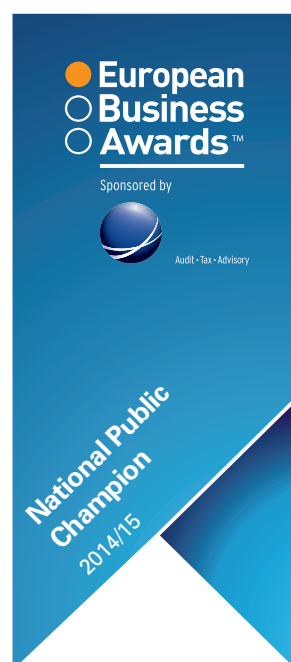


European Consulting Group voted the National public champion for Serbia in European Business Awards

European Consulting Group is awarded the title of the National Public Champion for Serbia in the 2014/2015 European Business Awards, sponsored by RSM.



In the 1st phase of public voting, 156,573 votes were received for the video entries posted by companies online, and European consulting group got the highest number of votes for Serbia. In total 709 businesses were nominated in the process, and ECG is one of 33 National Public Champions announced by EBA:

<http://www.businessawardseurope.com/news/item/national-public-champions-chosen-in-33-european-countries-after-over-150000>

Danijel Pantić, Managing Director, said: "This is a great opportunity for promoting our unique approach to business and developmental change in societies where we are delivering our services. We are very proud to represent Serbia as the National Public Champion."

Adrian Tripp, CEO of the European Business Awards said: "It is a fantastic stamp of approval to be voted best in class by the

public, and this voting stage has provided a wonderful opportunity to engage clients, staff, stakeholders, and potential new customers. Well done to all our National Public Champions."

The European Business Awards is an independent Awards programme designed to recognise and promote excellence, best practice and innovation in the European business community. This year it engaged with over 43,000 businesses from 33 European countries. It is now open for entrants for the 2015-16 competition.

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Danijel Pantić, managing director of ECG, elected as Board member of the Serbian Association of Managers - SAM

On 24th February 2015, at the Eighth Annual General Assembly of the Serbian Association of Managers (SAM) the new Managing Board was elected to lead the Association over the next two years. Based on the member votes, the new Board of Directors consists of a number of recognised managers and entrepreneurs, Danijel Pantic being one of them.

Serbian Association of Managers is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-government organisation established in 2006 in Belgrade. SAM's initial objective was to become the Voice of Profession, to engage in education, to represent and express the interests of professional business managers. Since then the Association grew and developed, and its strength, influence and ambitions increased in parallel.

During their term, the priorities of the Board will be the continuous cooperation with the Government and its institutions and the implementation of joint activities for economic growth, fight against shadow economy and support to the development of entrepreneurship. Part of the activities will be focused on business networking, education and promotion of managerial staff, with special focus on young managers.



Managing Board of the Serbian Association of Managers

ECG's projects example of good practice at the first Fair of EU-funded projects in Serbia

At the first Fair of EU-funded projects, organised by EU Delegation Office and EU Info Centre in Belgrade, ECG's project **"Capacity Building for Development of the National Animal Disease Compensation Fund and Other Services"** was presented by National project coordinator Budimir Plavsic, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Veterinary Directorate.

This project is supporting the implementation of the official veterinary control requirements in the field of animal health and its further harmonization with the EU requirements and the best practice from EU Member States. We help to provide continuous support for combating and eradication of rabies and CSF, and work on developing strategy for development of the national compensation fund for animal diseases.

Focus on the continuous cooperation with the Government and its institutions and the implementation of joint activities for economic growth, fight against shadow economy and support to the development of entrepreneurship.

Continuous support to combating and eradication of rabies and CSF, and work on developing strategy of the national compensation fund for animal diseases.



ECG's stand at the first EU-funded projects Fair in Serbia

The Fair featured a selection of successful EU-funded projects implemented in Serbia since 2000, and was opened by Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia **Michael Davenport** and Minister in charge of European integration **Jadranka Joksimovic**.

Mr. Davenport announced that the EU and Serbian Government would soon sign an agreement on new financial assistance package from IPA 2014 funds, to the amount of EUR 189 million.

Minister Joksimović said that Fair's goal was to increase visibility of European external aid efforts in Serbia, ensuring that EUR 62 million is redirected to flood relief out of EUR 179 million, and additional 10 million applied for together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, whereas the rest is aimed at strengthening of public administration, rule of law and migration policy, energy, education and innovation.

