



Government  
of the Republic  
of Serbia

*The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) in Serbia is a medium-term development framework aimed at reducing the key forms of poverty by creating material and other prerequisites and by providing opportunities to each person to provide the basic subsistence for themselves and their families.*

*The PRS offers an analysis of causes, characteristics and profile of poverty in Serbia, as well as main strategic guidelines for eliminating them in the coming years. The Government of Serbia is committed to economic growth and development, for which reason the PRS activities are geared towards economic development and growth, prevention of emergence of new poverty and care for the traditionally poor groups.*

*The final PRS document was adopted on October 16, 2003, whereas on February 17, 2005 the Government authorized the Deputy Prime Minister to regularly inform the Government on the Strategy implementation process, in cooperation with the PRS Implementation Focal Point.*

**BOŽIDAR ĐELIĆ, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA  
IN CHARGE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

## Dignity and Equal Opportunities for all Citizens of Serbia

The international initiative Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 was launched at the conference „Roma in Enlarged Europe“ in Budapest 2003 upon agreement of the high representatives of Serbia and Montenegro, Hungary, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Bulgaria. That same year Serbia developed and adopted the Poverty Reduction Strategy aiming to reduce the number of poor citizens by half by 2010.

The main aims of the Decade of Roma Inclusion are reduction of intolerable discrepancies between the Roma and other categories of the society; combating discrimination through development and implementation of action plans in the priority areas: education, housing, health care and employment; and involvement of national Roma communities in the process. Serbia is honoured to be chairing the Decade of Roma Inclusion 01 July 2008 – end June 2009.

With respect to poverty of Roma in Serbia, the 2007 Living Standards Measurement Survey indicated that 49% Roma households live below the absolute poverty line. According to these data, Roma are 7.5 times more exposed to the risk of falling into poverty relative to the overall population in Serbia. Education represents the other area where the differences between the Roma and the rest of the population are most pronounced – the low education level of the population and a high dropout rate, in particular.

Still, comparisons of education data over the past five years show an evident progress in cover-

age of children from Roma families in Serbia by primary education. The Living Standards Measurement Survey states that only 56% of children from Roma families were covered by primary school education in 2002, as compared to 73% in 2007. Also, the percentage of Roma children in schools for children with developmental problems was reduced (from 8% in 2002 to 5.6% in 2007).

Being a member of the Decade, Serbia invests additional efforts into reducing poverty among Roma through establishment of a Council for Improvement of Roma Position and Implementation of Decade of Roma Inclusion. The education, employment, health and housing action plans have been integrated into line ministries' activities. Task forces have been established to implement the action plans adopted by the line ministries. Roma civil society organisations are actively involved in the activities of the programme of Civil Society Focal Points for Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Intensive cooperation has begun with international organisations supporting programmes for improvement of Roma situation. Preparations are also being made to adopt a Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Roma. Equally important is that Serbia plans to continue with the process of data collection and monitoring the implementation of the adopted action plans during its chairmanship of the Decade – a challenge before all the Decade countries.

*Continued on page 2*

## „Analysis of Poverty Characteristics in Serbia“ Competition

The „Analysis of Poverty Characteristics in Serbia“ competition has been published with the aim of supporting the development of analyses to improve understanding of poverty factors and risks in Serbia.

The tender should also lead to improvement of investigative practices in the country and motivate researchers just starting their careers to use the existing research material. The advantage shall be given to young researchers.

The tender was launched by the PRS Implementation Focal Point, the Republic Statistics Office and the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia.

The analyses should link data or phenomena that have not been correlated in the Living Standards Measurement Survey and offer additional explanation of the phenomena identified therein.

The Analysis may cover topics such as poverty characteristics per gender and age, position of pensioners in respect of the poverty line, regional inequalities and poverty, inequalities between rural and urban areas, etc.

Ten projects will be supported with a maximum EUR 1,500 each. The project budget totals EUR 15,000.

PRS Implementation Focal Point  
Phone: 011 311 4605  
www.prsp.sr.gov.yu

## Social Benefits in the Previous Period

The amount of family material allowance (MOP) in September amounted to: RSD 4,966.00 for one family member, RSD 6,822.00 for two family members, RSD 8,686.00 for three family members, RSD 9,302.00 for four family members and RSD 9,938.00 for five plus family members.

The allowance for care of a third person amounted to RSD 6,208.00 in September 2008.

The child allowance for the first, second, third and the fourth child in August amounted to RSD 1,707.95 in regular amounts and RSD 2,220.33 in augmented amounts.

The average pension in the Republic Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance in August 2008 amounted to RSD 18,618.00 for the self-employed beneficiaries of the fund. The lowest pension totaled RSD 9,715.00

The average pension in the Republic Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance in August 2008 amounted to RSD 7,112.00 for beneficiaries engaged in agriculture. The lowest pension totaled RSD 7,346.00



## GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA: Legislative Reform Begins

The implementation of the Project of Comprehensive Legislative Reform has begun with the aim of eliminating the cumbersome procedures and regulations slowing down investments.

One third of some 15,000 laws, by-laws and regulations at the republic level should be revoked.

Following the Project implementation, 25% reduction of business operational costs is expected. Companies and enterprises will be ensured effortless functioning. An electronic data base will be established ensuring

smooth access to regulations to entrepreneurs and companies in Serbia necessary for their functioning. This will lead to an improved investment climate in Serbia.

Following the project, the Unit for the implementation of the comprehensive legislative reform the recommendations and the list of regulations that need to be revoked and the list of regulations requiring changes shall be forwarded to the Government.

The timeframe for the reform implementation is 15 months.

### EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IN SERBIA

## The Road to Social Enterprises

The European Movement in Serbia, supported by the centre „Ulof Palme“ and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), is implementing the project „Support to European Integration through Promotion of Alternative Economy and Social Cohesion in the Republic of Serbia“.

The general objective of project is to increase knowledge and understanding of social economy in Serbia.

The concept of social entrepreneurship is quite new to Serbia. Although it proved to be a useful tool in combating unemployment – notably unemployment of marginalized categories – in many EU countries, such as Italy as well as our neighbors who recently joined the EU, it is only seldom that one would find a success story in Serbia.

In order to promote best practices and point to the possible directions of development, a survey was undertaken of the existing social companies and civil society organizations engaged in provision of social services.

