



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.

PAUL WAFER, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN SERBIA

Making Governance Work for the Poor

The Department for International Development (DFID) is the part of the UK Government that manages Britain's assistance to developing countries and those in transition. DFID is headed by a Cabinet minister, one of the senior ministers in the Government. This shows how important the UK Government sees reducing poverty around the world.

The UK Government's serious commitment to reducing poverty around the world is also reflected in the increase of its total overseas aid from EUR 2.7 in 1997 to EUR 6.9 billion in 2007.

DFID's policy paper on international development, "Making Governance Work for the Poor" published in 2006 (available online: www.dfid.gov.uk) clearly articulates our understanding of how important is good governance in reducing the poverty. The best people to hold governments to account are those who live in the country and are most affected by its decisions.

DFID assistance in Serbia is mainly directed towards improving the way government functions, because we think that the fight against poverty cannot be won without good governance.

Good governance requires: capability - the extent to which government has the money, people, will and legitimacy to get things done; responsiveness - the degree to which government listens to what people want and acts on it; and accountability - the process by which people are able to hold government to account.

In the current financial year DFID's bilateral programme for Serbia amounts to L3 million, and our overall approach is to support, through technical assistance and collaboration with other donors, the Serbian Government's efforts in poverty reduction, improving governance and preventing further conflict. As our programme in Serbia is relatively small, we have chosen to focus on a limited number of key areas.

Since 2003 DFID, together with other donors, has supported PRS development and implementation. The

current assistance to the PRS IFP is focused on speeding up the implementation of PRS objectives by key line ministries, and supporting moves towards institutionalising more effective government planning systems. Developing mechanisms for getting better policy coordination helping ministries to work better together has become an important component of this programme.

Since 2002, DFID has also been supporting the social welfare reform initiatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. With our assistance the ministry has introduced a new approach to delivering community-based social services in municipalities across the country that involves all the relevant agencies as well as beneficiaries. The decentralisation of services to the local level is a key priority. The social welfare reform takes forward commitments from the PRSP, such as achieving better targeting, putting in place specific programmes for particularly vulnerable groups like the Roma and refugees, developing professional standards, and improving the public's knowledge and understanding about the different types of social services that are provided.

DFID is also supporting the establishment of Municipal Safety Councils (MSC) in South Serbia, within the ethnically mixed Serb and Albanian communities. In an area that has remained tense since the end of the Kosovo conflict the MSCs provide an opportunity for community representatives to discuss issues of mutual concern and make joint representations to government, police and military officials.

Each of the initiatives that DFID supports plays a crucial role in taking Serbia further along the road to successful EU integration.

*Paul Wafer, Head of Department for
International Development of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Serbia*

SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION OF UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS Free Schooling for 1,000 Students

The programme of support for education of underprivileged students in Serbia provides scholarships, free schoolbooks and stationery, as well as support of teachers/mentors for 1,000 most underprivileged students.

The programme has been launched by the Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. The aim of the Programme is to decrease the dropout rate among children.

The Programme shall be implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, and first scholarships may be expected as of September 2008. The project shall be financed by NIP resources in 2008, totaling RSD 65 million.

The programme of free schooling is of social character and targets secondary students from underprivileged families facing highest risk of leaving the education system. The overall annual support shall total EUR 480 per student per annum (EUR 48 over ten months).

Priority shall be given to Roma children, rural children, returnees by the readmission agreement, children without parental care, children with development disabilities, children suffering from chronic diseases, children of disappeared and kidnapped persons from Kosovo and Metohija and children with the refugee or IDP status.

Some 71 percent of the poorest population in Serbia have not graduated from primary school or have only the primary school diploma.

Secondary school, according to the 2005 data, was attended by 76.42 percent youth aged 15 to 18. The Roma - some 10 percent, are the least covered population by secondary education.

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Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
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Department for Family Care and Social Welfare,
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Draft National Programme for the Integration of Serbia in EU

The Government of Serbia has adopted the Draft National Programme for Serbia's Integration into the EU (NPI). The document deals primarily with the harmonization of Serbian legislation with *acquis communautaire*.

Bozidar Djelic said that the comprehensive document covers more than 1,000 pages, open to public debate before the national experts in the ensuing month. The document provides objective insight into the Serbia of today and the Serbia to become an EU member state. The draft document deals both with administrative and other changes which have to take place in our society.

The NPI envisages that the number of civil servants directly engaged with European integration activities shall be increased tenfold in the following four years and/or from 350 to 3500 servants.

www.srbija.sr.gov.yu



Sustainable Development Strategy of Serbia

The Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia was presented at the regular annual session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations in New York.

The Government of Serbia received commendation and support by representatives of more than 20 countries present on this occasion for the efficient and transparent process of drafting the Strategy and its adoption at the Government session on May 9th, at the motion of the Deputy Prime Minister Bozidar Djelic.

Serbia is, along with Montenegro, the first country in the region to adopt the Strategy. The Government of Serbia is committed to an efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy, because Serbia needs to take care of environmental and social welfare which, along with a balanced economic growth, represent the founding values of a modern Europe and the world. www.srbija.sr.gov.yu

EXPORT INCREASE STRATEGY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA

25 Percent Annual Export Increase by 2011

The goal of the Export Increase Strategy of Serbia in the period between 2008 and 2011 is a 25 percent annual increase in exports. Another goal is a shift in the export structure towards the predominance of finished products, entering new markets and increasing the number of companies annually exporting worth more than EUR 10 million, from the 66 companies in 2007 to 120 in 2011.

According to the Strategy drafted by the Department for Economy and Finance of the Deputy Prime Minister, the four key markets export are the EU, in which the 20 percent export rate should be maintained, the CEFTA countries where an export rate higher than 25 percent should be maintained, the former USSR countries, countries of the Near and Middle East and Northern Africa. The export rate to these countries should be increased by approximately 40 percent. www.srbija.sr.gov.yu

GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA:

Budget Memorandum Adopted

The Government of Serbia has adopted the Memorandum on Budget and Economic and Fiscal Policy for the following year, with projections for 2010 and 2011. The Memorandum sets forth macroeconomic stability, low inflation, maintaining the Dinar exchange rate, acceleration of economic growth and the investment cycle.

