

Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



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Did you know?

EVRONIM is a multi-lingual termbase developed in the process of translation of acquis communautaire into Serbian. At the same time, it is an important translation tool. The termbase you can see

at: <http://prevodjen-je.seio.gov.rs/evronim/>

Serbia and EU: 15 Years of Partnership



By: This year Serbia and EU mark the 15th anniversary of EU support to Serbia. On this occasion Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Serbia, EU Info Centar in cooperation with European Integration Office of the Serbian Government are organizing a set of various activities, such as - IPA trainings for journalists (in several Serbian cities); a photo competition themed "Where I see EU in Serbia"; a photo exhibition "EU and Serbia: 15 Years of Partnership" in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš, Užice; EU Project Fair in Užice; conference about the EU assistance in Serbia. Since 2001, Serbia has benefitted from more than € 3 billion in non-refundable grants from EU pre-accession funds. Financial assistance has been spent on programmes and projects which fostered development and concrete reforms and brought benefits to citizens in a number of areas. EU assistance started in March 2001 through the CARDS or Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation programme. In 2006, CARDS was replaced by the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme which ran until 2013. Its successor, IPA II programme, will bring €1.5 billion for

Serbia over 2014-2020 and focusses on most important sectors (health, education, infrastructure, environment, cross border cooperation, etc.) in order to facilitate Serbia's preparations for membership in the EU. The EU is the biggest donor of non-refundable assistance to Serbia, which is the largest recipient of EU funds in the Western Balkans and one of the largest in the world. Currently some 600 EU projects are implemented in close cooperation with the Serbian authorities, municipalities, businesses and NGOs. The EU is also traditionally Serbia's key trading partner accounting for almost two thirds of Serbian overall foreign trade. Two-thirds of all foreign investments also come from the EU.



Katarina Đorđević – United in diversity - 2nd place on photo competition themed "Where I see EU in Serbia"

Germany through KfW boosting Agricultural Investments

By: **KfW**

Serbian farmers still face great needs for investments in modernization of their production facilities as well as into their professional farm management. Under the framework of the "German-Serbian Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Employment" an innovative financial solution for professional risk management for Serbian farmers has been introduced into the Serbian market: KfW together with Banka Intesa and Generali Insurance designed the "Agroprotect" loan (KfW on behalf of the German Government provided loan funds of 8 mill € for on-lending to farmers, accompanied by grant funds of approx. 0.5 mill € for supporting consultancy services). This product combines a working capital credit line for seed with an integrated crop -insurance policy against basic risks like hail, fire and lightning. In its pilot year it targets owners of registered agricultural estates and entrepreneurs dealing with crop production registered in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The introduction of the "Agroprotect" program is not only unique for Serbia but for the entire world. By mid of May already more than 100 loans were

facilitated – very remarkable as the market launch of the "Agroprotect" loan just started in March 2016. The "Agroprotect" credit line is just one important pillar to promote income and development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the country. On behalf of the German Government, KfW Development Bank, also supports energy-efficiency, renewable -energy investments, as well as environmental protection and rural/agricultural investments in Serbia. Together with Serbian partner banks and in cooperation with related Serbian Ministries, KfW runs various programs, which provide long-term and favorable credit lines to the Serbian market. Partner banks facilitate the purpose-oriented loans to Serbian loan-recipients/SMEs. Such programs are also supported by professional consultancy services that allow partner banks to develop necessary program-oriented products or tools, as well as to support loan-recipients/SMEs to prepare and implement their projects in the best possible way. The demand of "Agroprotect" endorses KfW's approach in promotion of the Serbian financial sector.