On the basis of the collected data and building on the experiences of authors, the European Movement in Serbia published a study „Social Enterprises and Role of Alternative Economy in European Integration Processes“.

The study presents an overview of development of the concept of social enterprises in the EU countries, social companies and the third sector in CEE and Serbia as well as recommendations to the relevant Government institutions for development of the concept of social entrepreneurship.

The authors of the study – Dr Marija Kolin and Prof. Nevena Petrušić – are associates of the European Movement in Serbia.

European Movement in Serbia

Phone: 011 3640 174

Email: office@emins.org

www.emins.org

### PRS IMPLEMENTATION FOCAL POINT:

## Presentation of Poverty Reduction Projects

Two new databases have been developed by the PRS Implementation Focal Point, in cooperation with their partners: Database of Civil Society Organisations (CSO) – Cooperation with the Business Sector, and Overview of Programmes and Projects Targeting Roma and other Vulnerable Groups.

The CSO database contains a list of 118 civil society organizations and represents an instrument enabling CSOs to build partnerships with business and jointly fund initiatives leading to poverty reduction. The database may be accessed at [www.bcf.org](http://www.bcf.org) (Balkan Fund for Local Initiatives, phone: 011 62 22511, email: [baza@bcf.org](mailto:baza@bcf.org)) and [www.prsp.sr.gov.yu](http://www.prsp.sr.gov.yu)

The Overview of Programmes and Projects Targeting Roma and other Vulnerable Groups 2005-2008 provides an insight into current and ongoing initiatives in this area. The database should provide the government institutions and partners more efficient planning and coordination of their activities and enhanced integration of best practices into systemic solutions. Please see [www.prsp.sr.gov.yu/grupe/ROMIX.swf](http://www.prsp.sr.gov.yu/grupe/ROMIX.swf)

PRS Implementation Focal Point

Phone: 011 311 4605

[www.prsp.sr.gov.yu](http://www.prsp.sr.gov.yu)

## BOŽIDAR ĐELIĆ, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Serbia in charge of European Integration Dignity and Equal Opportunities for all Citizens of Serbia

*Continued from page 1*

The recent months of our chairmanship saw Serbia's proposal for housing to be a priority for 2009 being adopted, as Roma settlements have been thoroughly surveyed, there is ample reference literature and national and local documents were adopted. The aforementioned activities could contribute to development of a model for improvement of Roma settlements that would be relevant also to the countries in the region.

The proposed themes under the umbrella of housing are improvement and legalisation of Roma settlements, relocation of settlements and cheap housing. There are approximately 600 Roma settlements in Serbia with various legal status, infrastructure, and particular housing conditions. However, a common denominator, be they newly founded or old settlements, is poverty. The Ministry of Infrastructure and the Agency for Human and Minority Rights have initiated development of planning documents for Roma settlements in 18 municipalities that passed decisions on legalisation of Roma settlements.

Thanks to the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Serbia has halved the number of citizens living below the absolute poverty line over the past five years. Still, almost half a million of our citizens continue to live below the absolute poverty line. This is long-term and generational poverty and we need well designed measures, significant resources and good coordination among all the stakeholders to combat it. The International Day of Eradication of Poverty is a good opportunity to send a message that Serbia, its citizens and institutions will continue fighting poverty in order to ensure the same starting positions and opportunities for education, employment and a dignified live to all the citizens of Serbia.

### SCTM ROUND TABLE IN VRŠAC

## Reform Directions of Development and Social Policy Planning at Local Level

The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) organized a round table „Reform Directions of Development and Social Policy Planning at the Local Level“ within the framework of the project „Support to Implementation of Social Welfare Development Strategy in Serbia“. The round table was held in Vršac on 25 September.

The aim of the round table was to review the social welfare reform in Serbia with a focus on planning and development of system of services at a local level.

The Strategy aims to protect the most vulnerable categories and reduce social exclusion. The social welfare reform is based on the respect of human rights and social inclusion principle. The identified priorities will be: decentralization of the social welfare system, de-institutionalisation, provision of services in less restrictive i.e. natural environment, participation of government, non-government and private sectors.

The strategic planning of social welfare in local communities in Serbia is a successful and, one might say, mass process. In Vojvodina only, this process was completed by 38 local self-government units. The process of strategic planning defines local self-government priorities which serve as a basis for decision making on extended rights. These priorities are subsequently included into local budgets. Municipalities receive support through grants for development of the system of social welfare at a local level.

Best practices in Vojvodina were also presented. Vršac is a notable example of good intermunicipal cooperation within cluster formed by Alibunar, Bela Crkva, Plandište and Vršac. That is the reason this city was selected to be a host of the first of four SCT round tables to be organized by end of October. The hosts of the next three round tables are to be Niš, Vrnjačka Banja and the Belgrade municipality of Zvezdara.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to reform directions of social policy and their impact on the work of local self-governments.



## WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM COMPETITIVENESS LIST Serbia Better than Last Year

This year Serbia has a better ranking among 134 countries of the World Economic Forum, in the Global Competitiveness Report, having advanced from 91st in 2007 to 85th in 2008, stated Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and President of the National Council on Competitiveness Božidar Djelić.

Ahead of the session of the National Council, held on October 9, he told reporters that this is the first time in two years that Serbia has improved its ranking and he announced that the Council would analyze the recommendations of the World Economic Forum, aimed at Serbia being among the top 70 countries by 2011.

Improving competitiveness is very important for stimulating economic growth, as one of the basic means of achieving social goals such as poverty reduction, productive employment, quality education, improved healthcare, etc.

Serbia is ranked 48th according to quality of primary education, 34th according to primary school enrollment, 64th according to secondary school enrollment, and 56th according to university enrollment, while we are ranked 82nd according to the GDP percentage spent on education.

As far as certain labor market parameters are concerned, accord-

ing to the salary/productivity ratio, we are ranked 93rd, while we are 131st among 134 countries according to brain drain, i.e. we are ranked 4th according to the percentage of talented people that leave the country in search of better opportunities abroad (according to this parameter, Serbia is better than Nepal, Zimbabwe and Guyana).

Improving higher education and training, as well as technical readiness are recommended as factors that could improve the competitiveness rating, while we have a good ranking according to healthcare and primary education.

