

# Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Република Србија  
Влада  
Канцеларија за европске интеграције  
Republic of Serbia  
Government  
Serbian European Integration Office

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## Inside the issue:

The Sectoral Civil Society Organisations 2

The First Dialogue Session of the German-Serbian Initiative on Sustainable Growth and Employment 2

Development Cooperation Between Serbia and Great Britain 3

INTERREG IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020 3

Joint Meeting of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee for the IPA Component I – TAIB and the IPA Monitoring Committee 4

Free legal aid to Roma 4

## Did you know?

Since 2000, Serbia has received more than 2 billion euros from EU funds.

As an EU candidate country, Serbia can use 200 million euros per year from EU funds.

## The Third Meeting of the National Investment Committee

By:



The aim of the third National Investment Committee meeting is to present practical results of the implementation of the Single project Pipeline.

On this occasion were presented concrete projects: „Modernisation and reconstruction of the single-track railway line Nis – Dimitrovgrad“ and the project „Transbalkan corridor“ which consists of the following transmission lines sections – Pancevo-Resica, Obrenovac-Bajina Basta and Bajina Basta-Pljevlja-Visegrad.

The meeting indicated the objectives that have been agreed at the level of the Prime Ministers from Western Balkan countries within the “Berlin process” (VWB6) and planning of infrastructural projects that could contribute to further link the Western Balkan countries via the instrument of Single project pipeline.

The progress in the environment sector was presented in the sense of meeting the preconditions for the establishment of the Green Fund, as well as

meeting preconditions for efficient implementation of infrastructural projects in this particular sector.

As a reminder, The methodology for selection and prioritization of infrastructural projects for the sectors of transport, energy, environmental and business related infrastructure is adopted in November 2013, as a result of the joint and coordinated work of key national institutions responsible for investments in infrastructure.



## Support to Combating Violence Against Women More Efficiently

By:

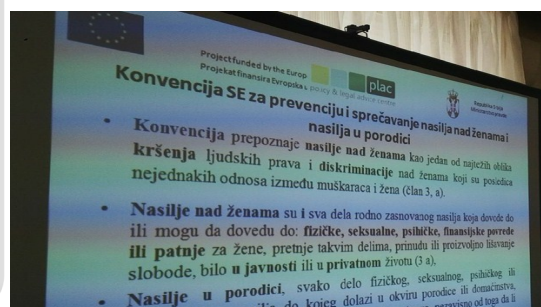


With the support of the PLAC project, on 16 March 2016, the Ministry of Justice organised a public consultation on the draft amendments to the Criminal Code, with the aim of harmonising with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and

domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

The Convention recognises violence against women as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination. One of the basic ideas of the Istanbul Convention is to remove the perpetrator of violence from family home, while at the same time it is important to devise an effective system to protect the family, and not violate human rights of perpetrators. The forthcoming amendments to the Criminal Code, developed with the support of the PLAC project, will contribute to combating violence against women more efficiently.

Policy and Legal Advice Centre - PLAC is an EU funded project which supports Serbia's preparation for EU accession by improving policy and legislation processes in 11 negotiations chapters. For more information, please visit [www.euinfo.rs/plac](http://www.euinfo.rs/plac)



## The Sectoral Civil Society Organisations (SECO) Mechanism



By: The Sectoral Civil Society Organisations (SECO) represents a mechanism of cooperation between the civil society and public sector in planning and using the funds from the international development assistance. The establishment of the SECO mechanism was initiated by the Serbian European Integration Office in 2011. The SECO mechanism has enabled cooperation of the civil society organisations with public administration in 10 different areas. The topics have been defined in the 2014-2017/2020 National Priorities for International Assistance (NAD), on the basis of which 9 sectors and 1 thematic area (culture, media and civil society) have been established. Cooperation between the civil society and the public sector takes place through consultations and participation in the work of sectoral working groups where ideas for the expenditure of funds and joint training are commented. The EU Integration Office represents coordinating body between the civil society and the public sector. The goal of the SECO mechanism is a long-term partnership between the public and civil sectors in the field of planning, programming, monitoring and reporting on international development assistance.

### Events and conferences on Civil Society in the Republic of Serbia

In March, there were several conferences related with civil society issues:

1) " **Permanent Dialogue Days 2016 - On the common scene on the development and sustainability of civil society** " - This two-day event, which gathered more than 130 representatives of Serbian civil society, was created as an interactive and debate platform for the discussion about significant issues related to further development of the civil society enabling environment in the Republic of Serbia. Permanent Dialogue Days were organized by the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society as the final event of the Civil Society Enabling Environment (CSEE) Project, supported by American Agency for International Development (USAID).