Roma Community Ready for Action Planning

By:



The Roma community in Serbia should be more actively involved in planning and implementation of national and local policies related to Roma inclusion – it was concluded at the conference on improving the situation of Roma in Serbia through the projects funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), held in Belgrade on 13 April 2016. The conference gathered the representatives of the Serbian Government, local governments, civil society and international organisations and institutions, who defined the lessons learned from the projects related to housing, employment and participation of Roma, which should contribute to the development of the Action Plan of the Strategy for Roma Inclusion 2016-2025. It was agreed that the civil society organisations working on improving the situation of the Roma community should participate in the preparation of the projects. "The Strategy and the ensuing Action Plan should contribute to improvement of the position of Roma men and women in education, housing, employment, health and social protection," Nenad Ivanišević, the State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, said. "The Roma are still the most marginalised group, exposed to discrimination and stereotypes. In order to change this, it is important to provide housing for people, access to profit making activities and education," Vitomir Mihajlović, the President of the National Council of the Roma National Minority in Serbia, said. "The European Union will continue to provide sup-



port for improving the position of Roma and plans to allocate additional 14 million Euros for projects which should contribute to building just and inclusive society," Nicolas Bizel, the Head of Operations I of the EU Delegation in Serbia, said. During 2016, UNOPS will allocate 150,000 Euros to pilot implementation of measures from the Social Inclusion of Roma in the 2016-2025 Strategy through a development programme European PROGRES funded by the EU and the Government of Switzerland. This intervention will strengthen capacities of Roma civil society organisations and empower them to participate in implementation of the Strategy. Also, implementation of projects deriving from the Strategy measures in the fields of employment, housing, education, social and health protection, will provide concrete benefits for the Roma community. "Our experiences show that the active participation of Roma men and women is necessary at all levels to improve their position, and reduce inequality and poverty," Graeme Tyndall, the UNOPS Project Centre Manager, said. Two EU funded projects "Let's Build a Home Together" and "EU support to Roma Employment" implemented by the UNOPS provided durable housing solutions for 110 Roma families with 512 members, in social housing, village households, and reconstruction of their own existing facilities and enabled employment of 74 people, while 270 Roma beneficiaries underwent active employment measures.

EVENTS OF THE UN TEAMS IN SERBIA - FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CLICK ON THE TITLE

UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- ⇒ [Spring planting gets under way, with help from the EU and FAO](#)
- ⇒ [\\$3.2 million GEF grant targets Serbian forests](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- ⇒ [Japan supports municipalities through UNDP partnership: US\\$ 1.1 m for solutions to local resilience in refugee and migrant crisis](#)

UNESCO - Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe

- ⇒ [Countries in South-East Europe Share Experiences on Culture and Development](#)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- ⇒ [Service providers in Vranje and Presevo learn about Minimum Initial Service Package \(MISP\) for Reproductive Health in emer-](#)

[gency settings](#)

- ⇒ [Gender Based Violence Standard Operating procedures](#)
- ⇒ ["Local support for the most vulnerable refugees" - Vranje](#)

UNHCR

- ⇒ [Regular Partners' Briefing](#)
- ⇒ [UNHCR-funded Phase 3 construction works in Presevo](#)
- ⇒ [New apartments for refugees and displaced persons](#)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- ⇒ [The Government of Japan and UNIQLO provide assistance to refugee children and families in Serbia](#)

World Health Organization (WHO)

- ⇒ [Advancement of the national information system for surveillance over refugee and migrant population in Serbia](#)

Italian Credit Line Facility

By: Italian Embassy After a successful implementation of the first Italian Credit Line, the Italian Government has approved the second credit line worth 30 mill €, that is being implemented by the Italian Embassy in Belgrade. Credit Facility supports SMEs through Local Banking System and sustains local development through Local Public Utilities. The Programme aims to contribute to economic growth of Serbia through the development of national SME sector, and to upgrade local basic services offered by the LPU, by allowing them easier access and favourable conditions for credit funds, available through nine local banks. Beneficiaries of the Italian Credit Line can be all the companies registered in Serbia, regardless their ownership structure. Loan

size goes from €5.000 up to 1 mill € for micro enterprises, for SMEs from €50.000 up to 1 mill €, and up to 2 mill € for LPUs. A min. 70% of each supply contract must be used for purchasing equipment, technology, and technical assistance, maintenance, spare parts and industrial license of Italian origin. Up to a max of 30% of each supply contract can be used to cover local costs and working capital, in relation to the requirement of the investment projects. The funds can be used also for buying a second hand equipment, from Italian supplier directly or from the local distributors. All the machinery and equipment purchased with funds from the Italian Credit Line are exempt from VAT. For further information, visit <http://italiancreditlineserbia.org/>