Pointing out that the recommendations underscore the need to improve higher education, Djelić mentioned that Serbia has improved its competitiveness also due to the fact it has joined the FP7 EU scientific cooperation program.

A new law which is expected to increase the goods market efficiency and improve the antimonopoly legislation will be adopted by the end of November.

Serbia still has to improve its infrastructure and institutions, primarily the aspect of stepping up issuing construction permits. The National Council on Infrastructure has already come up with a proposal of concrete measures.

## UNDP WORKSHOP: Cooperatives as Solution for Unemployment

A modern type of cooperative, modeled after those existing in the EU, could play a very important role in improving sustainable economic development in Serbia, especially in rural regions, as well as resolve the issue of surplus labor, as concluded by the workshop on development of a modern cooperative sector in Serbia, organized as part of the Severance to Job project.

The Severance to Job project is realized jointly by the National Employment Agency and the United National Development Program (UNDP) project team.

The workshop participants included members of the workgroup for drafting the new law on cooperatives, representatives of the Cooperative Union of Serbia, the "Nezavisnost" Trade Union Association, the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, and the National Employment Agency.

The participants concluded that the importance of cooperatives has not been entirely acknowledged, which is why there is no adequate

institutional support. The other major obstacles to the development of cooperatives are the lack of financing, education and proper legislation.

The ITAD Consultant (Great Britain) expert team, which has been hired by the UNDP, will be involved in drafting the workshop conclusions and recommendations.

The aim of the Severance to Job project is to support the reemployment of workers that have been laid off in the transition period. One of the forms of support envisioned by the project is precisely support in forming cooperatives.

The project has been prepared by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development of the Republic of Serbia, in collaboration with the UNDP. Funding for the project has been provided by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The National Employment Agency, 011 33 07 900  
[www.nsz.sr.gov.yu](http://www.nsz.sr.gov.yu)  
UNDP, 011 20 40 400  
[www.undp.org.yu](http://www.undp.org.yu)

## THE BUSINESS WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF SERBIA AWARD: **Amazing Women**

The fifth of national companies are owned or co-owned by women. However, a large number of the 16,000 companies are only registered to women. Daily business environment in Serbia is still „male“-dominated. Women earn less than their male colleagues.

Prevalent situation in practice is that women work as housewives, spouses, mothers. Yet, over recent years there have been more and more successful examples of „weaker sex“ members achieving excellent results in the field of business.

The Business Women Association of Serbia gathers entrepreneurs and women attempting to start their own business, as well as women managers of institutions supporting the SME sector. Within the ten years of existence, the Association has implemented more than 50 projects focusing on economic empowerment of the Serbian women. Assistance is provided through information distribution, acquisition of new knowledge and skills and through contacts and networking on the local and regional level. The Association, gathering women of various professions, is awarding „The Success Flower for Amazing Women“ award for the second year in a row, through the Women's Business Club.

Sanja Veljković is among the women awarded this year. The co-owner, with her husband, of the „Logo D.O.O.“ enterprise established in 1990 (specialized in production, trade, maintenance and engineering in the field of information technologies), is taking care of more than 100 employees out of which 50 % are women.

– The key for the relationship with her colleagues is trust, Sanja Veljković says. She thinks that the position of women in Serbia is still difficult. Being a mother of two children she admits to having been lucky. While they were small she

used „grandmother services“. – My colleagues nominated me. They told me about it when I was shortlisted.

The committee stated that the „Logo“ company works hard on the affirmation of women. Sanja Veljković explains that she and her husband decided to help two colleagues that experienced problems with getting pregnant, so they financed their sterility treatment.

Employees can approach the employers for assistance with resolving the housing issues. The company provides loans for purchasing or renovating apartments. When a child gets sick it is not an issue to call in to say that they are not coming to work that day. Sanja underlines that she is very proud that so far there have been no misuses. She also knows that such a relationship is rare. Employers often condition women employees to choose between their family and career.

– This is the Balkans and a lot has to be put in place so that women can be successful. They are under pressure to perform well at work, to be exemplary spouses and devoted mothers. Yet society may make their position easier. Working hours of kindergartens should match the working hours of companies. There are also prejudices and discrimination. Still, she thinks that one should not be inert and despair. The position of women may be changed through work, upbringing of youth and education.

She shared „The Best Employment Model“ award with Dragica Stepanović, owner of the agricultural company „Stepanović“ close to Valjevo.

Slavica Janušević, owner of the „Kirka farm“ and Mila Litvinjenko, owner of the company „Aura“, were awarded as „the Most-European Women Company“. „The Best Self-employment Model“ award was given to Tijana Sekulić, owner of the agency „AT-House“ of Belgrade.

## HERA WOMEN'S CLUB: Rural Women's Cottage Industries

In addition to the huge number of women's groups involved in preserving traditions, whose products are often noncommercial, an initiative has been launched for producing modern garments and souvenirs with ethno motifs, partially using the existing knowledge of women in rural regions, thus creating conditions for their (self-)employment.

The first phase was the training of Roma women for an ethno manufacture in Bečej, the first of its kind in Serbia.

The Hera women's club, in collaboration with the Veliko Srce women's association from Kula, is training women in the crafting of objects and souvenirs in Kula and Ruski Krstur, and the plan is to start cast pottery training.

The next step is training ethno managers, whose task would be to create a sales network. This would create jobs for another ten women who would be in charge of product sales for all the groups that join the network.

Hera women's club, Bačka Topola, 024 714 140  
Email: [herawomen@gmail.com](mailto:herawomen@gmail.com)



## Civic Employment Initiative

The Protecta Center for Civil Society Development, has founded an Agency for Employment Mediation – Social Company.

The aim of the Social Company is the achievement of higher social and economic independence for socially vulnerable categories of the population (internally displaced persons, refugees, Roma, single parents, youths, students, women and persons with disabilities).

The agency provides free assistance in hiring socially vulnerable people. During the project the agency was registered as an NGO and was named the Civic Employment Initiative.

A database containing unemployed persons actively seeking work was created as part of the project of forming the agency, as well as a database of companies, potential employers who have recognized the benefits granted by legislation, as well as socially responsible operation. The database contains 2,133 beneficiaries and 780 companies.