The conference was organized in eight panels, during which was talked about: cooperation of public administration and civil society, relationship between donors and CSOs, volunteering, economic sustainability, social position and impact of the civil society, cooperation between civil society organizations, public premises as a form of nonfinancial support to CSOs, civil society and local community. 2) „**How to Manage International Development Assistance Better?**“ was held on March 11th 2016. The event was organized by the Belgrade Open School (BOS), as the leading SECO organisation for human resources and social development of, together with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SIPRU) and the European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The Conference was dedicated to the issue of improving the management system of international development assistance, and especially funds given by the European Union (EU) under the Instrument for pre-Accession assistance (IPA). Programming international development assistance represents a complex process of identification of needs, priorities and targets within the individual sectors, the definition of the activities, procedures, and timelines in the preparation and selection of project proposals which should contribute to the realization of set objectives.

3) „**Environmental Civil Society Support Programme for Serbia (CSOconnect) – Positive examples from the Republic of Croatia with a view to strengthen the role of civil society organizations and their involvement in European integration process**“ - This public debate was held on March 22th. The debate was organized by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe – REC and the Office for cooperation with civil society, with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

## The First Dialogue Session of the German-Serbian Initiative on Sustainable Growth and Employment

By:



What should Serbia do in order to create favorable conditions for sustainable growth and employment and how can Germany, as a partner, contribute to this goal? 'These were the key questions addressed at the conference on the occasion of the first dialogue session of the German-Serbian Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Employment, held on February, 3. It was organized by the Serbian Prime Minister's Office, GIZ and KfW in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Serbia, financial institutions and private companies. The high-ranking Serbian state authorities clearly expressed a need for the German support in two priority areas. The first area refers to better cooperation between the educational system and the labor market. Together with its partners GIZ is already actively working on the introduction of elements of dual education in Serbia, but there is a need for further support to establish mechanisms which wouldn't only match key skills and competences with labor market needs, but also enable life-long learning and cultivate entrepreneurial mindset. The second area refers to entrepreneurship and private sector development in Serbia. The Government of the Republic of Serbia has declared 2016 the year of entrepreneurship and to

make it successful the involvement and dialogue of all stakeholders is required. The conference participants agreed that employment, especially youth employment is an issue of highest priority in Serbia and for that reason it should be in the focus of all policies and measures. The first dialogue session of the German-Serbian Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Employment was evaluated by its participants as very successful and fruitful and it resulted in a roadmap of future activities.



(l. to r): P. Failer, Director General – International Development Policy, BMZ; A. Dittmann, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Serbia; A. Vučić, Serbian Prime Minister; K. Udovički, Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government

Development cooperation between Serbia and Great Britain in the period up to 2011 carried out with the assistance of the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom - DFID (Department for International Development). Since DFID Office in the Republic of Serbia was closed in 2011, representatives of the British Embassy in the Republic of Serbia took over an active role in participation in the process of coordination of development assistance through the work of the sectoral working groups, as well as in other related initiatives. According to available information on overall development assistance (ISDACon Information System), the total amount of the Great Britain grant to the Republic of Serbia, so far, amounts to around 81 million euros.



available to support reform in the following areas: rule of law (including the judiciary, anti-corruption efforts, human and minority rights etc.); public administration reform; economic reforms and improvement of business environment; and strengthening freedom of expression.

## Information on the implementation of the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund

Through its CSSF (Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Fund) the UK is assisting Serbia in two areas: 1) Achieving progress in the process of normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Priština (£260,000) and 2) Improvement of Serbia's minority policy (£80,000).

**Information on UK assistance in the area of migrations** In addition to the assistance that has so far been delivered through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (blankets, sleeping bags, tents, etc.) in the value of nearly €400,000, UK allocated £100,000 for Serbian in Presevo area, £60,000 to Serbia Judiciary, and £100,000 for refurbishment of 'Vasa Stajic' centre in Belgrade. Also, through UNHCR, IFRC and IOM £3.5 million, as well as £3.5 million through a group of British humanitarian organizations dealing with emergency situations - Start Network (Christian Aid, Care, International Rescue Committee, International Medical Corps and Save the Children) was dedicated as support to Serbian institutions in dealing with the ongoing migrant influx.

**Information on the Good Governance Fund resources** The Good Governance Fund (GGF) is a multi-year programme, with total value of £20 million in financial year 2015/16, and is intended for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to provide support in carrying out political and economic reforms. In Serbia, a proportion of this fund is

## Reuniting Europe programme implementation

The Reuniting Europe fund covers a range of strategic areas directly linked to Serbia's EU accession path: judicial reform, anti-corruption, parliamentary capacity-building, improvement of policy-making capabilities, financing of media, and human rights. In 2015/16 the project portfolio covered 8 projects: ongoing capacity building for judges and other institutions in the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights; strengthening the capacity of the Serbian Ombudsman for legislative initiatives through joint projects with CSOs in Serbia; joining forces to combat homophobic and transphobic violence and hate crime, co-funded by the Dutch Embassy programme; helping civil society monitor progress and support reforms in the Chapters 23 and 24; development of the local government transparency index; help to the Serbian Parliament to work on opening data to citizens; assistance to media reform in Serbia; and finally, training 25 young political and social leaders in a complex reform planning and implementation methodology.

