

Final Conference of the 'INOVO' project in Bosnia & Herzegovina



The final conference "Fostering innovation development in Bosnia and Herzegovina" marking the finalization of the EU-funded project 'Institutional capacity development of the three innovation centres and research sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina (INOVO)' was held on March 18th in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina. The final Conference was attended by the representatives of the Ministries, Universities, development agencies, and other relevant actors in the area of innovation. The speakers at the final conference included Ms. Natalia Dianiskova, Head of Operations Section Social Development, Civil Society and CBC, European Union Delegation to BiH, Dr. Kastytis Gečas, INOVO Team Leader and Mr. Mladen Kostić, Director of INTERA Technology Park, and Mr. Drago Gverić, IC Banja Luka.

Ms. Natalia Dianiskova, Head of Operations Section for Civil Society, Social Development and Cross Border Cooperation at the EU Delegation to BiH said at the conference: "Today we mark the end of this successful project but the innovation processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina are continuing. Innovation is about the people, who in Bosnia and Herzegovina are successful in many fields, science and innovation included. The innovations are one of the key factors to better prosperity and economic growth of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Dr. Kastytis Gečas, Team Leader of the 'INOVO' Project, continued saying: "Fostering of innovation development in Bosnia and Herzegovina is just beginning. I am pleased that the INOVO project was able to assist in springing-up these processes and connecting the major stakeholders in this process: authorities; business, universities and intermediary organisations like the innovation centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina."



Ms. Natalia Dianiskova - EU Del. B&H, Ms. Maja Bucar - Project Key Expert, Mr. Joso Bejic - MOCA Representative, Mr. Kastytis Gecas - Project Team Leader, and Mr. Rein Rubel, Project Key Expert at the final conference held in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

'Institutional capacity development of the three innovation centres and research sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina (INOVO)' (EuropeAid/129575/C/SER/BA) was funded by the EU and implemented during a year and a half by the ECG-led Consortium. The project worked towards strengthening the innovation network of Bosnia & Herzegovina through the provision of support to the development of innovation centres in Banja Luka and Mostar. Assistance was provided to the statistical offices in Bosnia & Herzegovina in order to ensure that the country is able to efficiently provide research and development statistics in the future.

For more information on the 'INOVO' Project: <http://www.inovo.ba/>

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EU funds help provide better public administration in Bosnia & Herzegovina

After the successful initiation and completion of trainings in Brcko District (March 17th – April 11th, 2014), trainings for Managers of Administrative procedures and Public Administration inspectors from Republika Srpska has recently commenced in Banja Luka within the EU-funded project implemented by ECG 'Training in Administrative Procedures in BiH'. The aim of the project is to contribute to building an efficient, transparent and service oriented public administration through training public officials who manage administrative procedures and public administration inspectors at all levels in Bosnia & Herzegovina.



Ms. Arleta Manojlovic, Project Director

Project experts provide interactive trainings for public officials between April 7th until October 10th, 2014 with the aim to successfully transfer expertise and best practices in the implementation of the Law on Administrative Procedures. Participants of the trainings include 500 public officials from different administrative authorities throughout Republika Srpska. The entire project foresees training of up to 1.500 Managers of Administrative procedures and inspectors who, through their everyday work, comply with the Law on Administrative

Procedure and the Law on General Administrative Procedure. Training topics include: 'The origins and development of administrative proceedings (regulation of administrative proceedings through procedural laws); 'Types of administrative proceedings (general administrative procedure, special procedures, inspection procedures); 'European standards within the implementation of administrative proceedings', amongst others. Upon training completion, official certification will follow.

The main beneficiaries of the project are the Ministry of Justice of B&H, the Federation Ministry of Justice of B&H, the Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance of RS, as well as the Office of the Mayor of Brcko District of B&H with indirect involvement of 41 Ministries throughout Bosnia & Herzegovina. The purpose of this contract is to implement training in order to improve the knowledge of Managers of administrative procedures and inspectors in public administration at all four administrative levels in BiH (State, Entities and District) about effective supervision of administrative procedures and administrative decision-making processes. 'Training in Administrative Procedures' (EuropeAid/132930/C/SER/BA) is funded by the EU and implemented from October 2013 until March 2015 by ECG in partnership with Human Dynamics.