During the one-year realization of the project, 854 people underwent job hunting training, and 55 of them found work.

The Civic Employment Initiative – has been included in the Integral Development Strategy for the City of Niš, as an agency that has been recognized as a specialized institution that is involved in this way in employing socially marginalized social categories locally.

Financed by the Italian Government, and supported by UN-HABITAT, the project is realized as part of the SIRP program housing and permanent refugee integration in Serbia.

Protecta Center for Civil Society Development  
018 522 788, email: [centar@protecta.org.yu](mailto:centar@protecta.org.yu)  
[www.protecta.org.yu](http://www.protecta.org.yu)

## VIRTUS AWARD COMPETITION

### The Humane Side of Business

The VIRTUS competition, the second annual prize for corporate philanthropy, has been launched, where companies and that were most effective long-term in 2008 in supporting nonprofit actions and organizations benefiting the greater good and interests.

The competition has been organized by the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF), in cooperation with USAID, the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the VIA Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Executive Group, Economist Media Group, E-Gate, the Public Relations Society of Serbia, and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Companies are nominated in four categories: VIRTUS Main Award for contribution at the national level, VIRTUS Award for contribution to the local community in which the company operates, VIRTUS Award for small and medium-size enterprises, VIRTUS Award for support for the most innovative project of the year.

Two special awards are also presented: the Long-term partnership Award between business and civil sec-

tor, the Special Award for media contribution.

The purpose of this award is to publicly acknowledge companies that provide examples and set standards through their financial support.

One of the goals of the awards is to further promote and stimulate philanthropy in Serbia, so that a greater number of companies, as well as individuals, would join similar useful programs and actions in the future.

The competition provides for associations, nongovernmental organizations and end users of donations to publicly express their appreciation of the benefactors and at the same time show the humane and responsible side of business.

BCIF is a fund that encourages people to actively get involved in improving life in their communities. In the past BCIF has supported more than 400 projects throughout Serbia and Montenegro, worth more than a million euros.

Balkan Community Initiatives Fund, 011 26 22 511  
email: [filantropija@bcif.org](mailto:filantropija@bcif.org)  
[www.bcif.org/virtus](http://www.bcif.org/virtus)

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: EUR 46.8 Million for Bor and Majdanpek

The Serbian Parliament has adopted several international agreements, including two agreements regarding supporting development and resolving social and economic problems in the Bor District.

These are the agreement between Serbia and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, on a EUR 24.3 million loan for the regional development in Bor, and the agreement between Serbia and the International Development Association on financing regional development in Bor, worth EUR 24.3 million.

The Bor Regional Development project, which also includes Majdanpek, has two main components.

One concerns the cleaning of historic pollution created by mining and metal production.

The second component is related to supporting the development of small and medium companies and employment. This does not affect solely the surplus workers from the Bor Mining and Smelting Basin, but all other unemployed too.

Namely, in addition to supporting active employment measures, which include training unemployed persons, informative and advisory activities, organizing employment fairs, the Bor Regional Development project also includes support for developing small and medium companies through business incubators in Bor and Majdanpek, training and encouraging entrepreneurs, as well as favorable micro-credits for opening and strengthening existing small and medium companies.

According to National Employment Agency records, there are slightly more than 2,000 unemployed persons in Majdanpek, more than 5,000 unemployed persons in Bor, and more than 12,500 unemployed people in the entire Bor District.

## SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND COMPETITIONS

### New Programs Improving Lives of Persons with Disabilities

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the Social Innovation Fund have announced a competition for improving the quality of services for persons with disabilities and children that have clashed with the law. Funding for projects in this competition has been provided from an EU donation through the UNDP, totaling EUR 320,000.

Homes for accommodating beneficiaries, institutes for children and youths, non-governmental organizations, centers for social work, and scientific institutions, are supposed to propose new programs for working with beneficiaries.

The new programs are supposed to improve the lives of beneficiaries in homes and encourage them to leave the homes. Furthermore, the new treatment programs are supposed to improve the quality of work with the beneficiaries with the existing services in the local community (day care centers, shelters, etc.) in order to improve quality of life of the beneficiaries and their families.

### EUR 560,000 for Development of Social Services

Fifty-four projects have been submitted in the competition for co-financing priority social protection services in local self-governments, which has been called by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy through its Social Investment Fund program. Municipalities that wish to improve their social protection system by developing new services, can get initial funding in this competition for launching day care centers, domestic assistance and care, clubs, advisories, shelters for vulnerable children, elderly people, persons with disabilities, victims of violence, and other socially vulnerable citizens.

The budget for funding these projects is EUR 560,000.

Municipalities will get funding from the SIF for one year, and after that, as of the end of 2009, they will continue to finance and monitor the implementation of these services. Municipalities that the competition was intended for were involved in the project Planning of Community-based Services (PLUS), which include 81 municipalities in 2007 and 2008. The project was carried out by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, and the partner was the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Funding for the PLUS project and this competition were provided from EU donations through the UNDP. The beginning of the implementation of the projects is expected in November 2008.

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, [www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu](http://www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu);  
Sector for Family Care and Social Protection, 011 363 13 26  
Social Innovation Fund 011 33 43 272, [www.sif.minrzs.sr.gov.yu](http://www.sif.minrzs.sr.gov.yu).  
UNDP, 011 20 40 400, email: [registry.yu@undp.org](mailto:registry.yu@undp.org), [www.undp.org.yu](http://www.undp.org.yu)



## PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS

### First Exhibition of Nonprofit Ideas

The first exhibition of nonprofit ideas Partnership for Success was held in Belgrade, organized by SMart Kolektiv and the Pontis Foundation.

At the exhibition eighteen organization from civil society presented their programs and projects to representatives of Serbian companies, aimed at opening possibilities for cooperation between the business and the civil sector.

Representatives of the business sector had the opportunity to find suitable partners in the civil sector for the realization of their corporate social responsibility programs.

The exhibitors included AIESEC Serbia, the Food Bank, the Belgrade Open School, Fenomena, the Center for Cultural Education, CARITAS Serbia-Montenegro, the Society for the Protection of Mental Health of Children and Youths, FORCA, the Center for Democracy Fund, the Center for Autonomous Living of Persons with Disabilities, Group 484, Lastavica, KEC MNRO, NALED, Romano Alav, the Nis Resource Center, GreatLittle Initiative for Inclusion, Terra's.

