adopted on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2014.

## IPA Multi-country Programmes Coordination Meeting

Representatives of governments from the Western Balkan region, European Commission, EU Delegations, regional and international organizations gathered in Brussels, on November 13-14<sup>th</sup> 2014 at Multi-country coordination meeting. The meeting was organized by European Commission in order to give an update of the Multi-country IPA programming process. The main topics were status in preparation of MC IPA Action programme for 2014, and planned dynamics in preparation of Multi

-country Action programme for 2015. The meeting provided a framework for discussion on the indicative outline of the proposed interventions for the Multi-country Annual Action Programme 2015. Representatives

of European Commission presented content of proposed interventions and planned amount of funds, opened discussion with participants of the conference and announced further consultations with relevant national line ministries. Regional Coordination meetings for Multi-country IPA Programmes are integral part of Multi-country IPA

coordination mechanism. As the framework for discussion on regional IPA funds coordination, exchange of experience, exchange of ideas related to current regional needs and priorities for regional cooperation, launching new regional initiatives, and sharing of information between relevant stakeholders they contribute to efficient coordination of activities related to MC IPA. The event held on 13-14<sup>th</sup> November, has been used as an opportunity to present

sector budget support as a delivery mechanism under IPA II, including preconditions and criteria for its approval, but also the procedure of its preparation and implementation. The agenda included introduction of the concept of

economic governance within the enlargement policy. The essence of the concept is to support enlargement countries in facing with challenges of economic crises and to contribute to establishment of a coherent framework for economic policy making inspired by the EU experience.



СРЕЋНИ НОВОГОДИШЊИ И БОЖИЋНИ ПРАЗНИЦИ!  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia

By: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

When it comes to the activities of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia and the received financial aid, the most important projects are those funded by the European Union - IPA projects, the Regional Housing Programme of the Republic of Serbia and the project funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development - Federal Office for Migration. Thanks to the continuous assistance within

IPA projects regarding solving the housing and existential problems of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees upon Readmission agreement, there were implemented numerous

projects with the aim of providing permanent housing solutions and support to economic empowerment through income-generating activities. There is an ongoing project aimed at closing the remaining collective centers in Serbia, which is in line with the „National Strategy for Resolving the issues of refugees and internally displaced persons for the period from 2011 to 2014“. It is recognized as a priority, because it is for the people who have been accommodated in the collective centers for 20 years. Also, within the IPA projects, programs aimed at the harmonization of national legislation with EU regulations and *acquis* are implemented. To solve the problem at the local level, through the support to the activities envisaged in the local action plans, there are funded projects to

assist the above mentioned groups of migrants. In this way the capacity of institutions at the local level has been strengthened. From the above it is clear that the European Union is the largest donor. Through careful project planning overlap in the project objectives and activities is avoided. Coordination mechanisms that ensure that the projects are carried out in synergy are established. Switzerland maintains migration partnership relations with Serbia and other Western Balkan countries. Within this framework, the Swiss Agency for

Development and Cooperation (SDC)

implements projects for migration management and support to migrants. The aim of the project “Support to the National Coordination for Reintegration of

### In Brief:

The implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP) has started. It is a joint multi-annual program of the Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of Croatia, which aims to provide permanent housing solutions for about 27,000 of the most vulnerable refugee families, or about 74,000 people in the region. Of this number, 16,780 families are in Serbia, or, more precisely, about 45,000 people. RHP in Serbia will be implemented over the next five years through several sub-projects. Regional Housing Programme is funded by the European Union, which is the largest donor, the United States, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary .

Returnees” (Phase II) is to assist the central government to implement migration management policies and to build up related capacities. The project contributes to achieving the overall goal - improved living conditions of asylum-seekers and reduced risk of their social exclusion, through the improvement of the asylum system. Expected results are improved capacities of the CRS to effectively and efficiently coordinate and realize activities within the asylum system; improved quality and diversity of the services in the asylum centers aimed at strengthening and empowering asylum seekers; broader sensitization and support of the wider community and established enabling environment for the respect of rights and needs of asylum seekers.