## INTERREG IPA CBC PROGRAMME CROATIA-SERBIA 2014-2020

By: CBC The First Call for Proposals under the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Serbia has been launched on 15 March 2016.

The Programme welcomes potential applicants to submit their Applications via Electronic Monitoring System (eMS) until 1 July 2016 at 15:00 h (CET).

The Call is open for application in four priority axes and all specific objectives. The amount allocated to the Call is 15,009,809 EUR, out of which 12,758,338 EUR represents EU co-financing.

For Application package and all other details related to the Call please check following link: <http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu/>

### INFORMATION SESSIONS UNDER THE FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF THE INTERREG IPA PROGRAMME CROATIA-SERBIA 2014-2020

Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia as a Managing Authority of the Programme in cooperation with European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia organise Information sessions under the First Call for Proposals of the Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2014-2020.

The schedule is the following:


- ⇒ 31 March 2016, Hotel "NOVI SAD" NOVI SAD
- ⇒ 1 April 2016, Hotel „LAV“ VUKOVAR
- ⇒ 14 April 2016, Hotel „ROYAL SPA“, Banja Koviljača, LOZNICA
- ⇒ 15 April 2016, URED DRŽAVNE UPRAVE U OSJEČKO-BARANJSKOJ ŽUPANIJ, Velika vijećnica, Županijska 4, OSIJEK

For more information and link for registration please check:

<http://www.interreg-croatia-serbia2014-2020.eu/calls-for-proposals/>



# Joint Meeting of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee for the IPA Component I – TAIB and the IPA Monitoring Committee

By:  In cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Serbia, the National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC) organized a joint meeting of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee for the IPA Component I – TAIB and the IPA Monitoring Committee. The meeting was held on March 9th, 2016 in the Palace of Serbia, Belgrade, and it was attended by more than 60 participants. The meeting was co-chaired by Ksenija Milenkovic, Acting Director of the Government's European Integration Office and Michael Davenport, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia. In addition to other topics covered by the Agenda, the main point for discussion was the review of relevant reports on IPA implementation for the period 1/1/2015 – 31/12/2015; Namely the 2nd Annual Sectoral Report on Implementation of the IPA Component I – TAIB, and the 2nd IPA Annual Report. As being parts of the IPA Annual Report, the IPA MC also discussed the new Rules of Procedures of the IPA MC, the Schedule of Reporting and Monitoring Committees Meetings in 2016, and the Plan of Evaluations 2015-2020, prepared by the NIPAC Technical Secretariat. The Committees also discussed the two main challenges in IPA implementation: ensuring a sufficient capacity of the Serbian institutions in charge of programme and project management and overcoming bottlenecks related to municipal infrastructure projects in the environment sector. The IPA Monitoring Committee meets once, and the TAIB Committee meets twice a year to monitor the implementation of the financial assistance and the implementation of programmes and projects financed by the IPA in the Republic of Serbia.

## In Brief:

Promotion of projects within IPA 2014 related to floods will be held during the month of May 2016. The total amount scheduled through the „Flood recovery and prevention Action Document“ is €62 million.

## Upcoming Events

- ⇒ **21 April Interreg – IPA CBC Bulgaria – Serbia**, JMC/adoption of AIR for old and new Program, Niš
- ⇒ **Interreg–IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Hungary–Serbia** has launched the Strategic Call for Proposals, Total amount of funding of 24,800,000 EUR intended for the projects of strategic value for the Hungary-Serbia border region. The Strategic Call for Proposals HUSRB/1601 will be open until **August 26, 2016**

## Free legal aid to Roma

By: EU funded project, implemented by OSCE Mission to Serbia



As a result of project activities, 1,100 legally invisible persons in 97 municipalities were identified and 969 legal cases for Roma initiated. The beneficiaries who obtained their personal documents now have more opportunities in the field of education, health protection and employment. Free legal aid provided to Roma is illustrated in the following video [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUo29\\_cVDkM&feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUo29_cVDkM&feature=share)

For more information about the “European Support to Roma Inclusion”, a 4.8 million € project active in improving Roma employment and education opportunities, housing conditions, access to basic rights and civic participation, please visit: [www.facebook.com/inkluzijaroma](http://www.facebook.com/inkluzijaroma)

## 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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