Visitors choose the Food Bank as the best organization at the exhibition, with its core activity being collecting food products and distributing them to vulnerable population groups.

The Food Bank mission includes increasing public awareness of the issue of poverty in Serbia, the culture of donation, as well as improving and developing awareness of socially responsible business operations.

An integral part of this event was the presentation of two databases created by the Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point: the Database of Best Practice of Corporate Social Responsibility, and Database of NGO Project Ideas – Collaboration with the Business Sector.

The Partnership for Success exhibition represents the final activity within the project „Support to NGO Sector in Serbia – application of Slovakian experience in the field of socially responsible work“, which was carried out by SMart Kolektiv and the Pontis Foundation since March 2007.

The aim of this project was to establish long-term and strategic links between the civil and business sector, through examining new forms of collaboration which do not necessarily have to include financial donations, and which can help both sides overcome challenges and obstacles in their daily operation.

SMart Kolektiv and the Pontis Foundation have organized a one-day event, Partnership for Success, in collaboration with the Deputy Prime Minister's PRS Implementation Focal Point, the American Chamber of Commerce, and with support from partners: the Telenor Foundation, Coca-Cola Hellenic, USAID, ISC, Slovak Aid.

Smart Kolektiv, 011 24 40 096  
[www.smartkolektiv.org](http://www.smartkolektiv.org)  
 Pontis Foundation  
[www.nadaciapontis.sk](http://www.nadaciapontis.sk)

## MISP PROGRAM: EU Support for Development of Local Self-Government

One of the European Union support programs for Serbia is the Municipal Infrastructural Support Program (MISP).

Through the MISP the EU is trying to improve government on the local level, management of municipal infrastructural services, as well as increasing municipal capacities for preparing infrastructural projects and applying means from state investment funds and EU pre-accession funds.

Municipalities in Serbia face numerous problems, and one of the greatest is poor infrastructure which significantly inhibits development of entire regions, the influx of foreign investments, as well as quality of services that municipalities in Serbia provide for their residents.

The MISP project has been active in Serbia since 2004 and its first phase (MIASP) ended in December 2007. This program identified municipal infrastructural projects, offered assistance in preparing infrastructural projects, and also provided assistance in developing a reference framework for the transformation of public utility companies, the implementation of projects in accordance with state laws and the requirements of the European Agency for Reconstruction (EU).

Technical assistance was also realized: trainings and workshops on preparing and managing projects, financing, transformation and public procurements, in accordance with FIDIC conditions of contract, and increasing performance of public utility companies, were organized for public ser-

vants, representatives of the municipalities and public utility companies. Continuing these activities, in February 2008 the MISP program expanded its support of municipalities. MISP focused on further promotion of economic development in order to secure further funding for social needs.

The main municipal infrastructure areas covered by the MISP program are environmental protection, economic and social infrastructure.

The three basic components addressed by the team of experts within the MISP are: dialogue on public utility company transformation policy measures, establishing a model of inter-municipal cooperation in the domain of infrastructure, programming and preparing projects, establishing a SLAP information system as the basis of projects that are appropriate for financing and performing project implementation feasibility studies, carrying out tender procedures and monitoring ongoing projects.

As of October the MISP program is managed by the Delegation of the European Commission to Belgrade, which has taken over from the European Agency for Reconstruction the managing of programs from the previous CARDS program, and will continue managing European Union pre-accession assistance funds (IPA).

The MISP collaborates with municipalities, public utility companies, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, banks, donors, experts, and the EU.

The Municipal Infrastructural Support Program (MISP), 011 30 89 273  
[www.misp-serbia.rs](http://www.misp-serbia.rs)

## EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IN SERBIA

### How to Prepare for EU Accession

The European Movement in Serbia, with support from the European Union and through the European Integration Fund, is starting the realization of the second part of the project National Convent on the European Union in Serbia.

The National Convent strives to establish an institutionalized, thematically structured debate on Serbia's preparation for EU accession, between state officials and representatives of the non-state sector, administration, local self-government, politicians, experts, businesspeople, nongovernmental organizations and the general public.

The basic goals of the project are strengthening Serbia's capacity for the European integration process and increasing the level of public knowledge about the EU and strengthening cooperation between the state and non-state sector.

The National Convent on the EU 2008/2009

consists of the Presidency, Program Council and eight working groups. The Presidency is made up of high-ranking state officials and representatives of the non-state sector. The main role of this body is to support the working groups and monitor their results. The National Convent Program Council has primarily a consultative role in monitoring project realization, defining working group topics and providing recommendations for improvement of work of the NC EU, and especially the working groups. The working groups are: Social Dialogue; Information Society and Education; Free Movement of Capital; Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship; Agriculture; Regional Cooperation; Judiciary, Freedoms and Security; and Environmental Protection.

European Movement in Serbia  
[www.emins.org](http://www.emins.org)

## STANDING CONFERENCE OF TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES:

### Responsible Municipality

The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities promoted the ethical codex for local officials through its campaign Responsible Municipality.

The codex, which was adopted by 148 of the total of 167 municipalities in Serbia, among other things, prohibits conflict of interest, preventing officials from performing their duties, requires explanation of decisions, public work, etc.

The purpose is to encourage municipalities to found bodies that will monitor the implementation of the codex. The bodies for moni-

toring the implementation of the code have been founded only in a few municipalities, one of which is Arilje. In order to make the oversight more efficient, the body is comprised of private citizens, not politicians.

The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, which brings together local self-governments, adopted the ethical codex for local officials in 2004.

Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, 011 3223 446  
[www.skgo.org](http://www.skgo.org)



## Database on Municipal Strategies Updated

The Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point, together with government institutions, the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and international partners undertaking development activities at the local level in Serbia, has carried out the initiative for updating the data base on municipal strategic documents and multi-partner bodies, as well as the municipalities' training needs.

The goal of this initiative was to register various types of municipal strategic plans that had been developed, or were in the process of being drawn up within municipalities, with the goal of establishing a single data base as a resource for all the interested partners who work at the local level in Serbia.

The collecting of this information will make it possible for institutions of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and international development partners working at the local level better to prioritize and plan their activities at the local level, as well as to coordinate them more efficiently. Furthermore, this activity is to improve the exchange of information on reform processes at the local level and to facilitate the process of implementing municipal strategic plans.