## Health Safety Requirements for Food Contact Materials and Articles

By:   
policy & legal advice centre

The Policy and Legal Advice Centre (PLAC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health organized the Workshop on the EU Regulatory Regime for Food Contact Materials, on 30th October 2014. Cookware, tableware, packaging, equipment, work surfaces, etc, are materials and articles which come into contact with food and which must satisfy health safety requirements. The EU Legislative Framework on Food Contact Materials was presented to the participants, along with the principles behind FCM legislation. The participants were also



introduced with good manufacturing practice and roles of European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and National Authorities. Representatives of the Ministry of Health spoke about difficulties of transposing this part of the EU *acquis*

and draft Serbian Rulebook on Food Contact Materials, while the “Metalac” company representatives talked about consumer awareness of food contact materials in Serbia. PLAC is an EU funded project which supports Serbia’s preparation for EU accession by improving policy and legislation processes in priority areas

as which correlate with II negotiations chapters. For more information, please visit [www.euinfo.rs/plac](http://www.euinfo.rs/plac)

# Germany - Serbia's biggest bilateral partner in development cooperation

By: Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Serbia

Germany is the biggest bilateral partner in development cooperation with the Republic of Serbia. The assistance is aimed at contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in Serbia and in the region. An important objective of the German development cooperation is to help Serbia in its EU Accession process. Cooperation focuses on the following priority areas, referring to the National Priorities for International Assistance (NAD) 2014-2017 with Projections until 2020: 1. Public infrastructure - support to the delivery of reliable energy and water supply, sewage disposal and waste management with the goal of improving living and ecological standards, 2. Sustainable economic development and employment promotion - improvement of the financial and commercial legal frameworks, financial sector development, vocational education and training reform and support to small and medium-sized enterprises to generate

income, increase productivity, export and competition, attract private investment, create jobs and reduce poverty, especially in rural areas, and 3. Democracy, civil society, public administration - support to the development of decentralized, results-oriented and efficient administrative structures, especially with respect to strengthening transparency, and the rule of law. During the Serbian-German Government negotiations in November 2014 it was agreed in principle to provide the Serbian Government with new funds of up to € 157 million for bilateral Technical and Financial Cooperation in 2014. Since the beginning of the development cooperation in 2000 Germany provided bilateral technical, financial and other forms of bilateral cooperation worth more than €1.5 billion, which makes Germany the biggest bilateral donor of Serbia. German embassy is proud to celebrate in 2015 the fifteenth anniversary of the bilateral development cooperation. In the beginning of 2015 a joint German-Serbian workshop about the future cooperation will be held.

## New educational profile

By:



As of September 2014, a three-year educational profile Industrial Mechanic has been introduced in the Technical School "Milenko Verkić Neša" from Pećinci. The school workshop was officially opened on 18 November. Its renovation was supported by the company Robert Bosch Serbia, GIZ and the municipality of Pećinci within the Private Public Partnership. The profile has been developed and implemented in accordance with the cooperative education model based on the elements of dual training. The school workshop has been renovated, equipped and adapted to the needs of practical training in the first grade of Industrial Mechanic profile. In the second and third grade, for a certain number of students, practical training will take place at the manufacturing facilities of the company Robert Bosch Serbia. The workshop opening cere-



mony was attended by the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia Srđan Verbić, Minister of Economy Željko Sertić, representatives of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Serbia, Serbian Chamber of Commerce, the municipality of Pećinci, German Development Bank (KfW), representatives of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Serbia (AHK), Robert Bosch company, GIZ and other distinguished guests. In addition to the Industrial Mechanic profile, through the project "Reform of Vocational Education and Training in Serbia", in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, GIZ has modernized another two three-year profiles, Locksmith-welder and Electrician, which will be implemented in accordance with the cooperative education model, as is the case in Pećinci.

