

# Aid Matters

Newsletter on Development Assistance in Serbia



Issue no. 8 April 2013

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## National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA)

The Government of the Republic Serbia adopted the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) for the period 2013-2016, on February 28th. The implementation of the NPAA, as an important tool which will enable better coordination, comprehensive and precise monitoring of the EU integration process and related legislative agenda, starts in March 2013 and ends on 31st December 2016. With the outset of accession negotiations, the NPAA will cover the results, activities and reforms related to the EU integration process. Since the EU acquis is constantly developing, the NPAA will be adapted annually to reflect and include these developments.

The NPAA preparation, as was the case with the NPI preparation, was organized in the framework of the structure of bodies established by the Decision on the Establishment of the Coordination Body for the EU Accession Process.

The NPAA structure includes three main parts: Political criteria; Economic criteria and Ability to take on the obligations of membership, and three appendices: Appendix A: Plan for harmonization of RS legislation with the acquis; Appendix B – Budget funds for co-financing and pre-financing of IPA projects and sectoral programmes for 2013, for projects and sectoral

programmes relevant for certain criteria or chapters; and Appendix C – Measures planned within the process of translation and development of the national version of the acquis.

The document provides an overview of the state of affairs in certain area with the most important activities in 2012, followed by an overview of priorities for 2013 in terms of harmonization of legislation, with reference to relevant EU legislation with which harmonization is planned, as well as showing link to strategic documents (Analytical Report, Annual Report, IA, SAA).

Brief overview is given on current situation in terms of administrative capacities, providing measures for realisation of priorities that cover all other activities, including non-legislative measures and gives projection for the next three years of the NPAA implementation. Parts of the NPAA, also, give an overview of measures related to fulfillment of obligations from the Interim Agreement and Stabilisation and Association Agreement planned for 2013. According to the defined priorities an overview is given of current foreign development aid.

Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) will prepare, based on electronic database data accompanying NPAA, quarterly reports which will be published at SEIO's website.

The NPAA is available at <http://www.seio.gov.rs/>

## ISDACON Gallery

ISDACON INTERSECTORAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COORDINATION NETWORK

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Gallery

Gallery includes some of the examples of projects financed through international development assistance to the Republic of Serbia. By selecting a development partner, you can browse through photos and videos illustrating their development assistance activities. Clicking on a specific photo will provide basic information on the project, location and year.

European Union	Italy	Japan	Germany
Poland	World Bank	United States	Slovakia (Slovak Republic)
United Nations	United Kingdom	Czech Republic	Switzerland
Sweden	Luxembourg	Turkey	

New ISDACON section Gallery illustrates projects and initiatives financed through international development assistance to Serbia. The photo and video material and accompanying information were mainly provided by development partners, and will be regularly updated.

Check out the Gallery at <http://www.evropa.gov.rs/>

## Swiss Support to Serbia



*Author: Isabel Perich,  
Director, Swiss Cooperation Office in Serbia*

Switzerland is among largest bilateral donors to Serbia. In the past we funded projects worth over 250 million €. The aim of Switzerland in development cooperation is to support Serbia's efforts towards EU integration. We always align our programs with the Serbian Government's priorities. For 2010-2013 the programs are in the field of economic development, rule of law and democracy, education, and energy efficiency and renewable energy. The focus areas for economic development are maintaining macroeconomic stability, improving business environment in municipalities, increasing Serbian export, employment creation and regionally balanced economic growth. These reforms are aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the economy. Moreover, they bring about transparency, reduce possibilities for corruption, improve efficiency and service delivery of public administration. Ultimately, they reduce the red tape formalities. The Swiss

support to regulatory simplification at local level resulted in 160 million € annual savings for the Serbian companies.

The second pillar of our cooperation is to reinforce the rule of law and democracy. We do this by supporting municipalities, aiding with the judicial reform and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

The third pillar is education and, together with Ministry of Education we play a pioneer role in establishing centres for teachers' training. We also support social inclusion of marginalised groups.