In the previous period, research was carried out, data was collected and a comprehensive review was made, one that offers information about the municipalities that have strategic documents, the period and strategy fields they cover, the bodies that are engaged in the drawing up and implementing of strategic plans at the local level, as well as the capacities and training the municipalities need in order to carry out municipal strategic plans more efficiently. It is possible to combine the information from the data base with the basic statistical data of each municipality and to compile various reports.

[www.skg.org](http://www.skg.org), [www.prsp.sr.gov.yu](http://www.prsp.sr.gov.yu)

## Social Apartments

The construction of social apartments could start in the next construction season, if the Serbian Assembly adopts, within the planned deadline, the government's Bill on Social Apartments. The Bill envisages the formation of a National Agency for Social Housing and a network of agencies by municipalities.

For the first year, the plan is to construct three to five thousand apartments for the poorest citizens. These apartments will, through municipal agencies for social housing, be leased out at the price of 50 to 70 euros per month.

The construction of social apartments will be financed by the Republic of Serbia, as well as the Council of Europe Development Bank, which is allocating between 30 and 40 million euros annually for this purpose.

## DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION

### Projects for Improving the Health of the Roma in 2008

A tender for health care projects within the Decade of Roma Inclusion, the fifth in a row, was held between June and August 2008. Participating with project proposals were 50 medical centers and 16 public health institutes in Serbia. As partners in the project activities, there were 67 Roma non-governmental associations which actively participated in preparing project proposals.

Even though the choice of the thematic fields in this public tender was expanded, the largest was still the interest in the topics of reproductive health and the prevention of risk factors for diseases belonging to the group of chronic non-contagious diseases (diseases of the heart and blood vessels, malignant diseases, diabetes, the chronic obstructive lung disease). Among the 101 projects that applied, more than half concern these two topics.

In view of the fact that chronic non-contagious diseases represent the most frequent group of diseases among the general population and, as research showed, in the Roma population as well, quite understandable is why a quarter of the medical workers who participated in the projects decided to search for the risk factors for these diseases, such as: obesity, hypertension, smoking, a high level of cholesterol, triglycerides and sugar in the blood.

Eleven projects opted for the topic of the health of children and increasing the coverage of this population with mandatory immunization, 4 projects will be dealing with health care for the mouth and teeth, while one project will focus on the prevention of bowel contagious diseases and addictions each.

As part of component B, which envisages the improvement of the living conditions in Roma settlements by gaining insight and offering proposals for resolving the hygiene-epidemiological situation in Roma settlements, a larger number of public health institutions responded than in the case of the previous tender. A total of 14 projects related to this field applied.

The new topic of the fifth tender is: „Health care and the education of the Roma, collection of secondary raw materials“. Even though certain medical centers also applied with this topic, health care for the Roma, as well as tackling the issue of the necessary knowledge and the specific health protection for the Roma who provide for their living by collecting secondary raw materials, will, for now, be entrusted only to public health institutes.

In view of the available funds, in this cycle of the tender, the ministry of health is able to finance a quarter of all the projects that have applied. According to the set criteria, and also on the basis of a review of the previous results in projects of institutions that are not appearing at a tender for the first time, chosen was the first group of projects whose realization started immediately upon the signing of the agreement with the Ministry of Health.

Rejected were the projects where the basic documentation, according to the rules of the tender, was not presented, as well as those which largely deviated in their choice of the topic and activities. The projects that could be accepted, with minor corrections, will be proposed for financing in 2009.

## BCIF TENDER: Public Representation in Local Communities

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) has called a tender for draft projects that concern public representation in local communities.

The aim of the program for Public Representation in Local Communities is to stimulate organizations to develop an initiative that will draw the public's attention to an important problem in the local community. At the same time, the goal is to include the citizens in resolving the problems and to direct those who take decisions to choose an adequate solution.

Following the training in the field of public representation, in which representatives of the 10 chosen non-government and non-profit organizations are participating, the best projects will receive financial support in the amount of

15,000 dollars, so as to be realized, and professional assistance in the realization of the project will also be provided.

BCIF is carrying out a tender in partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), and with the financial support of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

BCIF's long-term goal is to support the process of democratization and to strengthen the civil society in Serbia, through the development of active and stable local communities.

Balkan Community Initiatives Fund  
011 26 22 511, e-mail: [zajednice@bcif.org](mailto:zajednice@bcif.org)  
[www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

Institute for Sustainable Communities  
011 38 30 960, e-mail: [isc@iscserbia.org](mailto:isc@iscserbia.org)  
[www.iscvt.org](http://www.iscvt.org)

## BCIF: Donation Program Social Transition

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) has called a tender for the donation program Social Transition which is being realized in cooperation with the Cooperating Netherlands Foundation for Central and Eastern Europe (CNF CEE).

The goal of the program is, by awarding donations in the maximal amount of 20,000 euros, to support the process of the transition of the social welfare system by providing funds for local, non-governmental and non-profit organizations dealing with social issues.

Balkan Community Initiatives Fund, 011 26 22 511, 011 328 8721  
e-mail: [office@bcif.org](mailto:office@bcif.org), [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## OCTOBER 15 MARKED

### International White Cane Safety Day

The Serbian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired People „White Cane“ carried in Belgrade the drive called „Let's Take a Walk Together“ to mark October 15, International White Cane Safety Day.

Joining the walk were peripathologists, instructors for the independent mobility of blind and visually impaired persons from Italy, Greece and Croatia.

Serbian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired People „White Cane“, Sredačka 2, Belgrade, 011 30 87 546  
e-mail: [belistap@eunet.yu](mailto:belistap@eunet.yu), [www.belistap.org](http://www.belistap.org)



## FUND FOR OPEN SOCIETY

**Inclusive Education, from Practice to Policy**

From September 1, 2007, when it started operating, to June 30, 2008, the service for supporting inclusive education helped 91 children with disabilities to enroll in regular schools and kindergartens.

The service for supporting inclusive education was created as part of an initiative of the Fund for Open Society „Inclusive Education, from Practice to Policy“, which has entered its third year of realization. The service consists of 30 experts and practitioners in 10 towns in Serbia – Belgrade, Pančevo, Zaječar, Kikinda, Kragujevac, Vranje, Niš, Novi Sad, Užice and Prijepolje.