BEST PRACTICE CBC PROJECTS IN SERBIA 2012 – 2014

## SEERISK - Joint Disaster Management risk assessment and preparedness in the Danube macro-region

By: CBC

SEERISK project aims to improve risk assessment and preparedness in the event of emergency situations in the Danube macro – region, both on local and national level, especially in cases of emergency situations caused by climate changes. The project was financed through transnational programme South East Europe 2007-2013, and total project value was 1,902,808.00 euro. The main results of the project are: devel-

opment of a common methodology for risk assessment based on which the risk maps were developed (droughts, wildfires, floods, storm winds and heat waves) in six pilot areas; development of the Guideline on climate change adaptation and risk assessment in Danube macro-region; analysis of the preparedness of the population in emergency situations in six pilot areas, as well as a comparative analysis between a real threat and the perception of the local population of the risk; formulated recommendations to decision makers for effective adaptation to climate change.



## A3-NET - Strengthening and networking of small airport facilities in Adriatic areas

By: CBC

This project was financed through IPA cross-border cooperation program Bulgaria-Serbia 2007-2013. The Aeronautical Union of Serbia (AUS) focused on two areas in this project – the preparation of studies related to the development of Lisicji Jarak airport and the organization of sports events. Through the lifetime of the project, four studies were prepared, including a feasibility study with a business plan, a plan for the development and networking of small airports in the region, a study on the introduction of solar power, and a study on brand creation and development. The implementation of studies and upgrading of facilities and services would enable the rerouting of small aircrafts from

Nikola Tesla Airport to Lisicji Jarak and its registration as an international airport for small aircrafts (tourist, business and sports). Besides the General Conference of the World Air Sports Federation (FAI) held in Belgrade, several other sports events were organized including the paragliding competition “Knjazevac Open” which attracted a large number of international and national pilots, “Lisicji Jarak Flying Day 2013”, with demonstrations of aeronautical sports, as well as reconnaissance and fire fighting. At the initiative of the AUS, the Balkan Aeronautical Union was established last year in Belgrade with the aim to organize regional competitions, address common problems in sports and aviation, prepare draft regulations at regional level, and connect small airports in the region.

### Upcoming events:

9 January	Rome (Italy): Joint Monitoring Committee meeting for IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013
January (to be confirmed)	Sarajevo (BIH): Joint Monitoring Committee meeting for IPA CBP Serbia-Bosna and Herzegovina 2007-2013
21 January	Task Force meeting for programming of Adriatic-Ionian transnational programme 2014-2020
February	Prague (Czech Republic): 11th Programming Committee meeting for Danube transnational programme

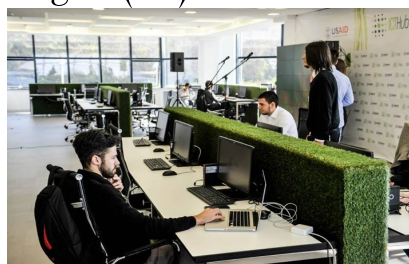
## USAID Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Hub Launches in Belgrade

By:



On November 4, the USAID ICT Hub, a two-year workforce and entrepreneurship development

project created in alliance with the private sector, officially opened. It is a \$700,000 co-investment by USAID and a consortium led by two successful Serbian companies: Orion Telekom and DNA Advertising. Orion Telekom is the first and largest private telecom operator in Serbia, formed with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and European hedge funds. DNA Advertising is one of the largest independent full service advertising agencies on the Serbian market. The objective of the ICT Hub is to identify innovative IT concepts from Serbia's entrepreneurs and to provide support and a state-of-the-art infrastructure for developing these ideas



into feasible projects. This project is a response to the large number of young highly skilled and talented software developers who require additional

knowledge, support, and mentorship to complete their projects and grow as both entrepreneurs and project managers. The first forty participants have been selected through a highly competitive process. The participants have moved into the ICT Hub facility where they are sharing office space, a high-end platform for software development and testing, and business development support for a 12-month cycle.

## 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 Nemanja Jakovljevic, [njakovljevic@seio.gov.rs](mailto:njakovljevic@seio.gov.rs)

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