Press conference and the public-private Forum held at Novi Sad's Agri - Fair

During the 82nd International Agricultural Fair, held from 9 to 15th May 2015 in Novi Sad, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Veterinary Directorate and the EU Delegation in Serbia jointly held a press conference dedicated to the presentation of results of the **EU funded project "Capacity building of the national animal compensation fund and other services"**, implemented by ECG-led consortium. The conference presented the results and plans for the formation of future compensation fund which would cover for damages caused by diseases in domestic animals.

As pointed out by **the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Zeljko Radosevic** - the primary goal of establishing the National Compensation Fund is a mutual support, cooperation and financial responsibility that should be divided between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and other participants - stakeholders (private sector) in the event of an outbreak of animal diseases.



Public-private forum at the 82. International Agricultural Fair

EU announced a new agreement on financial assistance package from IPA 2014 funds in the amount of 189M EUR.

Goal of establishing the National Compensation Fund is mutual support, cooperation and financial responsibility divided between the Government and other participants - stakeholders (private sector) in the event of an outbreak of animal diseases.

He has also stated that the Republic of Serbia has already built an effective mechanism of compensation for certain animal diseases, however a unique model relevant for our circumstance should be implemented in order to ensure sustainable and adequate level of support for livestock breeding.

Mr. Oskar Benedikt, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Serbia, added that the EU gives high priority to the prevention and control of animal diseases through defining common legislation in this area. Mr. Benedikt stressed that the EU also pays great attention to responsibility and cost sharing in the sense that the government, industry and growers must demonstrate their responsibility by taking over their duties in the process of meat production.

Public private forum (a discussion session) was organized after the press conference, in the presence and with participation of representatives of stakeholders (producers and their associations, insurance companies and representatives of state agencies) interested in establishing this fund.

At the forum, **Dr. Dejan Bugarski, acting Director of the Veterinary Department and Dr. Mirzet Sabirovic, project Team leader**, explained the concept of the compensation fund and opened discussion on preliminary results of the project team work. This first concept essentially presents two main legislative approaches, with a total of five sub-models for cost sharing and accumulation of assets within the fund, while the conclusions were that the proposed model should be further developed for finding the best solution suitable for Serbia.

Supporting the protection of Intellectual Property rights in BIH

A series of three awareness raising workshops on the importance of industrial property were organized in Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar during February 2015, as part of the project **“Capacity building of the Institute for Intellectual Property through the establishment of information-educational centers of the Institute”**.

The series of workshops were intended to offer to the whole network of specialists from both GOs and NGOs dealing with innovation and IP or IP related matters, enabling the target audience that once the basic concept of IP are presented, to be able to incorporate them in their strategy to facilitate, support and use IP as a tool of innovation and transfer of technology.



Workshops on the importance of industrial property

EU gives high priority to the prevention and control of animal diseases through defining common legislation in the veterinary area. Government, industry and growers must demonstrate responsibility by taking over their obligations in the process of meat production.

One of the major issues in the field of IP protection is a lack of skilled professionals in the field and, in certain cases, the ability of the inventors to seek assistance, which needs to be overcome by establishing the information centres and continuous education in providing motivation, guidance and understanding of the topic and tangling the existing issues.

Within this project a series of three Round-table sessions titled “Role and Importance of IP in the performance management of innovation in universities, research institutes and companies” have been organized during March 2015, the objective being to improve cooperation and prepare a training plan for these institutions.



PATLIB Conference held in Munich

Representatives of Institute for Intellectual Property Of Bosnia And Herzegovina at the PATLIB Conference participated in 2015 PATLIB Event implemented in Munich, an annual event established to provide unique training opportunities and a forum for the staff of regional patent information centres to work together on issues of common interest.

Major problem in protection of IP rights - lack of skilled professionals in the field and the ability of the inventors to seek assistance.

The anti-corruption strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted

The Council of Ministers, at its session on 7 May 2015, adopted the **Strategy for Combating corruption** in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2015-2019 and the Action Plan for its implementation and thereby determined the manner in which the fight against corruption in the country will take place in the next five years. With the adoption of the Strategy and Action Plan, according to the words of the Director of the Agency Mr. Sead Lisak, the new convocation of the Council of Ministers showed commitment to the fight against corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of the key reform priorities of the country.

FIGHTING *against* **CORRUPTION?** 

In the process of providing technical assistance to the Agency in the preparation of the Strategy and Action Plan, the Project “Support to anti-corruption” has conducted research on the effects of implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2009 - 2014, developed the methodology for the preparation of the new Strategy and Action Plan, and organized four workshops that were used for reviewing the various drafts of the strategic anti-corruption documents.