Over the phone and in the field, the service providers offer support to teachers, parents and all others who are interested in the realization of the right to education for all children.

In the mentioned period, the service received 722 calls, while 144 parents called for assistance in order to realize the right of their child to be included in regular classes or a group at a pre-school institution.

Teachers and expert associates were the most frequent to call – apart from 203 teachers and 135 expert associates, there were also calls from 74 specialized teachers who previously had a lower sensibility for working with children with disabilities

With the engagement of the Teachers' Alliance, the partner of the Fund for Open

Society in this project, inclusion is starting to be accepted as an important field of the professional engagements of teachers.

A network of ten local inclusive teams in ten towns – Belgrade – the municipality of New Belgrade, Pančevo, Zaječar, Kikinda, Kragujevac, Vranje, Niš, Novi Sad, Užice and Kraljevo organized drives for the purpose of promoting inclusive values in the community. Initiatives have also been launched for the architectural adjustment of facilities to the needs of persons with disabilities, promotional material has been distributed, teams have been created and distributed have been informers for parents with instructions regarding the rights and possibilities to realize education for all children.

As part of the initiative, also published was a „Guide for Advancement of Inclusive Educational Practice“. The Guide is intended for practitioners, for the individual teacher, educational institution and local community, but it also contains guidelines for the development of an inclusive system.

The Guide contains over three hundred examples of a good inclusive practice and they have been used for compiling a list of criteria and indicators for inclusive education, which represents the contents of this book.

Fund for Open Society, 011 30 25 800  
e-mail: office@fosserbia.org  
web: www.fosserbia.org

**NOVI SAD HUMANITARIAN CENTER  
Improving the Education  
of the Roma**

In seven Vojvodina municipalities, the Novi Sad Humanitarian Center (NSHC) is drawing up local action plans for improving the education of the Roma.

The action plans for improving the educational status of the Roma propose concrete measures for improving the inclusion of the Roma in the system of education.

NSHC is drawing up local action plans in five Vojvodina municipalities (Zrenjanin, Opovo, Sečanj, Titel and Bač) in partnership with the Roma Student Union, and this process is being carried out within the project „Education against Poverty – Advocacy Initiative for Roma Inclusion in the Educational System“ which is financed by the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), with funds obtained from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The project will last until March 2009.

The NSHC has initiated the process of making action plans in another two Vojvodina municipalities (Novi Sad and Nova Crnja) which is being carried out as part of the project „Local Action Plan to Improve the Access of Roma to Education: Public Advocacy of Poverty Reduction“. This project is financially supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and will last until June 2009.

The project is proceeding within the frameworks of the „Decade of Roma Inclusion“ as an international effort to improve the status and life of the Roma in the fields of education, health care, employment and housing.

In the course of 2006 and 2007, the NSHC and the Roma Student Union assisted in the drawing up of the local action plans in the municipalities of Apatin, Beočin and Senta.

Novi Sad Humanitarian Center  
Novi Sad, 021 524 184  
e-mail: nshc@eunet.yu, [www.nshc.org.rs](http://www.nshc.org.rs)

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Workshop on Networking  
Information about Patients**

The workshop „Integration of Electronic Health Documentation“ has been held in Belgrade and was organized by the team working on the Health Ministry's project: „Development of the health information system for the basic health and pharmaceutical needs“.

The main goal of the project is to introduce standardized electronic health documentation into Serbia's health care system and to integrate it into a single data base at the national level – the System of integrated electronic health documentation (EHD).

EHD represents a collection of information

about the patient's treatment and health observed through all the health care institutions in the patient's life, through the patient's unique identifier.

The goal of the workshop „Integration of electronic health documentation“ was to present a solution for the system of integrated electronic documents in Serbia, like in other countries.

The project was launched at the beginning of 2005 and it is ending this year. It is financed by the EU.

Ministry of Health, 011 361 62 51  
[www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu](http://www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu)

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ATINA: Research „Protection  
of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings“ Published**

The non-governmental organization Atina has published its research entitled „Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings – National Referral Mechanism in the Republic of Serbia“ which represents yet another step in the process of the institutional establishment and implementation of policies for the purpose of improving the position of victims of trafficking in human being.

This research was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the King Baudouin Foundation.

Since 2004, Atina has been realizing its policy of social inclusion for victims of human trafficking, sexual and work exploitation through three programs: Temporary House, Open Club,

and a Team for offering support in the field. The goal of these programs is the establishment and development of mechanisms for offering direct assistance and support to victims so as to ensure their psychological and physical recovery, empowerment and sustainable reintegration.

The program for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings in Serbia which is being carried out by Atina is based on the principle of participation and integration in accordance with the requests and experiences of the program's beneficiaries.

NGO Atina, 011 30 33 523  
e-mail: [atinango@eunet.yu](mailto:atinango@eunet.yu)  
[www.atina.org.yu](http://www.atina.org.yu)

**CENTER FOR MINORITY RIGHTS  
Assistance to the Schooling  
of Roma Returnees**

The Center for Minority Rights, in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights is carrying the project „Providing Roma Returnees with Access to Quality Education“.

The goal of the project is to ensure better access to quality education for Roma children by providing the necessary documents and assisting them in their enrollment in school.

This project is to provide assistance to children returnees in enrolling in school, having documents translated into the Serbian language, assist them in obtaining documents from abroad and helping them obtain personal documents.

The project is being assisted by the embassy of Germany in Belgrade.

Center for Minority Rights, 011 2626 486  
e-mail: [office@mrc.org.yu](mailto:office@mrc.org.yu)  
[www.mrc.org.yu](http://www.mrc.org.yu)  
Ministry of Human and Minority Rights  
011 311 76 44  
[www.humanrights.gov.yu](http://www.humanrights.gov.yu)

## MINISTRY OF CULTURE: Preparation of New Law on Endowments and Foundations

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia and the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) have held in Belgrade the first public discussion on the preliminary draft of the new Law on Endowments and Foundations.

In November 2007, the Ministry of Culture and the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund formed a Commission and a Working Group to draw up this preliminary draft with the goal of improving the work of the existing funds, foundations and endowments, and at the same time to stimulate the development and establishment of new funds, as well as to contribute to

the revival of the culture of presenting endowments and philanthropy in Serbia.

