

€30,5 Million for Public Administration Reform

By:  REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

The European Commission approved €30,5

million of direct support to the budget of the Republic of Serbia for further implementation of reforms in the sector of Public Administration Reform in October 2018. The first tranche of support was provided within the Programme of the Sector Budget Support for Public Administration Reform. The Programme envisages additional 2 tranches of financial assistance. The total amount of this Programme is €80 million, out of which €70 million will be allocated for direct support to the budget of the Republic of Serbia through 3 tranches, i.e. payments, while €10 million are intended for



technical support in the implementation of this Programme. The Programme shall run by the end of 2020. This a new modality of implementation of EU support which was introduced in 2015 and is based on direct financial transfers to the budget of the beneficiary country, the amount of which depends on the estimated level of achieved progress in the implementation of the sector reform, and particularly on the efficiency in realizing the concrete goals of the sector reform (targets) defined and agreed between the EU and the RS, which are monitored on an annual level. In this sense, the key benefit of this type of support is a very strong incentive for the implementation of the reform and modernization of the entire public administration, the greater ownership and accountability of the beneficiary country over the allocation of funds, and increased trans-

parency in the management of public funds and the implementation of sector policies. The agreement between the National IPA Coordinator and the European Commission that the sector of Public Administration Reforms should be first to be supported under this new support instrument, as well as to allocate quite extensive financial resources, is based on the importance that this horizontal reform has on the complete reform of our society in the context of European integration. The previous experience in the implementation

has confirmed the positive effects of this instrument on the efficiency and dynamics in the implementation of the Public Administration Reforms, since it had additionally intensified

the implementation of numerous reform processes, including: the establishment of an adequate planning system, improvement of transparency and public participation in the process of creating and implementing public policies, reform of the inspection services, reform of the civil service system, improvement of the internal financial control system, system for preparation and monitoring of budget execution and mid-term budget planning. These are all areas that are specifically monitored in the implementation of this Programme through continuous dialogue between the two partners (European Union and the Republic of Serbia). As a result of positive results in the implementation of the said reforms, the EU has approved support in the amount of €30,5 million for incentives in further implementation of this essential reform.

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Срећни новогодишњи и божићни празници!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2019

Day Care Centre of the First Hospice in Serbia

By:  Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Finance



Renovation of the works on the BELhospice Day Care centre is completed, which will provide Day Care services for 20 cancer patients and their family members on a daily basis. In addition to the existing care services for oncologic patients in advanced stages of illness and home care for family members, this project will provide conditions needed for BELhospice to improve the quality of life of at least 60 patients and 120 family members, and provides daily services for 20 oncologic patients. Palliative care provided by the BELhospice team is composed of doctors, nurses, care workers, social workers, psychologists, priests and volunteers and will also include eight months of free transport and food for patients. The BELhospice project "Day Care Centre of the first Hospice in Serbia" is co-funded by the



European Union and implemented by the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy, while the Contracting Authority is Department for Contracting and Financing of the EU Funded Programmes of the Ministry of Finance. The total value of the grant is €329,590, out of which EU contribute with €197,048. The ceremony of completion of the works in October 2018 was attended by Zoran Đorđević, Minister of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Yngve Engstrom, Head of Cooperation at Delegation of the EU in Serbia, H.E. Denis Keefe, Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Marko Jovanovic Assistant Minister of Finance, Graham Perrols, Chairman of the Management Board of the BELhospice Centre, H.E. Arne Sanes Bjornstad, Ambassador of Norway, H.E. Koen Adam, Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Thomas Schieb, Ambassador of Germany, H.E. Rut Stewart, Australian Ambassador, Regina de Dominicis, UNICEF Director, Milos Ignjatovic, President of the City Municipality of Zvezdara, Brankica Jankovic, Commissioner for Equality, Bozidar Dakic, Director of the Republic Institute for Social Welfare.

1.8 Billion Euros in 18 Years of German-Serbian Development Cooperation

By:  
немачка сарадња
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT



The premiere of the "Turning 18" theatre play and the "Deeds Matter" photo exhibition in the City Hall of Belgrade ceremonially marked 18 years of German-Serbian development cooperation, during which the Federal Republic of Germany has supported Serbia with more than 1.8 billion euros. Since 2000, reforms that focused on sustainable economic development and employment, public administration and civil society as well as environment have been supported via various programs in cooperation with the Serbian Government and local institutions. The support was implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, German Development Bank KfW and numerous partners. "Germany and Serbia have been working together for 18 years on improving the living conditions of people in Serbia. Everyone who lives in Serbia has benefited from that cooperation – directly or indirectly: for instance, in power supply, in the form of better education or higher efficiency of the public administration. We would particularly like to facilitate sustainable growth and employment. The German Federal Government has allocated nearly 30 million euros to Serbia for this year, mainly for projects of rural area development and marginalised social groups, particularly the Roma population," said the Ambassador of Germany to Serbia H.E. Thomas Schieb. Belgrade's Mayor Prof. Dr Zoran Radojičić stated that the cooperation between Serbia and Germany has lasted much longer, but that during the past 18 years it has become specific and