For more information, please view the project website: <http://tap-eu.ba/>

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New Law on Electronic Communications in the Republic of Macedonia



The project team of the EU-funded project 'Enhancing the administrative capacities of telecom and media authorities for efficient regulation of new digital and multiple play services' implemented by the ECG-led Consortium in the Republic of Macedonia has taken an important role regarding the Draft new Law on Electronic Communications. The project experts participated in the evaluation of the draft new Law which was prepared by the Working Group coordinated by the Agency for Electronic Communications (AEK). The Ministry of Information Society and Administration of the Republic of Macedonia intends to issue the new Law on Electronic Communications which is compatible with the EU 2009 legal and regulatory framework for electronic communications. A Working Group coordinated by the Agency for Electronic Communications (AEK) has prepared the draft new Law, which was made available during the latter part of 2013 for public consultation.

The Working Group has incorporated relevant comments from the consultation into the Draft new Law, which was published by the Ministry in January 2014. The previous Law, adopted in 2005, was compatible with the EU (2002) legal and regulatory framework, and so the drafting of the new Macedonian law has focused on the changes made to the EU framework between 2002 and 2009. The Project experts have provided the following: relevant observations on the Draft new Law that assisted the Working Group in finalizing the law; Marked changes and comments to the unofficial English translation of the new draft Law, in order to assist in the preparation of the official English version and also to assist the Working Group to ensure that the meaning is clear in both English and Macedonian versions. The project team concluded that it was well drafted.

The project 'Enhancing the administrative capacities of telecom and media authorities for efficient regulation of new digital and multiple play services' (EuropeAid/129857/D/SER/MK) is funded by the European Union and implemented from September 2013 until February 2015, by ECG in Consortium with Human Dynamics, Regulaid, and SBR Juconomy Consulting.



Project Steering Committee meeting held recently within the project

The project experts participated in the evaluation of the draft new Law which was prepared by the Working Group coordinated by the Agency for Electronic Communications (AEK).

Strengthening anti-corruption capacities and Civil Society Organizations networks in Bosnia & Herzegovina



An opening conference that marked the official commencement of the EU-funded project 'Strengthening anti-corruption capacities and CSO networks in the area' implemented by the ECG-led Consortium was held on April 25th in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project is part of wider EU efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which include law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, the support towards better accountability and transparency, improved public finance management, and the support to civil society organizations in their work in this area.

The head of cooperation at the EU Delegation in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Mr. Holger Schroeder, opened the conference with these words "Today's conference marks the beginning of a very important project in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against corruption. Through the project, collaboration is planned between the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Anti-Corruption and other institutions that have a mandate to fight corruption". He further explained that this project will help in the development of new, updated strategy and action plan, in close cooperation with civil society organizations, and it will provide and support the implementation of these strategies. Mr. Zoran Jačev, Project Team Leader continued saying "The Project was launched successfully with participation of all relevant stakeholders, high level representatives of EU Delegation in Sarajevo and wide media coverage. The opening conference was used for a productive debate regarding one of the most important products of the Project - Strategy for the fight against corruption of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its Action Plan for the period 2015 – 2019." Besides the presentation of the planned activities and expected results of the project, the conference was an opportunity to present and discuss the content and process of preparation of the strategic anti-corruption documents, which have to be adopted by the end of 2014.



Mr. Zoran Jačev,
Project Team Leader

'Strengthening anti-corruption capacities and CSO networks in the area' (EuropeAid/134130/C/SER/BA) is funded by the EU and implemented from January 2014 until January 2016 by the ECG-led Consortium, alongside partners DBB Akademie (Germany), Sequa GmbH (Germany) and Centre for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria). The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the fight against corruption and to effective corruption prevention in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, this project supports the institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to effectively implement the Anticorruption strategies and Action plans in cooperation with Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and business associations.