A further decrease of the public spending share in GDP is envisaged, from 43.8 to approximately 40 percent GDP, whereas the envisaged rate of economic growth for 2009 and 2010 is 6.5 percent.

Such economic growth is expected to lead to an increase in GDP per capita

from 5,400 dollars at the end of 2007 to 9,300 dollars in 2011, representing an increase of 70 percent.

One of the main goals is to reduce the inflation rate to four percent in 2011, placing Serbia at the level of EU member states.

The Memorandum envisages an approximate investment of EUR 10 billion annually in Serbia.

A third of the funds shall be provided from public finances and the rest from direct investments, loans with international financial institutions and capital markets. www.srbija.sr.gov.yu

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

Success Stories

The realization of the recommendations set in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) is most visible through best practice examples.

Success stories are regularly updated at the website of the Deputy Prime Minister's PRS Implementation Focal Point, <http://www.prsp.sr.gov.yu/engleski/primeri/index.jsp>, as evidence that good results in poverty reduction are achievable, primarily through deinstitutionalization, involvement of local level participants in the protection of the most vulnerable population and cooperation of state bodies, local governments, the non-government and private sector.

One of the good practices is the establishment of the agricultural cooperative in Sjenica. Cattle farmers from Pester have solved the problem of sheared wool purchased and sold to a buyer in England.

Namely, Sjenica is one of the most underdeveloped municipalities in Serbia. It is spread over 1,059 square kilometers, with 34,000 people living in town and 103 villages. The high altitude and harsh climate are not conducive to agriculture, but the sprawling pastures make it extremely good for keeping sheep.

Thanks to a section of the „Project for the Development of Villages in the Sandzak Area“ implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since 2003, the Pester cattle-farmers have solved some of their problems. The most important result is that they have established an agricultural cooperative. Now they are selling wool from Pester to an English buyer.

They have increased milk, cheese and wool production through training and novel approaches to raising cattle and due to the introduction of automated shearing. The people of Sjenica have overcome a decade-long issue of selling their products, as well as depositing wool after the mandatory shearing of the herd.

Bales of wool prepared for export are stacked in attics and sheds, waiting to be purchased since 2005.

REPUBLIC STATISTICAL OFFICE: Industrial Production Increased by 3.8 Percent, GDP Growth of 8.2 Percent

The data of the Republic Statistical Office (RSO) indicate that industrial production increased by 3.8 percent in May 2008 in comparison to May 2007 and/or 3.9 percent in comparison to the average rate in 2007.

In May 2008, as compared to May 2007, a growth of 5.3 percent was noted in the processing industry sector, a 1.8 percent growth in the mining sector, and a 3.0 percent decrease in the sector of producing and distributing electricity, natural gas and water.

There was a 27.6 percent increase in the production of durable goods in May this year relative to the same period last year, with capital products up by 15.6 percent, intermediary products other than energy by 8.6 percent and nondurable consumer goods by 0.2 percent, with a decline in energy by 4.1 percent.

Industrial production in May 2008, as compared to May 2007, indicates growth in 15 areas (share in the structure of industrial production - 40 percent), and a decline in 14 areas (share in the structure of industrial production - 60 percent).

The production of chemicals and chemical products, furniture, publishing, printing and reproduction, production of transportation goods and appliances and machines had the greatest impact on the

growth of industrial production.

When industrial production of small enterprises is included in the sample, the industrial production in May 2008, as opposed to the average in 2007, is higher by 4.2 percent (3.9 percent if excluded), while the processing industry is higher by 9.3 percent (if excluded, growth amounts to 9 percent).

The production of small enterprises (under 50 employees) is based on data provided by 111 companies.

According to the data of the RSO, the real growth of the GDP in the first quarter of 2008, as opposed to the same period last year, amounts to 8.2 percent.

The highest growth in the first quarter is noted in the sectors of transportation - 20.9 percent, financial mediation - 18.3 percent, trade - 11.8 percent, electrical power production - 10.9 percent, ore and stone mining - 9.5 percent, civil engineering - 4.3 percent and the processing industry - 3.9 percent.

The greatest contribution to the GDP growth in the first quarter came from the sectors of transportation (2.5 percent points), financial mediation (1.4 percent points) and trade (1.2 percent points).

Republic Statistical Office of Serbia, tel: 011 2412 922; stat@statserb.sr.gov.yu www.statserb.sr.gov.yu

National Public Debates on Development Priorities

The Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point (DPM PRS IFP) and the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE) are conducting a program of public debates with the aim of initiating national-scale discussion on key development priorities of Serbia and future directions of social and economic development of the country.

The debates are dedicated to priority issues identified in the Second Progress Report on the PRS Implementation, as well as relevant issues relating to the European integration process.

Three debates have been held so far: "Population, Population Policy and Development", "Strategic Directions of Rural Development in Serbia" and "Education and Human Resources Development in Serbia".

The third debate was held in April 2008. All of the development strategies of the Republic of Serbia, including the PRS, see improving education as one of the key priorities of economic and social development of the country. At the same time, human resources and education are playing an increasingly important role in the development documents of European Union member states, as well as within the policies of the Union itself relating to economic growth, competitiveness and employment.

The third national debate opened the key issues related to human resource development in Serbia, issues of the education system, as well as education policies contained in the adopted strategic documents. 150 representatives of the national, province and local authorities, international organizations, non-government organizations, schools, faculties and experts took part in the debate.

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft Strategy for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

The Department for Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship (SMEE) of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development (MERD) have developed the Draft Strategy for Competitive and Innovative SMEs 2008-2012.

The Strategy is based on five pillars clustering specific policies and activities: promotion and support for entrepreneurship and new enterprises, human resources for a competitive SME sector, SME financing and taxation, competitive SME advantages at export markets, legal environment and specialized institutions.

The Strategy is based on priority SME development needs, SME support policy within EU and the application of the principles of the European Charter on SMEs.