clear, owing to numerous projects. Radojičić emphasized that, at the present moment, four hundred companies from Germany operate in Serbia, out of which some fifty are in Belgrade. Some of the currently most important projects, in the opinion of Serbia's Minister of European Integrations Jadranka Joksimović, are the rehabilitation and capacity expansion of the "Bajina Bašta" hydropower plant and the hydropower plant in Mali Zvornik, but also the introduction of remote heating systems in 21 municipalities in Serbia as well as the introduction of wastewater treatment facilities in 24 more municipalities. Numerous guests at the celebration, organised in partnership with the City Assembly of Belgrade, enjoyed the Reflektor Theatre's play, produced by playwright Milena Minja Bogavac, which presented key areas in the development cooperation



of Germany in Serbia with a creative approach. The "Deeds Matter" photo exhibition illustrates the ongoing projects implemented in Serbia in various areas: support to the public administration and finance reform, education and inclusion of minority groups, employment and informing returning migrants, professional and secondary education reform, facilitation of entrepreneurs and SME development in rural areas, energy efficiency and alternative energy sources such as biomass, care for hydropower plants, biodiversity protection, preservation of water resources and living environment from thermal power plant emissions, waste management and establishment of better regional cooperation. The celebration of 18 years of German-Serbian development cooperation will also be organised in Subotica, Vranje, Trstenik and Zaječar.



Support for Business Environment Improvement



„The European Union offers continued support for local development and has so far invested EUR300 million. Investments in business infrastructure development will enable improvement of the overall business environment in Serbia, attract investments and improve the lives of citizens at the same time,” Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Serbia Ambassador Sem Fabrizi said in Kragujevac on November 14. He congratulated the representatives of 34 local self-governments whose 40 projects have been approved for funding through the EU PRO development programme. The local self-governments will implement 12 projects concerning the development of project technical documentation, 19 projects aimed at development of planning documents and nine business infrastructure projects, thus creating for heightened economic activity and investment attracting. Also, the Head of the EU Delegation noted that local self-governments are important partners in the European integration process, as more than 70 percent of the EU legislation is implemented at the local level,



which is why local self-governments and local communities should be included in the EU accession process. “The Ministry of European Integration supports the implementation of the Programme as it ensures sustainable development of local self-governments with a reduction of regional disparities and continued capacity strengthening of towns and municipalities to use European funds,” said Branko Budimir Assistant Minister of

European Integration. He added that support for business environment improvement is an essential factor in the overall progress of local self-governments. In the coming period, activities will be carried out with a view to developing similar programmes and obtaining support from development partners, one of which is the EU, for the implementation of those programmes. The European Union supports

the activities of the EU PRO, a programme aimed at promoting a more balanced socio-economic development of Serbia, with a total of EUR25 million. The programme seeks to improve competitiveness of micro and small enterprises and the business environment and to advance social cohesion in 99 local self-governments in two Serbian regions: Sumadija and Western Serbia, and Southern and Eastern Serbia.

In Brief

The European Union supports culture in Serbia through various programmes (CBC programmes, programme of support for culture and civil society, Europe for citizens etc.) and funds reconstruction of numerous cultural monuments (the Subotica synagogue, the Yugoslav Film Archive, the fortress and monastery in Bac, the Fortress of Golubac, the Fortress in Pirot, etc.). Take a look at: <http://euinfo.rs/map-of-cultural-projects/>, and then at the map of EU-supported projects in the area of culture: click on the map to learn numerous fun facts about cultural heritage and various cultural sites in Serbia.