"Today's conference marks the beginning of a very important project in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fight against corruption. Through the project, collaboration is planned between the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Anti-Corruption and other institutions that have a mandate to fight corruption".
- Mr. Holger Schroeder,
Head of cooperation at the
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"The Project was launched successfully with participation of all relevant stakeholders, high level representatives of EU Delegation in Sarajevo and wide media coverage".
- Mr. Zoran Jacev, Project
Team Leader

The Serbian National Employment Action Plan and Employer Survey for 2014



The project team of the EU-funded project 'Support to Evidence-based Employment Policy Creation' implemented by the ECG-led Consortium in Serbia has successfully initiated and finalized the Serbian National Employment Action Plan 'NEAP' for 2014. The document was prepared by the Working Group consisting of the government representatives, social partners and the project's experts and it was adopted by the Government of Serbia on 25 December 2013. It sets out priorities and measures in the area of employment and labour market policy for 2014. One of the most important contributions from the project experts was a preparation of the diagnostic part of the document in which labour market trends are analyzed and major challenges are identified.

During the process of developing the NEAP, a wider, more cross-sectoral and more integrated approach to defining policy objectives (as compared to previous Action Plans) was suggested by the project experts. Such an approach, modeled on the EU policy framework, was accepted and the following three fundamental priorities have been identified as building blocks of the Plan: 1) "Improvement of labour market conditions and strengthening labour market institutions", 2) "Fostering employment and social inclusion for hard-to-place individuals", 3) "Enhancing the quality of labour force and investing into human capital".

Furthermore, the project team has supported the 'Employer Survey 2014' which was initiated April 1st, by the National Employment Service of Serbia (NES). The Survey is based on the needs and forecasted trends in the job market and it will cover approximately 7,300 employers - 5,000 small, 1,700 medium and 600 large enterprises. It represents the most important research of this type in Serbia, having in mind that it covers employers who employ the large majority of the workforce in the country. This year's survey is the fourth implemented by the National Employment Service of Serbia, and the second supported by the EU-funded project 'Support to Evidence-based Employment Policy Creation'. Interviewers from the NES will visit the employers throughout Serbia and interview them on employment plans, as well as the necessary skills and work competencies that a potential employee should possess. Information will be collected directly from the employers regarding previous employment, experience with employment opportunities, future plans and needs, therefore the most important issues related to employment in Serbia.

The project 'Support to Evidence-based Employment Policy Creation' (EuropeAid/131428/C/SER/RS) is funded by the EU and implemented from September 2012 until September 2014 by ECG in Consortium with Pole Emploi, EPRD, and FREN. The objective of the project is to improve the impact of the Serbian employment policy, to embed forecasting, monitoring and evaluation in the design and implementation of active labour market policies.

One of the most important contributions from the project experts was a preparation of the diagnostic part of the document in which labour market trends are analyzed and major challenges are identified.

For more information about the project, please view: www.podrskapoliticizaposljavanja.org/en/

'Capacity building for development of the National Animal Disease Compensation fund and other services' in Serbia



The EU-funded project 'Capacity building for development of the National Animal Disease Compensation fund and other services' has officially commenced on February 18th. The project will assist in further strengthening of the National Veterinary Authority (Veterinary Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management) in protection of animal health while ensuring animal welfare, food safety and sustainable development of the agriculture sector. The key stakeholders include the Private sector represented by farmer associations, farmers, hunter associations and private veterinarians.

The Project Purpose is to support the implementation of official veterinary control requirements in the field of animal health and its further harmonization with EU requirements and best practice from the EU Member States, and the provision of continuous support for combating and eradication of rabies and CSF, and strategy for development of the national compensation fund for animal diseases. 'Capacity building for development of the National Animal Disease Compensation fund and other services' (EuropeAid/133858/C/SER/RS) is funded by the EU and will be implemented during two years by the ECG-led Consortium alongside partners Tragsatec, IAK, and Ankey.

'Supervision of Construction of Subotica and Kalenic Regional Waste Management Centres' in Serbia

The project 'Supervision of Construction of Subotica and Kalenic Regional Waste Management Centres' (EuropeAid/133972/C/SER/RS) was rewarded to ECG Consortium, led by Portuguese Consulgal, and in partnership with Louis Berger and Idom. This project was recently initiated with a kick-off meeting that marked the official commencement of project activities, which will contribute to the achievement of the National Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019 of Republic of Serbia and EU Directives on Waste Management and Environment Protection, leading to a better state of environment and public health.