Expected results in the ensuing period shall be visible in the sense of the number of new enterprises surviving through the first years of doing business; more dynamic turn of microenterprises into small and medium-sized enterprises; increased exports rates and promotion of foreign trade, a higher employment rate of highly qualified labor force, permanent employability and more balanced regional development.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development
Department for Economy, 011 3347 238, www.merr.sr.gov.yu

USAID PROJECTS - AGROBUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SAFETY: Support for Exhibitors in the Novi Sad Fair

Thirteen companies and cooperatives took part in the 75th International Fair of Agriculture held in Novi Sad, supported by USAID.

USAID projects titled Agrobusiness and Economic Safety provided some USD 40,000 for the participation of 13 agricultural and food producers. USAID supported the construction and design of a common pavilion, renting of fridges and coolers during the Fair and the design and printing of pamphlets, posters and other promotional materials. During the preparation for the Fair, all companies underwent the training of „Sales and Effective Participation at Fair Events“.

The projects support: Galant and IG-LU of Kraljevo, Fontana of Presevo, Natural Food of Bujanovac, Subex of Novi Pazar, Frigo-Nais of Kursumljija, Mlekara Zlatibor of Uzice, Begecki povrtari of Begej, Fruitland of Subotica, Moravica and Agrograf of Arilje, cooperative Kulen of Backi Petrovac and Bilje Borca of Belgrade.

USAID projects cooperate with Serbian companies on increasing their sales and exports of agricultural products, development of SMEs and promoting their placement of goods and services at new markets in order to reach new buyers and clients.

USAID Serbia, Embassy of USA, comments-Belgrade@usaid.gov
www.serbia-montenegro.usaid.gov

The Jablanica and Pčinj Counties Development Strategy

The Assembly of the Jablanica and Pčinj Counties Development Center has adopted a revised Jablanica and Pčinj Counties Development Strategy 2008-2012.

The Strategy is a strategic document containing defined development goals for five priority areas: tourism, agriculture, economy, SMEs, infrastructure and human resources.

The strategy defines priority projects for each of the five areas, providing basic guidelines for development agents in the region for the following period.

The document was developed by revising the Regional Socio-economic Development Plan for South Serbia 2005-2007, financed by the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR).

TAIEX WORKSHOP

Legislation and Administration as Obstacles to the SME Development

Legal obstacles faced by SMEs in doing business are most commonly administrative in nature, legislation is vague or not fully enforced and improper practice on the part of authorities. This was concluded at the workshop titled „More Conducive Environment for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises“ organized by the European Commission - TAIEX (Technical Assistance Information Exchange Unit) and the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development.

The participants were addressed by Alberto Camaratta, Head of the European Integration Sector of the Delegation of European Commission to Serbia, and Luka Andric, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development.

The workshop was attended by representatives of the Agency for Economic Registries, European Organization of Employees, Hungarian Ministry of Economy and Transportation and Czech SME and guild association.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development
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European Commission: www.ec.europa.eu, www.taix.ec.europa.eu

SIEPA: Call for Grants

The Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) has opened a call for grants for new investments, amounting between EUR 2,000 and 10,000.

The application deadline is August 29. Eligible are enterprises investing into production, services, research and development sectors.

Resources are granted for new posts - EUR 2,000 to 5,000 for production activities per post, EUR 2,000 to 10,000 for investments into the service sector and EUR 5,000 to 10,000 per newly employed person for investments into the research and development sectors.

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EUROPEAN UNION

Novelties in Providing Grants and Loans

The European Union has adopted a new mechanism for stimulating and providing incentives for investments of the European Investment Bank and other international financial institutions, predominantly in the field of infrastructure and social and economic development in Western Balkan countries.

The aim of creating a financial investment framework for the Western Balkans is to enable the loan and grant beneficiaries in the region access the information and instructions for submitting their projects in a unique place.

The providers of grants - European Investment Bank, European Commission, European Bank for Reconstructions and Development (EBRD) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) - have so far operated according to the individual mechanisms for approving resources.

A fund shall also be established within the set of incentives amounting to EUR 1 billion for providing support to priority projects in the region. The resources shall be provided by individual EU member states and other financial donors and international institutions.

The integrated mechanism, which is also to be presented at the website containing all the relevant data, shall also enable access to available funds for SMEs from Western Balkans.

Business Leaders Forum Serbia

The Business Leaders Forum Serbia has been established in Belgrade, aiming to stimulate the development of corporate social responsibility and establish the practice of doing business in line with interests of the community.

Forum members include the B92 broadcasting company, Erste Bank, Holcim Bank, Lafarge BFC, Phillip Morris International, Coca-Cola Hellenic, British American Tobacco, US Steel Serbia, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, KMPG International, VIP Mobile, Droga Kolinska, Henkel Merima and Societe Generale Bank.

The Forum is conceived as a network of companies willing to integrate social, ethical and environmental aspects in doing business and develop society through cooperation

with non-profit organizations, state bodies and other stakeholders. The Forum shall promote the concept of corporate social responsibility by awareness raising, counseling and development of tools in Serbian companies.

The Forum is a part of Global Partners Network of the Business in the Community organization, as well as the partner of the International Business Leaders Forum.

SMart Kolektiv has launched and administers the Forum, with support of the Institute of Sustainable Communities and USAID.

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DATABASE OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY GOOD PRACTICES

Companies Providing Key Incentives

The conclusions of the report drafted during the implementation of the project for developing the „Corporate Social Responsibility Good Practices Database among the Largest Companies Operating in Serbia“ indicate that the core drive for the development of corporate social responsibility (CSR) comes from the companies themselves, whereas the state and other participants is lagging behind.

The project was initiated by the Deputy Prime Minister's Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point and the Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency in 2007.

The report was drawn based on the data gathered during the implementation of the project.

The main goal of the database was to identify and systematize socially responsible practices among the largest companies in Serbia.

The good practice database tackles the issues of overall social development and poverty reduction: engagement in the social community, relations with employees and environmental protection.

In addition to the three major CSR issues (society, employees, environment), the analysis also deals with the issue of CSR management within companies. A small number of companies (one fifth) operate funds or foundations. This implies that an institutional approach to philanthropic or social engagement in Serbian companies is still at a low level.

