

## ECG represents Serbia competing for European Business Awards

We proudly announces that European Consulting Group has been named as a National Champion for Serbia in the European Business Awards 2014/15.



Sponsored by



The European Business Awards, sponsored by RSM International, is an international competition promoting European companies who have done something special, not only relevant to their own national economy but relevant to the European economy as a whole by producing new products, being innovative, demonstrating high growth, being present in difficult markets and being successful there.

"I believe this is a great reward for the efforts we invest into becoming par with the leading consultancies world-wide in the last five years. Using best international and local expertise we bring Serbia and the region closer to EU integration with each new project. We always offer additional value to our clients in the public sector, establishing ourselves as a consultancy that understands well the needs of our region and is a desirable partner in EU tendering procedures". This is what Danijel Pantic, our Managing Partner, said upon hearing the news.

As we enter the second phase of competition, a panel of judges made up of Europe-wide business leaders, academics and entrepreneurs will view the National Champions' videos, and award the best of this group the coveted Ruban d'Honneur status. Ruban d'Honneur recipients will then go on to the grand final in 2015. All of the National Champions will also take part in a public vote to decide Public Champions for each country. Last year more than 93,000 votes were cast, and more than 400,000 people visited the EBA website during the competition.

For more information on the Awards and its winners, please visit:  
[www.businessawardseurope.com](http://www.businessawardseurope.com)

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## ECG awarded with new EU-funded project in BiH

ECG has recently been awarded with the new EU-funded project **“Capacity building of the Institute for Intellectual Property through the establishment of information-educational centers of the Institute”** in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The objectives of the project will be to strengthen the information and educational function of the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project purpose will be achieved through opening Information-educational centers at the Institute’s headquarters in Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka and raising awareness on industrial property rights in accordance with obligations under the SM and the TRIPS.



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## Published results of a survey of employers



Presentation of the Employer Survey

Our project **“Support to Evidence-based Employment Policy Creation”** (funded by the EU and implemented by a consortium led by the ECG), has conducted a significant national survey of Serbian employers in coordination with the National Employment Service. This is the fourth annual survey of this type conducted in Serbia, and this year, the study included approximately 7,300 companies.

The aim of the survey of employers is to inquire about the current employers’ demands in Serbia regarding the demands for particular professions, the expected level of expertise on the market, as well as their plans and ideas for the reduction or increase in the number of employees in 2014 and 2015. The results show that the year 2015 will bring positive trend in employment rates as opposed to 2014 in macro sectors of the Manufacturing and Construction industries.

To see the complete publication with the Results of a survey, please visit:  
[http://podrskapoliticizaposljavanja.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Glavni-nalazi\\_web.pdf](http://podrskapoliticizaposljavanja.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Glavni-nalazi_web.pdf)

Within the same project, a study tour to Denmark was organized in June this year, in order to study the process of updating occupational standards and the way in which occupational standards are applied/used in the public employment services (PES) of EU countries.



Serbian delegation in Denmark

Since the work on updating descriptions of occupations and preparing new classification has reached advanced stage in Serbia, the focus of the study visit was placed on practical application of the occupational standards based on ISCO 08 to the systems and services operated by the public employment services. The application of ISCO 08 standard is expected to facilitate the employment process to a great extent in the future.

## HR Strategy development workshops in Serbian Tax Administration



Workshops for the Tax Administration delegates

Three strategy development workshops for the HR function of the Serbian Tax Administration were held within our project "Strengthening the Institutional Capacity of the Serbian Tax Administration by TA to Design a Human Resources Management System". These workshops represent key component of this project, while the HR department of STA determines major directions for further development.

Internationally recognised HR experts Nick Holley and Monika Lekic, supported by Professor Jovan Nivic, worked interactively with the Tax Administration delegates on the application of best practice and European trends in HR department of STA and performance management. The delegates significantly contributed to defining the HR strategy, development of which is one of the strategic goals of STA.

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## 81<sup>st</sup> Agriculture fair in Novi Sad

ECG's project "Capacity building for development of the National Animal Disease Compensation fund and other services" together with two twinning projects currently ongoing at the Veterinary directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental protection "Capacity building for Upgrading of Food establishments and Animal By-Product management" and "Building capacity of the areas of the food safety and animal welfare", organized a joint presentation at the 81<sup>st</sup> Agriculture fair in Novi Sad on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May this year.



The Conference in Novi Sad

The speakers at the press conference included Mr. Dejan Bugarski, CVO at the Veterinary directorate, Mr. Oskar Benedikt, Deputy Head of European Union Delegation in Serbia, Mr. Maarten Wegen, Agriculture Attaché of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Mr. Zenonas Stanevičius, Deputy Director, State Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Lithuania and Mr. Ingus Celms, Team Leader of our project.