UN Country Team in Serbia in Brief



UNITED NATIONS
SERBIA

- ⇒ 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Human Rights Week in Serbia. [Read more](#)
- ⇒ Countries from South East and Southern Europe will pursue new measures that reduce pollution and benefit people's health, the environment and economy. [Read more](#)
- ⇒ Under the global theme "Orange the world: Hear Me Too", UN Women in Serbia again joined the UNiTE campaign "16 days of activism against gender-based violence" with unique virtual reality experience. [Read more](#)
- ⇒ To mark the World Children's Day, UNICEF, together with its partners from the public and private sectors, children and youth, organized a number of events that have drawn the attention to children's rights and the importance of creating opportunities for every child to realize his or her full potential. [Read more](#). Also, [read more](#) about regional conference on "Inclusive Education – a Way Forward in Serbia".
- ⇒ The United Nations marks the UN Day and 73rd anniversary of its founding Charter. [Read more](#)



- ⇒ The first Annual Conference of Local Assemblies gathered more than 150 representatives of local parliaments across Serbia organized by the Assembly of the Autonomous Province Vojvodina and the City of Novi Sad, supported by the Swiss Government and UNDP. [Read more](#)
- ⇒ On the occasion of the fourth Anniversary of UNHCR's global #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024, UNHCR Serbia organized a conference on Combating Statelessness in Serbia – Achievements and the Way Forward in Belgrade. [Read more](#)
- ⇒ Within the EU Support to Migration Management in Serbia, a counselling for growing up healthy was organized in the Primary Health Care Centre in Sjenica. [Read more](#)
- ⇒ Health care providers from East and South East Serbia trained to recognize, document and respond to gender based violence. [Read more](#)

Serbian National Conference on European Territorial Cooperation



By: **Sixth Serbian National Conference on European Territorial Cooperation** was held

on 14 November 2018 in Belgrade, organised by the Ministry of European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The conference was opened by the Serbian Minister of European Integration Jadranka Joksimovic, Head of Operations II in the Delegation of European Union to the Republic of Serbia Steffen Hudolin and Simona Pohlova from the Enlargement Unit in the DG Regional and Urban policy of the European Commission. The main goal of the National Conference was to present the results which have been achieved so far in the Cross-border and Transnational Cooperation Programmes which were carried out in the Republic of Serbia and the neighbouring countries within the framework of the current EU



financial perspective intended for territorial cooperation for the period 2014 – 2020, as well as to present the opportunities for the upcoming period. The conference was attended by more than 300 representatives from the Managing Authorities and

Operational Structures in the Partner Countries, European Union, media, as well as by the organizations and institutions of beneficiaries from the Republic of Serbia and the countries participating in Cross-border and Transnational Cooperation Programmes, which have contributed to the successful implementation of these Programmes, and therefore to the progress of the region and cross-border areas. The end up of the Sixth National Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation was dedicated to the awarding ceremony in which Minister J. Joksimovic handed over certificates to the best CBC projects implemented in Serbia in the field of cultural heritage preservation.

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ Opening of the fifteenth "Applied Nostalgia" - exhibition of photographs organised by the Ministry of European Integration, at the Gallery of the Yugoslav Film Archive, 1 Uzun Mirkova Street, on Monday, December 17, at 12:00 (noon)
- ⇒ CBC Programme Serbia - Macedonia organize workshops on writing projects and info-days in Leskovac 24-25th December.
- ⇒ The Sectoral Monitoring Committee for the IPA Component I (TAIB Committee), 18th of December in Belgrade

The Swiss Government Empowers Vulnerable Groups in Serbia



Certificates of financial support of the Government of Switzerland of €350,000 through the Swiss PRO Programme, for the implementation of social innovative projects and provision of technical support to local self-governments were officially presented to the representatives of the civil and public sector in Niš. Within two public Calls for Proposals under the slogan "New Ideas Fit for Community", the support was granted to 26 Civil Society Organisations, Support amounting from €10,000 to €14,000 was granted to Civil Society Organisations for the implementation of 11 projects that will deal with empowerment of vulnerable groups through trainings, while others will deal with improvement of accessibility of public services to vulnerable groups: eight projects focus on access to social welfare, four deal with improved access to health services and three are focused on education. These projects were preceded by a process of public Calls for Proposals that lasted from June to August 2018, during which 85 organisa-

tions and 16 local self-governments submitted their applications.

"Support to social inclusion on the local level is one of three pillars of Swiss PRO Programme, apart from good governance and gender equality. I expect good results of these projects to directly improve lives of 2,600 people through trainings, education and social protection services," said Graeme Tyndall, Swiss PRO Programme Manager. For more information on approved social innovative projects and technical support to local self-governments, please visit: <http://www.swisspro.org.rs/uploads/files/94-550-rezultati-poziva-civilno-drustvo-srb.pdf>

<http://www.swisspro.org.rs/uploads/files/94-492-rezultati-poziva-tehnicka-podrska-srb.pdf>



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.



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MINISTRY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

If you wish to contribute, subscribe or unsubscribe, please send an e-mail to Nataša Kalaba, natasa.kalaba@mei.gov.rs
Sector for Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and Development Assistance

Ministry of European Integration

Nemanjina 34, Belgrade, Serbia

011/3061-216

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