There are variations in the modus operandi of the funds/foundations (project-based, grants, competitions or other), indicating that there is no „mainstream“ in the foundation work of the private sector in Serbia.

The funds/foundations are predominantly dedicated to social care, science and education, as well as culture and the arts. The main targeted beneficiaries are children (with disabilities or special needs, without parental care or from Kosovo and Metohija) and the youth (support for the education).

Only a third of the companies have identified some form of long-term projects and programs with distinctly defined goals.

Three quarters of the surveyed companies have established long-term or partnership cooperation with organizations from other social sectors, most of them cooperating with or providing support for CSOs and social care institutions.

Over the past three years, the majority companies were engaged in providing scholarships for youth and provided support for science and education, or took part in humanitarian and grant initiatives (over 80 percent).

The focus on youth and education is not surprising, since the companies may in this way recruit quality human resources - almost all activities relating to scholarships and training target educational profiles required by the companies.

Environmental protection is a significant exception, dominated by long-term projects and initiatives.

Considerably fewer initiatives have targeted persons with disabilities or special needs, women or the Roma. An almost negligible number of activities targeted persons without social care, and the elderly are almost not covered at all.

Issues of relations with employees have dealt with health and safety at work, education and professional training, special benefits and dialogue between managerial structures and the employees.

Companies working in the production sector are, naturally, most active within health and safety at work. Still, this activity seems to be fragmented, as evidenced by the negligible number of companies having certificates for meeting standards in this area.

Far more companies invest in employee education, whereas for special benefits, companies primarily provide for recreation activities and cover the costs of transportation.

Only a third of the companies are in some way taking part in solving their employees' housing problems. Dialogue with employees is relatively well established (at least declaratively), while occasional monitoring of employee satisfac-

tion, as a modern management tool, is increasingly present in large companies in Serbia.

As for environmental protection, it is a subject given somewhat greater attention, at least judging by the number of companies holding or about to obtain certificates for meeting standards (17 versus 6). The programs dealing with energy savings and efficiency are the most frequent, while a few number of companies have had activities in the domain of introducing cleaner fuels.

Overall, the analysis has shown that there is an unbalanced development of corporate social responsibility among the largest companies in Serbia.

On the one hand, there are companies within multinational corporations, especially in the production sector, which apply an active approach and well developed practices and strategies in this field.

However, an increasing number of companies still in public ownership which indicate positive trends in developing socially responsible practices in all three domains.

They are introducing new practices, while retaining traditions from the past (grants provided for a wide range of beneficiaries, employee rights protection, solidarity funds for medical aid of employees, etc.)

On the other hand, there are companies still lacking systematic commitment in this field, with sporadic activities outside their core business operations.

Most foreign companies in the non-production sector may be included in this category, along with the majority of private companies financed by national capital.

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thirteen Projects Awarded Support for Stimulating Cluster Activities

An independent committee has examined and rated 23 applications. The Cluster Development Project Group of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development (MERD) reached a decision on co-financing thirteen projects submitted for support of the "Cluster Support Project of 2008."

Support for launching networking initiatives based on the cluster concept was awarded to:

1. Establishment and promotion of a medical tourism cluster in Serbia;
2. Establishment of the "Srem" tourism cluster;
3. Association for the Development of Business, MICE and event tourism;
4. Establishment of the Embedded Systems Cluster.

Support for the operation of existing clusters in the initial phase was awarded to:

1. "Galenit" cluster for organized collection and recycling of used batteries and accumulators;

2. Shoemaker cluster of Knjazevac;
3. Kraljevo municipal tourism cluster with the "Kraljevski odmor" surroundings;
4. Civil engineering cluster "Dunder";
5. "Istar 21" - upper Danube area tourism cluster.

Support for the growth and development of clusters:

1. Autocluster of Serbia - Fund for support to the development of car part and equipment manufacturer competitiveness;
2. Flower production cluster "Šumadijski cvet";
3. Serbian software cluster Belgrade;
4. "Bipom" cluster - association for the improvement of agricultural machinery manufacturer competitiveness.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development
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www.merr.sr.gov.yu

Serbia Signs the Espo Convention Agreement

The Ministry of Environmental Protection signed the multilateral agreement on the implementation of the Espo Convention in Bucharest. The agreement was signed as part of a conference on estimating the environmental impact in a cross-border context with representatives of 45 signatory countries of the Espo Convention.

The agreement was signed by Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Croatia, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania.

The convention was adopted in 1991 in the Finnish town of Espo, and officially accepted in 1997, when it was ratified by 16 countries. 42 countries ratified the convention by end 2007, with Serbia doing it in December 2007.

www.srbija.sr.gov.yu



PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT TO LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Building for the Future Together

The MISP Programme provides assistance to Serbian municipalities in preparing project documentation and implementing municipal infrastructure projects.

The European Union seeks to strengthen capacities in Serbia towards implementing political reforms related to local government decentralization, being one of the conditions for EU membership. This will result in improved governance at the local level, management of municipal infrastructure departments and enhanced capacity of municipalities to prepare programmes and utilize EC/EAR investment funds for construction of new and rehabilitation of aged infrastructure.

The objective of MISP Programme is advancement of municipal infrastructure departments and intensified investing into infrastructure so as to fulfill the EC standards related to environmental protection, promotion of economic growth, sustainable economic growth, and provision of funds for social needs.

The key areas of municipal infrastructure to be targeted by the MISP Programme are:

- Environmental protection: water supply, wastewater, solid waste management and distance heating;
- Social infrastructure: homes and shelters with access for the disabled, education;
- Economic infrastructure: tourist locations, rehabilitation of cities, industrial parks.

The MISP Programme began in January 2008 as a two-year project implemented by a Eptisa-headed consortium. 25 international and local experts work on the Belgrade-based project.

Three components of the MISP Programme

1. Dialogue on policy measures and transformation of public utility companies: options for development of policies, strategies, and recommendation for changes of the regulatory framework of the public utility companies (Green Book).
2. Revision of policies related to inter-municipal cooperation and identification of regional infrastructure project.
3. A three-year Action Plan for transformation of public utility companies, including development of a national strategy.