Development Cooperation between Poland and Serbia — Small Grants Scheme (SGS)



Between 2007-2015 the Embassy of Poland in Belgrade, together with its local partners, implemented numerous Small Grants projects for the amount of app. 440,000 EUR. Small Grants projects are implemented every year in

various countries around the world and provide assistance through the network of Polish diplomatic missions. These projects aim at bringing positive changes in everyday life of local communities. Thanks to the fact that the projects are prepared and initiated at a local level, real needs of the most vulnerable groups are taken into account. Until 2015, Small Grants projects aimed at achieving Millennium Development Goals.


Small Grants projects in Serbia are implemented mainly – but not only – in rural areas, small villages and towns where support is needed most. As management of the projects is part of the diplo-

matic mission's responsibilities, the allocated funding reaches directly the needs of the beneficiaries. Through our partners – local NGOs or public institutions like schools or hospitals – we provide medical equipment or implement small-scale infrastructural projects in local schools. We particularly value the professional approach of our Serbian partners, as well as their true dedication to improving quality of everyday life of their fellow citizens. As of 2016, projects within the Small Grants Scheme will be undertaken to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to the implementation of four thematic priorities of Polish development cooperation, as defined by the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for the years 2016-

2020: human capital, entrepreneurship and the private sector, sustainable agriculture and development of rural areas, as well as environmental protection.



THE HUMAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (HRSD) SECTOR

By:  The Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD) sector encompasses employment, labour market issues, education, social inclusion, health and youth. Human and minority rights

and gender equality are viewed as a cross-cutting issue underpinning all policies in HRSD. Cross-cutting groups, whose needs and interests are mainstreamed into priorities and measures in the mentioned sub-sectors, refer to youth and vulnerable categories, including groups with multiple dimensions of vulnerability, such as Roma. Mentioned sub-sectors are among the key areas and have an important place in both the legal and the strategic framework of the EU since they are bind to the basic rights that should be equally available to all citizens without any discrimination based on gender, race, ethnic origin, religion or beliefs. Serbia has to fulfil certain standards in this field committed under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and in the framework of the accession negotiations, mainly through chapters 19, 23, 26 and 28 (please see the table below). That is why the Regulation on the establishment of IPA II instrument for 2014-2020 identifies the area of employment, social policy, education, promotion of gender equality and the overall development of human resources as one of the five key areas of support. The same priorities were identified in the EU strategic document for the Republic of Serbia (eng. Indicative Strategy Paper), which defines the scope and structure of an

indicative financial EU support to Serbia for the period 2014-2020. Having seen the importance of the areas covered by the HRSD, this sector has received assistance from the international donor community over the period 2007-2013, with estimated total disbursement amounting to 425 mill €. Reforms in this sector have been supported by numerous donors: World Bank, EIB, UN organisations, Austria, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and Norway. The largest and most important donor has been the EU with total disbursement within IPA component I amounting to 213 mill € in the period 2007-2013. Through IPA II, EU will continue to support the priority reforms in the HRSD sector and the total indicative allocation amounts to 190 mill €. The scope and structure of the assistance implemented so far, indicates the great contribution it has not only to the establishment of a more efficient and sustainable national education, employment and social protection systems, but primarily for the development of local economies and communities, the promotion of local partnerships and effective inclusion of individuals in the society and community. Besides concrete effects on the community and society development, the degree in in implementation of approved projects in this area is significant from the aspect of preparation of relevant national and local actors and systems for the use of the European Social Fund in the future.