The project will assist in further strengthening of the National Veterinary Authority in protection of animal health while ensuring animal welfare, food safety and sustainable development of the agriculture sector.

CEED Serbia – Support to the development of entrepreneurship



The official launch event marking the start of the operations of the CEED Serbia Center (Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development) was held February 27th, in Belgrade. At the event, CEED presented its new training and mentoring programs designed for the new generation of owners and managers of small and medium-sized enterprises in Serbia. Members of the Panel included

Ms. Ana Zegarac from the National Agency for Regional Development-NARD, Mr. David Shaw from the Serbian agency for private equity / private equity Serbian association SPEA, and Mrs. Sanja Popovic Pantic from the Association of business Women of Serbia.

CEED Serbia organized a 'B2B Event' on April 10th and 11th in Zagreb, Croatia. The event included the participation of the growing Serbian companies aiming to connect with potential customers and partners in the EU market, and looking to gain insight about the business conditions in the markets of Croatia and Slovenia. Group and individual business meetings were held, as participants had a unique opportunity to meet and network with potential partners and customers, and representatives of the relevant institutions and organizations in Croatia which support the development of the private sector. Participants valued highly the opportunity to learn about running business in the EU and establish close relations to potential business partners in the neighboring countries. *The video from the Event here: www.youtube.com*



CEED Serbia Launch Event

In the following period CEED Serbia will be the host of the regional conference 'Meet CEED entrepreneurs & get inspired' to be held in Belgrade, Serbia, in June this year. The event will be attended by more than 100 entrepreneurs from Serbia, Slovenia, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Romania and it will represent an experience which goes beyond local context. It will serve as a platform for the exchange of experiences between CEED mentors and entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, CEED Serbia Center will organize a number of programs with the goal of raising the capacities of Serbian entrepreneurial population for building up sustainable and growing business operations. Several key programs will be conducted in the following period as part of this initiative, namely CEED Grow, CEED Pro, CEED Go to Market, CEED HR, and others. These programs are targeted towards the new generations of executives and entrepreneurs interested in developing their professional skills and becoming part of the CEED Global network.

The event included the participation of the growing Serbian companies aiming to connect with potential customers and partners in the EU market, and looking to gain insight about the business conditions in the markets of Croatia and Slovenia.

Candidates for these programs are welcome to contact our CEED Team through our contacts or web site www.ceed-serbia.org

ECG goes forward with certification for ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management System



Following a successful recertification process according to our *ISO 9001:2008* standard in December 2013, ECG has made an important strategic decision of going forward with the certification for *ISO 27001:2013 Information Security Management System*. *ISO/IEC 27001* is the international standard for information security management.

ECG supported the 11th Belgrade Dance Festival



Within our CSR activities for 2014, ECG decided to sponsor the reputable Belgrade Dance Festival. Through the agreement, ECG becomes the first Serbian 'Friend of the Festival' which officially opens on March 29th and lasts until April 14th 2014, comprising of around 15 dance performances. The festival was founded in 2003 as the initiative of the International Dance Council CID

UNESCO from Paris, and the art director is the famous Serbian choreographer, Ms. Aja Jung.

For more information on the Belgrade Dance Festival, please view:
www.belgradedancefestival.com/2014/

New Staff



Jovana Savić, Project Manager

Jovana Savic has joined ECG as a Project Manager responsible for the implementation of CEED program in Serbia. Prior to CEED, she worked as a financial analyst in Poteza Ventures Advisory, and has spent several months as an intern in an Austrian based venture fund. She has experience in private sector consulting, assisting SMEs in their development and connecting them with investors and M&A professionals. Her professional expertise has a strong international component, as she was also engaged in an NGO focused on multinational academic conferences organized in the SEA region. She graduated from the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, and holds a Master's degree in International finance. We welcome her to our team.

Links

www.inovo.ba/
www.tap-eu.ba/
www.podrskaipoliticizaposljavanja.org/en/
www.ceed-serbia.org
www.belgradedancefestival.com/2014/
www.pdm-eu.ba
www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/projekti/
www.razvionica.edu.rs/

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