Programming and development of projects

1. Revision of policies related to planning of municipal investments, procurement and budget preparation.
2. Identification of priorities (SLAP) and development of adequate municipal projects for IPA funds financing.
3. Development of a Feasibility Study for priority municipal infrastructure projects and updating project and tender documentation.

4. Project implementation.

Ongoing projects

1. Subotica - Wastewater treatment plant
2. Indjija - Water supply system
3. Rehabilitation of regional road M25
4. Užice - Regional solid waste management project
5. Pirot - Regional solid waste management project

The project is financed by the EU and implemented by the European Agency for Reconstruction.

www.eptisa.es

Website of the Regional Office of Eptisa for South-East Europe

The Regional Office of Eptisa for South-East Europe launched a website: www.eptisasee.com

The internet presentation of this Spanish consultant and engineering company provides information of the mission and activities of Eptisa in South-East Europe, projects implemented by country, sectors of activity and vacancies.

Eptisa, tel: 011 344 89 69; 011 344 89 75
www.eptisasee.com

SCTM AND CENTRE OF MODERN SKILLS

Models of Statutes of Towns and Municipalities

Following the change of the Law on Self-Government, the towns and municipalities need to harmonise their respective statutes with the new legislation. The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and the Centre of Modern Skills have come up with models of municipal statutes defining institutes not much represented at the local level to date.

Among them are councils for monitoring the implementation of code of conduct of local officials, councils for young people, public service councils, boards for gender equality aiming to promote, define and implement equal opportunities policies.

Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Makedonska 22/VIII, Belgrade

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Centre of Modern Skills, Kneginje Zorke 2, Belgrade

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Winners at the Public Call "21 Century Village"

The Serbian Ministry of Agriculture decided to allocate funds for rural development projects to the representatives of 27 municipalities whose proposals were assessed as the best at the public call "21 Century Village"

A total of RSD 656.5 million have been earmarked for the implementation of the 27 projects.

The majority of projects deal with rehabilitation and construction of rural infrastructure, water supply and sewage networks, rehabilitation of schools and sports fields, procurement school buses as well as renovation and rehabilitation of cultural and economic facilities.

The idea is to finance projects in villages located in the municipalities: Jagodina (Majur village), Majdanpek (Rudna Glava), Zrenjanin (Centa), Obrenovac (Stubline), Nova Varoš (Vraneša), Valjevo (Miličinca), Paraćin (Stubica), Bač (Selenča), Leposavić (Sočanica), Vladimirci (Beljin), Bor (Brestovac), Arilje (Trešnjevica), Topola (Donja Šatornja), Koceljeva (Donje Crnjilobo), Svilajnac (Kušiljevo), Despotovac (Miliva), Kučevo (Ševica), Ražanj (Čubura), Odžaci (Bački Gračac), Pirot (Rosomač) and Boljevac (Sumrakovac). Funds for realization of projects in several villages will be allocated to the municipalities of Vladičin Han, Bajina Bašta, Novi Pazar, Malo Crniće, Blace and Aleksinac.

92 municipalities participated the public call and the total value of projects eligible was RSD 3.5 billion.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, tel: 011 3616 580

E-mail: office@minpolj.sr.gov.yu, www.minpolj.sr.gov.yu

AWARDS FOR BEST FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS Five winners of „Flower of Success“

Five women, entrepreneurs were awarded the „Flower of Success for a Dragon Lady“ - the prize presented by the Association of Business Women to the most successful women this year.

The award for „Best Employment Model“ was presented to Sanja Veljkovic, owner of the company „Logo“ and Dragica Stepanovic, owner of the farm „Stepanovic“ near Valjevo. In the subcategory „Best Employment Model - Self Employment“, the award was presented to Tijana Sekulic, owner of the agency „AT-Haus“.

Slavica Janjusevic, owner of „Kirka farma“ and Mila Litvinjenkov, owner of „Aura“ were awarded in the category „The Most European Female Company“.

Special awards were presented to five entrepreneurs. The award was established last year and 27 companies took part in the competition.

The members of the Association of Business Women of Serbia are entrepreneurs and women who have their own business as well as women in managerial positions in institutions supporting the SME sector.

Association of Business Women, tel: 011 2776 801

E-mail: office@poslovnezene.org.yu,
www.poslovnezene.org.yu

INFORMATION CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES

Arhus Centre in the Municipality of Vračar

Arhus Centre, founded in the Belgrade municipality of Vračar, is the first information centre dealing with environmental protection.

The project of EkoForum "Citizen Participation in Environmental Protection - Support to the Operation of Arhus Centre" stipulates establishment of an information centre to deal with issues related to environmental protection seeking to better inform citizens thereon, as well as to enhance the cooperation of citizens and local governments in initiating projects and decision-making processes.

News will be posted on the site www.ekoforum.org.yu on a daily basis and at the bulletin board in the hall of the municipality of Vračar.

The centre was named after the Arhus Convention adopted in 1998. The Convention has three elements: access to information relevant to environmental protection, access to decision-making process and access to legal assistance.

The project is supported by the OSCE Mission in Serbia. EkoForum, an NGO dealing with environmental issues shall be partner in project implementation.

EkoForum, www.ekoforum.org.yu

OSCE Mission in Serbia, www.osce.rg/serbia

Municipality of Vračar

E-mail: sovracar@vracar.org.yu

www.vracar.org.yu

**„A STEP CLOSER TO EUROPE II“****Regional Conference about Problems of Persons with Disabilities**

A regional conference about problems of disabled persons - A Step Closer to Europe II - Rights and Policies of Persons with Disabilities in South East Europe - was held in Sarajevo.

The conference evaluated the progress made since the first conference (entitled „A Step Closer to Europe 2005 - Rights and Policies of Persons with Disabilities in South East Europe“) that was held in 2005.

At that time, the participants of the conference called on all the governments in the region to develop comprehensive strategies for persons with disabilities, to support development of community services promoting inclusion of the disabled, to improve the legal framework in this area with emphasis on anti-discrimination measures and employment and to strengthen participation of organizations

of disabled persons in development of policies.

This year benchmarks were identified up to 2013, the monitoring conferences of which will be organized by Handicap International, European Forum of Disabled and their partners in 2010 and 2013.