The table below indicates correlation between the HRSD sector to negotiation chapters

Sector	Negotiating Chapters	
Human Resource & Social Development	Chapter 2	Freedom of movement of workers
	Chapter 19	Social policy & employment
	Chapter 22	Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments
	Chapter 23	Judiciary and fundamental rights
	Chapter 26	Education & culture
	Chapter 28	Consumer & health protection

Lake Palić - Biomanipulation

By:



tion as tourist destination. The Palić Park was already created in 1840 and the city of Palić is nationwide known for its historic buildings from the time of the Secession. Lake Palić is considered as potential top five tourist destination in Serbia. Unfortunately the bad water quality is the biggest obstacle in its development. The water ecosystem, water quality and therefore the biodiversity are today out of balance. One of the reasons is an



imbalance in fish population. The huge amount of the fish Prussian carp (srebrni karaš), which are an invasive species and dominating the fish population in Lake Palić by more than 90%, prevents the development of zooplankton (water fleas, etc.). Results of the missing zooplankton are strong algae blooms in spring and summer. Thus the restoration of a natural biological balance is crucial. In April 2016 first activities of biomanipulation were

funded by the GIZ DKTi programme. Almost 17 tons of Prussian carp was taken out of the lake in three weeks, out of that, a substantial amount was given to the Subotica zoo. Biomanipulation measures will allow autochthonous species like Pike-Perch (Sander Lucioperca) and zooplankton to redevelop. These first interventions regarding biomanipulation (decimation of Prussian Carp) are only a part of a bigger project „Biodiversity Protection Project Palić / Ludaš“ financed by BMZ with a grand of 6,5 million Euros and implemented by KfVW. The goal of the City of Subotica and the PE Palić-Ludaš is to return natural biodiversity back to Lakes Palić and Ludaš and to redevelop Lake Palić as a top tourism destination like it used to be.

In Brief:

The first-of-its-kind internet platform in Serbia has been developed within the activities of the E-business Development Project funded by the EU. How to shop online, which websites are safe, who is the right person to turn to if one does not get the ordered product, whom to file a complaint, Serbian e-consumers will be able to find the answers to those questions on a specialized Internet platform www.e-dukator.rs.

Upcoming Events

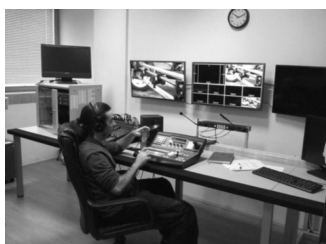
- ⇒ **EU Projects Fair "Serbian and EU: 15 Years of Partnership"** in Užice - Mid June
- ⇒ **Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC)** – Cross Boarder Programme Serbia – Montenegro will be held in June in Podgorica, Montenegro

EuroBanat Internet TV

BEST PRACTICE CBC PROJECTS IN SERBIA

By: CBC

This project was financed through Romania-Serbia IPA Cross-border Co-operation programme 2007-2013. EuroBanat Internet TV project is dedicated to development and improvement of regional cooperation, culture, art and everyday life in Banat on both sides of the border, through usage of new information and communication technologies. The aim of the project is creation of multilingual media service EuroBanat Internet TV, which will broadcast program through Internet and provide regular access to information regarding Banat, in Serbian and English language. During the project, 60m²



business premises was renovated, and it was equipped with the €90.000 worth equipment. Cameras, lightning, sound system, so as additional equipment were purchased for the realization and broadcasting of the program. Moreover, trainings were delivered for around 70 volunteers, with the following topics: journalism, editing, camera, sound, production 1 and production 2, and Book of media standards was developed, in accordance with EU rules. Through diverse program and different topics, culture, art, sport, and news, they promote European rules and values.

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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