During this appearance, with key stakeholders and interest groups present, representatives of the project got an opportunity to open a public discussion on the establishment of the national disease compensation fund, and to invite all interested parties to the public-private forum, scheduled for February 2015, where the above mentioned topic will be presented in more detail.

## Closing Conference of the 'Blood Safety' project in Macedonia

The final conference marking the finalization of the EU-funded project '**Strengthening the Blood Safety System in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**' has taken place on June 18<sup>th</sup> in Skopje, Macedonia. The project was implemented by the ECG-led Consortium in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, funded by the EU.



The final conference

Having completed numerous training sessions and study visits of key personnel involved in the project, chief goals of the project were achieved: Promoting quality, efficient and continuous health care of all the citizens through providing safety of blood and blood components to protect them from infectious diseases.

**The speakers** at the final conference included Mrs Emilia Velkova – Director of Institution for Transfusion Medicine, H.E. Aivo Orav – Head of the EU Delegation to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Nikola Todorov – Minister of Health, Mr. H.W. Reesnik – Team Leader of the Project, Mr. Primorz Rozman – Key Expert of the Project and Mr. Sasa Rikanovic – ECG Project Director.

Documentary including details of the project and the final conference are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzOCp88TuMo> For further details please visit <http://www.hd-ecg.com/final-conference-of-the-blood-safety-project-in-macedonia/>

**The project purpose will be achieved through opening Information-educational centers at the Institute's headquarters in Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka**

**The project was implemented by the ECG-led Consortium in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Institute for Transfusion Medicine, funded by the EU.**



## First generation of entrepreneurs graduates from CEED Go To Market program

In June this year, CEED Serbia implemented its Go To Market program, aimed at high growth oriented startup teams, as well as established companies developing new products. Within the scope of the program, participants had the opportunity to learn about lean and agile methods of product and customer development, test their ideas and get feedback from international mentors and serial entrepreneurs.



Workshop for the entrepreneurs

Together with StartLabs accelerator, with experience from the Silicon Valley, and support from Microsoft Serbia, CEED entrepreneurs tested their business models and ideas, thus getting closer to finding their MVPs. With some of the region top mentors and entrepreneurs, participants learned how to effectively pitch to future investors, and how to prepare for the next steps in developing their ideas.

In its efforts to contribute to the development of entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country, CEED Serbia plans to continue with the implementation of specialized training programs aimed at perspective startups, as well as business owners of growing companies.

After the summer break, CEED returns with newly designed programs, based on the US methodology, but adapted to local markets.

For program enrollments and contact details please visit our web site:  
<http://ceed-serbia.org/ceed-grow-2/>

## ECG receives unsolicited commendation for our work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Osman Osmanovic, Director of Treasury of Brcko District, and Ms. Anela Ilic, Chief of budget execution department, some of the key beneficiaries in B&H from the Finance Directorate of the Brcko District, wholeheartedly commended our project team working on the Regulation of Public Debt in Bosnia and Herzegovina for their professionalism, involvement and management skills, while at the same time stressing the importance of long-term project outcomes for the country and its administration:

**Within the scope of the program, participants had the opportunity to learn about lean and agile methods of product and customer development, test their ideas and get feedback from international mentors and serial entrepreneurs.**

*"We would like to express our greatest pleasure for taking a part in this project and for perceiving the importance of the problem of public debt for the short duration of the project. Along with a complete project team and colleagues from the Ministry of Finance, the Treasury entities and the state we have come to common conclusions that the active and joint action in this area is of great importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have also improved and expanded our knowledge in this field by a great extent. The results of this project wouldn't be achieved without the highly professional approach and commitment of the entire project team."*

"This kind of feedback is valuable to us, as this is the exact results ECG is continuously striving to achieve: understanding of the importance of project outputs with the beneficiaries, and at the same time recognition of ECG as an important stakeholder in local and regional development on our joint path towards the EU integrations", said Vojislav Milosevic, project Director.

For more information on this project please visit our project web site:  
<http://www.pdm-eu.ba/>

## ECG Employees visited the Institute for Transfusion

Following our successful cooperation with the Serbian Institute for Blood Transfusion on the project of Blood Safety regulation in Macedonia, ECG Employees visited the Institute for Blood Transfusion of Serbia this June, in order to better understand the key educational role of our national Institute in the education of their colleagues in the region. On this occasion, the employees were informed about the activities of the Institute, were offered a tour of the premises and facilities, and made their donations for the blood bank.



ECG employees in the Institute

## Links

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