„A Step Closer to Europe II“ was organized by „Lotos“ the information centre for persons with disabilities from Tuzla with the financial support of Handicap International. The conference was attended by representatives of the Centre for Independent Life from Serbia, national organizations of persons with disabilities as well as UNDP representative in charge of implementation of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

„Lotos“ Tuzla, www.ic-lotos.org
Handicap International
www.handicap-international.org

PROJECT „PLUS“: New Social Welfare Services

16 municipalities received funds from the state budget for establishment of new social welfare services within the framework of the project „Planning the Local Social Welfare Services - PLUS“ strengthening capacities of local self-governments for planning, financing and monitoring social welfare services.

These are Kučevo, Kovačica, Čoka, Priboj, Pančevo (2 services), Aleksinac, Koce-ljeva, Vlasotince, Topola, Velika Plana, Osečina, Gornji Milanovac, Crna Trava, Kula, Kosjerić and Vranje.

The services established in these municipalities are: home assistance and care of the elderly and the disabled, elderly clubs, day care for persons with disabilities, independent housing and independent housing of young exiting the social care system.

The municipal budgets fund 20-60% value of services.

The project is a joint effort of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

The project „PLUS“ is funded by the European Agency for Reconstruction through UNDP with the support of the Social Innovation Fund. The programme was launched in April 2007 and is implemented in 40 municipalities. In late 2007, additional 40 municipalities were selected to benefit technical and financial aid in 2008.

The total sum earmarked by the Ministry for these purposes is RSD 26 billion.

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sector for Family Care and Social Welfare,
Tel: 011 363 13 26, E-mail: socijalnazastita@minrzs.sr.gov.yu

www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu

UNDP, e-mail: registry.yu@undp.org, www.undp.org.yu

Social Innovation Fund

www.sif.minrzs.sr.gov.yu

PROGRESS PROGRAMME**Tenders in the Area of Social Welfare and Inclusion**

The Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity of the European Commission (PROGRESS) published a public call and competitions in the area of social welfare and inclusion.

The tender for development of a study on active inclusion of migrants calls for collection of data on migrants in the EU, interpretation of trends, analysis of relation between political migrations and social policy.

The tender for development of a study on child poverty aims to develop a report identifying the best combination of policies for prevention and reduction of the high level of poverty and social exclusion of children in EU.

The tender for development of a study on participation of all stakeholders in implementation of open coordination methods in social welfare and social inclusion aims to identify, describe and analyze ways in which all the stakeholders take part in the Open Coordination Method at the EU level.

The tender for development of a study on social inclusion aims to produce an analysis of interaction between a social policy, an employment policy and the social housing policy.

Progress published two competitions as well. The first refers to improvement of the quality of broader social welfare services and calls for a proposal for development of mechanisms aimed at defining, evaluation, measuring and improving the quality of social welfare services.

The second competition calls for promotion of a debate on social inclusion as a support to strengthening the open coordination method in the area of social welfare and social inclusion.

For more info, please see:

www.ec.europa.eu/employment_social/index?en.html

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplwlb/tenders/index_tenders_en.cfm

E-mail: empl-info@ec.europa.eu

EUR 1.4 Million for Residential Institutions for Accommodation of Children

UNICEF Serbia received a donation amounting to EUR 1.4 million from the European Union (through the European Agency for Reconstruction) for implementation of the project „Transformation of Residential Institutions for Children towards Development of Sustainable Alternatives“.

The timeframe of the project is 30 months and it aims to maximize the capacity of the children care system in response to the need of the most vulnerable groups of children in Serbia.

The project will be managed by the European Agency for Reconstruction and implemented by UNICEF in Serbia in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

The project should contribute to a 25% reduction of the number of children accommodated in institutions in Serbia by 2011, with the downward trend in years to come.

To date, EUR 1 million has been invested for these purposes by the Serbian Government through the National Investment Plan (NIP).

The Government has earmarked additional EUR 3 million in the 2009 NIP for reconstruction and rehabilitation of institutions for accommodation of children in order to convert them into centres aligned with the local social welfare needs.

UNICEF Office in Serbia, Tel: 011 3602 100

E-mail: belgrade@unicef.org

www.unicef.org/serbia

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sector for Protection of Persons with Disabilities, Tel: 011 363 14 51

E-mail: osobesainvaliditetom@minrzs.sr.gov.yu

www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu

UNHCR: World Refugee Day Marked

„All the states, signatories of the Sarajevo Declaration need to fulfill their obligations and make one final strong effort to close the refugee chapter in the region“, said the participants of a round table organized by the UN refugee agency to mark the World Refugee Day, 20 June.

Even though they are citizens of Serbia, the internally displaced persons face legal obstacles on a daily basis. The difficult position of the internally displaced Roma was particularly reiterated.

Serbia currently hosts 97,074 refugees from Croatia and BiH, and some 206,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo. In view of the duration of the situation, UNHCR put Serbia on the list of protracted refugee situations.

UNHCR Representation in Serbia, Krunska 58, Belgrade

Tel: 011 3082 100

E-mail: srbbe@unhcr.org, www.unhcr.org.yu

MINISTRY OF HEALTH**Call for Proposals in the Area of Roma Health Care**

On the basis of the Action Plan for Health of Roma endorsed by the Republican Government within the framework of Roma Decade, the Serbian Ministry of Health published a call for projects to resolve some of the health care - related problems of Roma in Serbia.

The projects should contribute to realization of two aims. The first is improvement of health care for the entire Roma population expressed in the Action Plan for Health. The second aim is improvement of living conditions in the Roma community.

The six-month projects shall be funded by maximum RSD 500,000 each.

Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia

Tel: 011 3616 251

www.zdravlje.sr.gov.yu



UNHCR - SOCIAL INCLUSION OF ROMA

Free Registration into Birth Registries

The project of social inclusion of Roma implemented by UNHCR Serbia opens up the possibility of free registration into birth registries, subsequent registration and legal assistance to domicile Roma population, Roma displaced from Kosovo, Roma returnees from Western Europe, all those Roma who were not registered thus far.