The fourth pillar, energy, is a good example of how we build on the past results. We started cooperation in 1999 with the import and installation of urgently needed technical equipment. Today, we support Serbia's efforts to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy.

All these reforms are underpinned by good governance principles as we wish to promote constitutionality and human rights and strengthen macroeconomic stability. Currently, we are preparing the new cooperation strategy for 2014-2017 that builds on existing assets and network of our Serbian partners, especially at the local level.

## Serbia Contributes to Sustainable Development Goals

*Source: UN Serbia*

"Serbia is one of 56 countries in the world that has the privilege to put a stamp on the process of shaping the global development agenda for the period after 2015", William Infante, UN Resident Coordinator said at the kick off press conference for the initiative "Serbia We Want". The broad national consultation process is to gather a wide variety of proposals from Serbia's citizens that will help define the new global development agenda for the period after 2015.

Since mid January 2013, over 10,000 people have been directly



included in the national consultations. When asked "What needs to be improved in order to create a better life in Serbia?", a majority of responses stressed the need to eradicate corruption, enhance economic growth, increase people's awareness of their own responsibilities, and strengthen institutions, as key priorities for Serbian society development.

Materials and information about the national consultation process are available at <http://www.srbijakvuzelim.rs/> For information about the global consultation process, please visit

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/> or <http://www.myworld2015.org/>

## IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programmes

Within IPA CBC Programme Serbia-BiH, "Lessons learned—most common mistakes in writing applications" workshop for over 60 potential applicants took place in Banja Vrujci on 27 February. Presentations of experiences from previous calls can be found at <http://www.srb-bih.org/>. Also, Partner search forum within the 3rd Call was organised in Tuzla, BiH on 28 March, as an opportunity for potential applicants to find a cross-border partner by presenting their institution and/or project idea.

Under IPA CBC Programme Romania-Serbia, promotional events "Common borders—Common solutions" were held in Bor,

Požarevac, Zrenjanin, Kikinda and Vršac, 19–25 March. Programme achievements and a promotional movie on finished projects awarded under the 1st Call for Proposals were presented. Furthermore, technical workshops for new beneficiaries on procurement procedures according to PRAG, EU visibility rules and evaluation of indicators were held during February.

Within IPA CBC Programme Hungary-Serbia, four workshops on public procurement according to PRAG for beneficiaries awarded under the 3rd Call were held in Novi Sad and Subotica in February and March.

## Development Aid in Civil Society Sector



*Author: Jelena Krstić,*

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Numerous bilateral and multilateral donors are delivering development aid in the civil society sector. European Union, Kingdom of Norway, Kingdom of the Netherlands, USA, Finland and United Kingdom stand out as the most important developing partners in the sector.

In various strategic documents EU perceive civil society as an important partner in social, economic and political life, and in promoting democratic values. EU supports civil society development in pre-accession countries through the IPA Civil Society Facility. CSF consists of national initiatives to strengthen the role of civil society, multi-beneficiary initiatives to establish regional and transnational partnerships, and knowledge and experience sharing initiatives. CSOs from Serbia are participating in all three components. CSF is complemented by a number of other policy and financial instruments, such as European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and EU pro-

grammes. As of November 2012, CSOs from Serbia are eligible to participate in the EU programme “Europe for Citizens”, which promotes active European citizenship and EU integration strengthening. The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society (OCCS) is the contact point for this programme in Serbia.

In late 2012, implementation of 17 projects approved under the CSF IPA 2011 national programme started. The projects deal with the rule of law issues, strengthening grass-root initiatives, building capacities of small CSOs, and enhancement of networking. The OCCS provided co-financing for 12 projects.

The OCCS is a beneficiary of support provided under IPA Civil Society Facility 2011-2013. The project will help to strengthen institutional capacity of the Office and support activities for creating enabling environment for civil society development, including the development of proper strategic framework.

According to a research conducted among the CSOs in January 2013, the priority themes for future financial support in the civil society sector are the rule of law, EU integrations, local organizations capacity building, environment, rural development and social inclusion. The majority of organizations target monitoring implementation of laws and adopted EU standards as the most important field of work.