The Commission and Working Group will consider all the suggestions and recommendations, and harmonize the final draft law, after which this draft law will enter the procedure of adoption by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the National Assembly.

Balkan Community Initiatives Fund  
011 26 22 511, e-mail: office@bcif.org  
www.bcif.org  
Ministry of Culture  
www.kultura.sr.gov.yu

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT Network for Supporting Rural Development

As part of the project „Building a system of support to rural development“, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of the Republic of Serbia has formed a network of support to rural development, which consists of eleven regional centers evenly distributed on the territory of Serbia. For the moment, the network covers 120 municipalities and it includes more than 120 organizations dealing with rural development.

The goal of this network is primarily to identify the existing potentials for rural development and to develop new ones. Through the network, citizens living in rural environments will be better informed and better acquainted with changes of the law and decrees in the field of agriculture and rural development being implemented by the Ministry.

The Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy implementation focal point has supported this initiative through the realization of several-month trainings of the network's representatives aimed at upgrading the professional capacities and through the designing of a web presentation of the regional network.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, 011 33 48 045  
e-mail: minpolj@sr.gov.yu  
www.ruralinfosrbia.rs

## UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES Dialogue on the Legal Protection of Refugees

At the initiative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, this year's Dialogue on the challenges of the legal protection of refugees will be devoted to the long-lasting refugee crises.

At the beginning of the year, High Commissioner Antonio Guterres launched an initiative to identify five countries in the world which have been providing for refugees for a long number of years.

The High Commissioner's intention was to identify concrete solutions for refugees in these countries, and also to address yet another appeal to the international donor community to assist their realization.

Serbia is the only country on the territory of Europe in which over 96,000 refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia live in a situation of a long-lasting refugee crisis.

The dialogue on the challenges of the legal protection of refugees, which will be held from December 10 to 11 in Geneva, represents a new opportunity for Serbia to inform the international public about the type of solutions that are necessary for the remaining refugees.

## PROGRAM OF PROVIDING PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FOR DISPLACED PERSONS: Tenants Move into Two Houses from the „Divac“ Foundation

At the beginning of September, two families that were accommodated at a collective center in the Mataruška Banja spa until recently, have moved into their homes. The three-member Đorđević family from Kačanik near Uroševac moved into a house in the village of Vrba near Kraljevo, while the five-member Vujinović family from Mostar moved into their new home in the village of Elemir near Zrenjanin.

These two families were among the first to apply for the program of the purchase of village households which is financed by the Humanitarian Organization Divac, along with the Commissariat for Refugees and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, and it is carried out by the UNHCR and InterSOS.

The overall donation of the Humanitarian Organization Divac for this program is 7,000 euros for the purchase of the house, with an additional 1,000 euros granted for the adaptation.

In view of the fact that the beneficiaries actively participate in the search for their future home, if its price exceeds the amount of the donation, they are offered the possibility of par-

ticipating with their own funds to the maximal amount of 3,500 euros.

The Humanitarian Organization Divac has organized the drive „You Can Too“ within which village houses are purchased and adapted for refugees and displaced persons who still live in collective centers.

So far, as part of the Program for the purchase of village households, the Humanitarian Organization Divac has purchased 39 houses on the entire territory of Serbia, and the purchase of another 23 village households is planned until the end of the year.

Humanitarian Organization Divac  
011 30 90 851, e-mail: hod@divac.com  
www.divac.org.yu  
Commissariat for Refugees, 011 26 34 361  
e-mail: kirs@kirs.sr.gov.yu  
www.kirs.sr.gov.yu  
Ministry of Labor and Social Policy  
www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu  
UNHCR in Serbia, 011 30 82 100  
e-mail: srbbe@unhcr.org  
www.unhcr.org.yu

## MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORT Awarding Scholarships to Students

The Ministry of Youth and Sport, which is in charge of the work of the Fund for Young Talents, this year published two invitations for applications for students' scholarships.

The first invitation for applications concerns scholarships for up to 1,000 of the best students of the final year of under-graduate studies in the 2008/2009 school year in the amount of 25,000 dinars per student.

The second invitation is for scholarships for up to 500 of the best students who have enrolled in under-graduate or post-graduate studies at universities in the EU in the same school year, in the amount of 1.25 million dinars per student.

The decision to establish the Fund for Young Talents was adopted in July by the Serbian Government. The Ministry of Youth and Sport continued to carry out the National Youth Strategy, in accordance with its strategic goal – „To stimulate and evaluate extraordinary manifestations and achievements of young people in various fields“.

On the basis of the invitation for applications, and in line with the National Youth Strategy, the Ministry of Youth and Sport this year also awarded funds to 73 citizens' associations in the amount of around 141 million dinars.

The Serbian Government adopted the National Youth Strategy in May. It represents the first step towards the systemic resolution of the position of young people.

In the National Strategy, young are considered to be persons aged between 15 and 30. There are around 1.5 million such persons in Serbia, which accounts for around 20 percent of the overall population.

The strategy contains 11 general strategic goals: the active participation of the young, informing, equal opportunities for all groups of young people, exceptional manifestations and achievements, free time, education, employment, security, health, environmental protection and sustainable development.

A draft action plan for the implementation of the Strategy has been made and it defines concrete activities.

## Youth Policy Development

In cooperation with the Partnership between the Council of Europe and European Commission and the Salto South East Europe Resource Center, the Ministry of Youth and Sport organized in Belgrade the seminar „Development of the youth policy in South Eastern Europe“.

The goal of the seminar was to promote the further development of the youth policy in South Eastern Europe.

Participating in the seminar were representatives of the government and non-governmental sector, European experts in youth issues, as well as researchers dealing with the youth policy from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Croatia and Montenegro.

Ministry of Youth and Sport,  
Sector for the Youth, 011 301 43 11  
www.mos.sr.gov.yu

Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point  
Bul. Mihajla Pupina 2, Office 115  
11070 Belgrade

Tel: +381 11 3114 605

Fax: +381 11 2139 754

e-mail: prs.ifp@sr.gov.yu

www.prsp.sr.gov.yu / www.srbija.sr.gov.yu