It is estimated that 100,000 to 500,000 Roma, of whom 23,000 internally displaced Roma from Kosovo, live in Serbia. A considerable group of them, particularly Roma displaced from Kosovo has not been able to exercise their basic rights to health care, education, and employment due to lack of personal documents - excerpts from birth registries, ID cards or citizenship certificates.

One of the aims of the project is to raise awareness raising on the necessity and significance of registration of the fact of birth and significance of possession of documents to access the basic socio-economic rights. This information campaign

will target Roma population as well as the representatives of local and national authorities. In the course of 18-month duration of the project, 20 Serbian municipalities will be visited. The EU funded project is entitled "Social Inclusion and Access to Human Rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in the Western Balkans". The project is implemented by Praxis. UNHCR is in close cooperation with UNICEF which is implementing a similar project "Universal Civil Registration of Roma Children". The project received support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Roma Secretariat at the Republic Office for Human and Minority Rights, Centre for Human Resources and OSCE mission in Serbia.

UNHCR Representation in Serbia
Phone: 011 30 82 100
E-mail: srbbe@unhcr.org
www.unhcr.org.yu
PRAXIS
Phone: 011 344 44 86
E-mail: bgoffice@praxis.org.yu
www.praxis.org.yu

STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Corporate Responsibility in Serbia - a Developing Concept

Persons with disabilities have proved to be good workers. Taking into account that they represent some 10% of the population in Serbia, they also make up a significant segment of market consumers - said the conference „Corporate responsibility and situation of persons with disabilities in Serbia“

The conference was organised by the UNDP in Serbia together with the partners from the National Organization of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, companies and organizations taking part in the initiative „The UN Global Compact“.

The conference was supported by the Kingdom of Norway through the project for increasing competitiveness of companies for vocational training and employment of persons with disabilities on the open market.

The conference presented the results of survey of current practices and experiences of companies in implementing the concept of corporate responsibility in Serbia conducted by the Centre for Monitoring and Evaluation within the framework of the UNDP regional project for SEE.

The survey showed the concept of corporate responsibility to be still in the development stage and mostly limited to implementation in large companies.

UNDP, Phone: 011 20 40 200
E-mail: registry.yu@undp.org
www.undp.org.yu
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sector for Protection of Persons with Disabilities
Tel: 011 363 14 51
E-mail: osobesainvaliditetom@minrzs.sr.gov.yu
www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu

36th International Fair „Protection and Safety 2008“

36th International Fair „Protection and Safety 2008“ was held under the auspices of the Dept. for Safety and Health at Work, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare at the Belgrade Fair in May.

Several events took place during the fair: a meeting with companies providing services related to safety and health at work, a seminar on tools and instruments for personal

protection with the assistance of the TAIEX department of the European Commission, a panel about mobbing as well as risk assessment seminar.

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Sector for Labour
Tel: 011 363 14 53
www.minrzs.sr.gov.yu
European Commission
www.ec.europa.eu
<http://taix.ec.europa.eu>

BEST CIVIC INITIATIVES PROJECTS

Award for "Our Creative Home"

The award "Places in the Heart" for the most positive civic initiatives project was presented to the Society for Assistance to Mentally Challenged Persons from Trstenik for their project "Our Creative Home".

The activities of "Our Creative Home" brought together children with developmental problems and children without them in the daily care for children and adults with developmental problems.

The organization informed the local community of the problems, needs and capacities of the disabled through regular presence in the media.

The second place was taken by the Citizens' Association "Food Bank" from Belgrade with their project "Humanity against Hunger", and the third by the Association Phenomena from Kraljevo with their project "Centre for Non-Violence".

The founder of the prize is Jefferson Institute which awarded this prize in 2006 for the first time. The tradition was pursued through establishing a fund "Places in Heart" and awarding local initiatives implemented in 2007.

Fond Mesta u srcu, Gospodar Jevremova 45, Belgrade
Phone: 011 3288 721
www.mestausruc.org
Jefferson Institute
www.jeffersoninst.org

COMPETITION "MY STREET/VILLAGE/TOWN 2010" Winners - Students of the Second Form of Primary School from Čitluk

A group work of children of the second form of the primary school „Sveti Sava“ from Čitluk near Krusevac won the first prize at the competition „My Street/Village/Town 2010“.

Girls and boys aged 6-18 were to think and discuss poverty and changes they would like to see happen by 2010 and to translate the results of discussions into a joint drawing, poem or an essay.

The children asserted poverty in their surroundings affected them the most and that they missed parks, playgrounds, sports terrains, gyms, teaching aids, pools.

The award of RSD 40,000 was ensured by the company Zdravlje Actavis from Leskovac.

The competition was announced by the Association for Protection and Improvement of Mental Health of Children and Youth within the framework of the program „Contact Organizations of Civil Society“ of the PRS IFP.

Association for Protection and Improvement of Mental Health of Children and Youth
Phones: 018 523 422; 018 244 995
E-mail: oknis@medianis.net, oknis@eunet.yu
www.oknis.org.yu

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUTH

Best students company from Novi Pazar

The students company "Play" from the Novi Pazar secondary school won the first place at the regional competition within the program "Achievements of Youth"

The company from secondary school "Sveti Ahilije" from Arilje, came in second, and the "White Team" of the secondary medical school from Novi Pazar place was third.

The program "Achievements of Youth" aims to promote entrepreneurial skills of young people, stimulating them to succeed in market economy.

From its very beginning, the programme was funded by USAID that invested some USD 300,000 to date.

USAID wishes to promote entrepreneurial skills of secondary school students in seven municipalities: Bujanovac, Medveda, Kraljevo, Kuršumlija, Novi Pazar, Prijepolje and Preševo. In the course of 2007/2008 school year, 679 students and 26 teachers from 20 secondary schools took part in the programme. A total of 21 students companies were founded.

US Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID in Serbia
www.serbia-montenegro.usaid.gov

FIRST CYCLE OF ACCREDITATION OF FACULTIES AND UNIVERSITIES COMPLETED: Standards Fulfilled by Thirteen Faculties

Thirteen faculties and one university that applied for the first round of accreditations in November last year fulfilled the standards for future work and received certificates on accreditation from the Accreditation Board. The only university that applied in this cycle was the University of Novi Pazar which fulfilled all the standards.