## USAID Supports Special Olympics Event

*Source: USAID*

The U.S. Government strongly supports inclusion for all people, U.S. Ambassador Michael Kirby told parents and teachers at a recent Special Olympics event in Pancevo, part of an 18-month capacity-building program supported by the USAID.

USAID awarded Special Olympics International a grant in September 2012 to hold seminars in Serbia and Montenegro to educate communities about the potential of people with intellectual disabilities and to identify new ways to encourage their inclusion into mainstream society through youth outreach.



12 Serbian municipalities are participating in the seminars, which include classroom and practical sessions. The project involves local governments, schools, youth activity organizers, as well as people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Each seminar includes a competition featuring two Special Olympics Unified Sports teams, in which people with and without intellectual disabilities play volleyball, basketball and football as equals. The teams later compete in local, regional, and national competitions. 34 teams are formed in Serbia and Montenegro involving 340 youths with and without intellectual disabilities.

## Donor Coordination Meeting

Representatives of development partners were informed on the status and planned activities in the area of aid planning, programming, coordination and evaluation during the coordination meeting SEIO organised on 8th February.

Status of IPA 2013 programming and preparations for new financial perspective and status of aid coordination groups were discussed, as well as development assistance to Serbia 2007-2011

evaluation, and timetable and structure of “National Priorities for International Assistance”, that will define international assistance priorities for 2014-2017, with projections until 2020.

### In Brief

Preparation of “National Priorities for International Assistance”, previously known as NAD, is ongoing.

## Waste as Resource



GIZ project IMPACT has initiated weighing and determination of composition of municipal waste and wastewater with its partners, the pilot municipalities of Aleksandrovac, Bela Crkva, Krupanj, Kuršumlija, and Svilajnac. The aim of the analysis is to enable identification of flows of municipal waste and wastewater in municipalities and optimization of their use as a resource.

Based on this analysis, it will be possible to prepare feasibility studies for infrastructural projects in the area of waste and wastewater management, such as recycling centres, waste to energy facilities and wastewater treatment plants.



The projects will attract financiers—domestic and

## Events

- 11 April Real encounters of youth with the world of work - GIZ promotional event, Belgrade
- 18-19 April Meeting of working group for transnational programme Danube programming, Belgrade
- 26 April Development cooperation consultations between Serbia and Germany, Belgrade
- 15-16 May IPA Multi-Beneficiary Coordination Meeting, Brussels

Details of the upcoming events are available at ISDACON—  
News and Events section, [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs)

international funds as they will be founded on much more reliable data than usual, preventing over- or undersized facilities generating inadequate running costs. Results of the analysis at the end of 4 rounds of weighting measurements performed throughout the year will indicate the best solutions for environment and human health, at the same time being cost-effective and sustainable for small municipalities.

### Did You Know?

From 26 April 2013 “Mistral Air” introduces new flight twice a week from “Konstantin Veliki” airport, Niš to Trieste, Italy. This is one of the results of AIR.NET project, within IPA Adriatic CBC Programme. Flights to airports in BiH are expected in near future.

## EU Funded Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Development

The conference in Vienna on 28th February marked the end of the Inception phase of the World Bank Mission for Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Development for the Western Balkans and Turkey financed by the European Commission.

Inception phase took place between September 2012 and February 2013. The Technical Assistance phase will consist of consultations with line ministries and relevant institutions (March-April 2013), In-country indicator development (April-

July 2013), Peer-to-peer learning events (Fall 2013) and Final Regional Review Conference (February 2014).

The main goal of this mission is to develop a foundation for measuring and monitoring public sector performance in selected sectors and enhance capacities of national institutions to conduct result and impact based monitoring with emphasizes on monitoring and evaluation tools for the EU Pre-accession assistance in the new financial perspective.

### About Aid Matters Newsletter



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The newsletter aims at improving communication between stakeholders and exchange of information relevant to development assistance activities in the Republic of Serbia.

If you would like to contribute, please send your text to [majamilenkovic@seio.gov.rs](mailto:majamilenkovic@seio.gov.rs) An ideal word count is 150 words.

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