The Strategy for combating corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2015-2019 and the Action Plan for its implementation defined at the Council of Ministers on 7th May 2015.

The Strategy consists of five pillars of which the first deals with strengthening of the institutional and legal framework of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the second with the development, promotion and implementation of preventive anti-corruption activities in the public and private sector, the third with improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies in the area of the fight against corruption. The fourth focuses on raising public awareness and promoting the need for participation of the whole society in the fight against corruption and the fifth on the establishment of efficient mechanisms for coordination of the fight against corruption, as well as monitoring the implementation of the Strategy. The essence of the document is the fight against corruption at its root, by eliminating the conditions that are favorable to the emergence of corruption, rather than dealing with its consequences.

Strategy will focus on the fight against corruption at its root, by eliminating the conditions that are favorable to the emergence of corruption, rather than dealing with its consequences.

Training about the implementation of the Law on Administrative Procedures was held in Sarajevo

Within the EU funded project **“Training in Administrative Procedures in BiH”**, training for managers of administrative procedures and public administration inspectors was successfully completed in Sarajevo. They attended the interactive trainings for six days, in the period from February 20 – March 12, 2015, and had the opportunity to hear about the best practices in the implementation of the Law on Administrative Procedures.



Awarding of certificates to participants of the training

“Training in Administrative Procedures in BiH” project enabled training for managers of administrative procedures and public administration inspectors in Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Certificates were awarded upon successful completion of vocational training, and the participants pointed out in their evaluation that “training was excellent” & “very efficient seminar, I would like to thank to all the experts who passed on their experience to us.”

The project will continue with the further implementation of trainings in Sarajevo for the remaining 6 groups, and then move to Mostar (4 groups) and Banja Luka (6 groups) before ending training cycle for the planned 1,500 civil servants at all levels in BiH, while the EU Delegation announced that the project will be extended, due to excellent results and high impact.

Achievements of the project “Enhancing the administrative capacities of telecom and media authorities for efficient regulation of new digital and multiple play services” in Macedonia

The Project “Enhancing the administrative capacities of telecom and media authorities for efficient regulation of new digital and multiple play services” in Macedonia officially closed on 1st June 2015. An extensive set of activities was implemented in the last 21-month period (September 2013 – June 2015).

During the project, a total of 36 workshops were organized for both beneficiaries, providing for the participation of representatives of national and regional media and services providers.



Quality Management system 9001:2008 was reviewed and improved during the project activities. Next to that, some of the most important achievements are assessed market analyses, improved methodology and survey for conducting market analyses.

Some of the most important project results are assessed market analyses, improved methodology and survey for conducting market analyses .

More about project's achievements at: <http://www.hd-ecg.com/dok/1432804508.pdf>

CEED Slovenia – CEED Serbia B2B meetings

CEED Slovenia initiated this year's B2B meeting with CEED Serbia, with the aim of meeting and connecting Serbian and Slovenian business owners. This event was highly successful, connecting around fifty participants from both countries who were looking for new business opportunities in either country. This event was a unique opportunity to mingle up and establish business contacts relevant for future cooperation, through CEED's established methods: speed dating and 1:1 business meetings.



CEED Serbia continues to support the development of entrepreneurship and SME Growth in the local and regional markets, considering these one of the pillars of future economic growth.

CEED Slovenia and CEED Serbia organized a B2B networking event at Belgrade's Impact Hub, providing new business opportunities for the participants from both countries.

Students of the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, visit ECG

ECG hosted a group of students of Economics from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, who visited us earlier this May, as part of their study tour dedicated to learning about Serbian market circumstances, and considering how the integration process of Serbia is influencing local business practices.

Students posed various and very interesting questions about such topics as what changes occurred in the regulatory institutions since Serbia became an EU candidate member, how the accession process is changing the current trade patterns, influence of culture on business practices, and HR questions such as characteristics of the Serbian labor force, developments and education systems, and especially the problem of brain drain and how Serbia is fighting it.



ECG becomes certified for application of ISO 27001:2013 Standard



ISO 27001 Information Security and data protection are in today's world key concerns for organizations globally. Those businesses who safeguard their and their clients' data against potential threats ensure that the quality, safety and service reliability is continually delivered to clients.

ISO 27001 is a robust international standard recognized globally for managing risks related to the security of information held by the businesses. Certification to ISO 27001 ISMS provides proof for clients and other stakeholders that we manage the security of information in our possession. This standard provides a set of standardized requirements for establishing, implementing, operating, reviewing, maintaining, and improving ISMS.

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