Accreditations were issued to the faculties of the Belgrade University: Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Chemistry, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Faculty for Physical Chemistry and Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

Four faculties of the Novi Sad University also received work permits: Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, Faculty of Technical Sciences, Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Civil Engineering.

Accreditations were also issued to the state faculties of medicine in Nis and Kragujevac as well as the private Faculty of Legal and Business Studies in Novi Sad.

These certificates mean that the above faculties and the university fulfilled the legal conditions to enroll students.

Of the 166 courses of study presented to the Accreditation Board, 17 were returned for revision.

The second round of accreditations began on 15 March.

The process of accreditations of faculties and universities should be completed by end 2009. Verification of continuous compliance to the standards by tertiary education institutions will be verified in three years.

ROUND TABLE "eEDUCATION"

Support to Establishment of a Resource Centre

The participants of the round table "eEducation" organized by the Republic Institute for Information Technology and Internet, Linux Centre and Centre for Internet Development concluded that the Institute would provide technical assistance to the establishment of a Resource Centre.

The Resource Centre is to fuse various educational contents, innovations, software solutions, e-magazines, and ensure network and communication of all interested stakeholders in electronic form.

The need was ascertained for establishment of a coordination body to manage the activities, and the Programme Board focused on contents.

Republic Institute for Information Technology and Internet has been working to improve acces-

sibility of electronic contents and services to the persons with disabilities.

Linux Centre presented "Atutor" - a programme utilized in various areas, particularly so in education of children with disabilities and mentally challenged children.

The Centre for Internet Development launched a forum www.esrbija.net focusing on the issues of future eEducation development.

Republic Institute for Information Technology and Internet

Tel: 011 3340 361, www.rzii.gov.rs

GNU Linux Center

Tel: 011 322 9057

www.gnulinuxcenter.org

Internet Development Centre

Tel: 011 3061 531

www.netcenter.org

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROGRAMMES

"Tempus" and "Erasmus Mundus" Presented

The EU programmes for Serbian students "Tempus" and "Erasmus Mundus" were presented at the Belgrade Faculty of Philology.

These programmes will enable students to complete their master studies in the EU countries or to spend a part of their studies at one of the EU universities.

"Erasmus Mundus" promotes an integrated European education region. One of its aims is establishing intensive cooperation and exchange of experiences with the countries that are not members of the European Union.

The programme supports master studies implemented in several EU countries and realization of a major part thereof in the countries that are not members of the European Union.

The programme provides scholarships for students who wish to take their master studies at the EU universities and the annual scholarship amounts to EUR 21,000. The total budget of "Erasmus Mundus" is EUR 230 million.

"Tempus" is the European Commission program supporting reform of the tertiary education system in line with the principles of the Bologna and Lisbon processes.

In cooperation with the EU member states, the programme is implemented in 27 countries that are not members of the EU.

The implementation of "Tempus" in Serbia began in 2001. Thus far EUR 26 million has been invested through various projects of reform and modernization of courses, introduction of the European system of transfer of points, conditions of studying, reform of institutions and various systemic reforms aiming to improve tertiary education in Serbia on the whole.

National Tempus Office Serbia

Tel: 011 32 33 409

www.tempus.ac.yu

Delegation of the European Commission in Serbia

Tel: 011 308 32 00, www.europa.rs

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

National Strategy for Youth Adopted

The Government of the Republic of Serbia endorsed a National Strategy for Youth.

The National Strategy for Youth was proposed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. It provides a basis for implementation of systemic and lasting support to the young people. The Strategy includes policy visions, aims and concrete implementation measures.

Immediately following the endorsement, the Ministry of Youth and Sports initiated the process of drafting an Action Plan for Youth that will stipulate concrete activities, stakeholders, timeframes, indicators and the budget for implementation of the Strategy.

Ministry of Youth and Sports, Tel: 011 311 1781
www.zamislizivot.org

EAR PUBLIC CALL

Neighbourhood Program Bulgaria-Serbia

Within the framework of the neighbourhood programme Bulgaria-Serbia, the European Agency for Reconstruction published a public call for proposals of projects in the areas of: Activities of People to People, Support to Development and Implementation of Projects towards Improvement of Business-Oriented Infrastructure and Environmental Protection, and Support to Sustained Capacity Building in the area of Cooperation of Cross Border Institutions and Societies to contribute to cross border social and economic cohesion in bilateral cross border zone between Bulgaria and Serbia.

Cross border zone in Serbia covers the districts of Bor, Zaječar, Nišava, Pirot, Jablanica and Pčinj.

The deadline for project submission was 15 July 2008.

The activities will be funded from EU funds within the twinning programme between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Serbia.

The call was published jointly by EAR, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry for Regional Development and Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia

Tel: 011 3642 788

EAR, Tel: 011 30234 00

www.ear.eu.int/serbia/serbia/htm

Internet Site: Water for All

Tales - Civic Environmental Action, an NGO launched an internet site www.vodazasve.net containing a complete set of current regulations in the area of waters and environmental protection.

The aim of this NGO dealing with environmental protection is to raise public awareness about the basic principles of sustainable development and rights and obligations of all the environmental protection stakeholders.

OPEN SOCIETY FUND: For the Most Inclusive School

The Open Society Fund launched a public call for the most inclusive primary school as a continuation of the project "Initiatives: Inclusive Education - from practice to politics".

The call is open to all the primary schools that will submit their projects on how they plan to promote the existing inclusive practices.

Within the framework of "Initiatives", the Open Society Fund supports creation of conditions conducive to equal accessibility of quality education for all, especially for children and young people who are marginalized, discriminat-

ed against or segregated due to their ethnic affiliation, mental capacities, and disability.

The call represents a form of support to schools that have been implementing inclusive approach over the past five years.

The projects limited to 12 months will be approved. The amount allocated per project will range USD 5000 - 9000.

Open Society Fund, Phone: 011 3025 800

www.fosserbia.org

www.inkluzija.org

www.svezaucitelja.com

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