

SME in Focus: Financing For Growth Conference

In order to use the available EU funds more efficiently Serbia needs to invest efforts into educating the entrepreneurs about the methodology of project proposals, networking with potential partners in the region and Europe-wide, as well as the funds available to SMEs that can support their growth and development. To participate in EU projects a company needs to present the appropriate experience, partners and good references.



SMEs in Serbia are the primary source of the economic growth, and they can access a number of funding opportunities. They are often not aware of this. Currently the ratio of using own resources as compared to external ones is around 3:1. This leads to conclusion that SMEs need to be better informed of the various funding sources available to them.

CEED's "Financing for Growth" conference, organized in Belgrade's Impact Hub by European Consulting Group and Serbian Association of Business Women, sponsored by ERSTE bank Serbia, offered to entrepreneurs and other stakeholders exceptional opportunity to get in direct contact with the representatives of the funding institutions and participate in panel discussions, establishing the points of common interest and focusing on the funding source most appropriate for them. The three panels focused on EU funds and programs, commercial bank programs and venture capital options.

Key note speaker, Mr. Ante Babic, presented the Croatian accession experience to the audience, and noted that Serbian SMEs should prepare for the new lines of funding that will shortly become available to them. Among them are programs such as IPARD and COSME. The subsequent addresses were offered by representatives of the Ministry of Economy of Serbia, and the Chamber of Commerce, as they are key institutions that additionally support SME growth in Serbia through their own programs.



According to Danijel Pantic, Director of European Consulting Group, the potential to use the EU funds also lies in the Serbian expatriate community. They can easily access EU funds in their countries of residence if they choose to open a representative office in Serbia.

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Once Serbia becomes a member state, it will be able to start using EU structural funds; SMEs will be able to use extensively more resources, while at the same time the competition will increase. Overcoming administrative obstacles is now a priority for Serbia in order to achieve successful positioning of Serbian SMEs on the European market in the next phase of EU integrations.



National Conference “Serbia one step to eradication of rabies” held in Belgrade



Risk of rabies in Serbia is on historical minimum

The risk of rabies in Serbia among the wild animal population is on its historical minimum. This was one of the key conclusions at the National Conference “Serbia one step closer to eradication of rabies”, held on the World Rabies Day, 28th September 2015, in Belgrade.

A program for prevention and control of rabies, supported by the European Union, has been active in Serbia for years. The most obvious results are that there are now only three cases of rabies in the wildlife population recorded during 2014 and 2015. **The last case of rabies in domestic animals was recorded in 2012.** Thanks to EU technical assistance projects, a new strategy for combating rabies 2015-2022 proposes effective monitoring of vaccination and its efficiency among domestic and wild carnivores, as well as raising the level of preparedness for managing outbreaks, including public awareness.



Working atmosphere at Crowne Plaza

The risk of rabies in Serbia among the wild animal population is on its historical minimum.

Conference participants were introduced to the system of protection against rabies in human population in Serbia, methodology for monitoring of fox oral vaccination, the role of hunters and veterinary services, the regional circumstances in the Western Balkans, and activities of the current EU capacity building project related to rabies, classical swine fever and national compensation fund. The Veterinary Directorate announced a series of training sessions that were to be organized throughout Serbia, in cooperation with this TA project, in order to better implement measures in combating infectious diseases, especially rabies and classical swine fever.



The National Conference was a part of the complex two-year project "Capacity building for development of Animal Disease Compensation Fund and other services", provided by the Veterinary Directorate with technical and financial support of the European Union. The Project is implemented by European Consulting Group in Consortium with Tragsatec, IAK, and Ankey.

Further information about this project at: <http://www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/projekti/fond>

A new round of trainings within TAP project in Republika Srpska completed

Certificates for 150 managers of administrative procedures and inspectors

A new line of training for managers of administrative procedures and public administration inspectors from Republika Srpska was closed in Banja Luka where during the period 14th September – 22nd October 2015, seven groups (around 150 participants) of Managers and inspectors received certificates of completion.

The interactive six-days-long training offers insight into new practices in implementation of the Law on Administrative Procedures. The entire training programme started in March 2014 while the project will continue with implementation until April 2016, when all the planned trainings will end.



Certificates awarded to participants.

The Project objective is to contribute to a reformed, efficient, transparent and service-oriented public administration. It is aimed at the Managers of administrative procedures and inspectors in public administration at all four administrative levels in BiH (State, Entities and District) for effective supervision and administrative decision-making processes.



Participants in training

Further information at: www.tap-eu.ba

Danijel Pantić at the Fifth Agricultural Forum „Food for Europe“ in Subotica



ECG managing director and member of the Board of Serbian Association of Managers, Mr. Danijel Pantić, held a presentation at the Fifth Agricultural Forum „Food for Europe“ in Subotica. The Forum was held under the slogan “Serbian Agro economy lin the pre-accession period” and it lasted from 15. to 17. october in congress hotel „Galerija“ in Subotica.

This year's Forum introduced the following topics: Has the Strategy for agriculture and rural development been implemented? What are the results of privatization and foreign investment in Serbian agro economy? Who will own the land? Why doesn't the export of food products grow? Financing in Agriculture; How to activate the potential food markets for Serbian producers?

The participants agreed that an efficient development will count on cooperation between all the public and private sector stakeholders, as **agri-business in Serbia has been an underutilized potential for years despite its strategic role in the Serbian economy.**

More information available at: www.ecinst.org.rs

Agri-business in Serbia has been an underutilized potential for years despite its strategic role in the Serbian economy.

Women in business - regional B2B event

Women entrepreneurs from Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo, meet at a Seed Dating Session After the Conference

Belgrade, 22.9.2015. – Within the Regional Economic Growth project “Women in business” funded by USAID, a regional B2B event was organized with the goal to further support development of women entrepreneurship in the region. The event was organized at ICT HUB, the business incubator for technological entrepreneurship, locally supported by HD European consulting group and Association of Business Women in Serbia.



Women entrepreneurs networked extensively during the B2B event after the conference.



– We have focused on working with female entrepreneurs not only because of the specific issues they face in starting and growing businesses. Our work in supporting women entrepreneurs is also driven by the knowledge that supporting women’s economic empowerment is critical to supporting economic growth across the region. Through our work with women empowerment worldwide, we have seen that women have tremendous potential to contribute to growth in their economies and societies – stated Ms. Aneda Ward, Financial and Administrative Management Office Director of USAID.

After numerous training sessions organized in Belgrade, Vranje and Subotica, the participating ladies had an opportunity to learn more about the business conditions and the financial support available for women entrepreneurs in Serbia. Successful stories have been shared, helping others to deal with their problems more effectively and to inspire them for new achievements.

Women entrepreneurs from Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo actively networked during the B2B meeting and agreeing jointly that they can significantly contribute to overcoming a number of economic and political obstacles in the region, and promote understanding and cooperation for enhanced economic growth.

“Technology Dissemination System and the Role of Intellectual Property Rights”

Conference on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer



SARAJEVO, 02 July 2015 – The Conference **Technology Dissemination System and the Role of Intellectual Property Rights**, organised by the EU funded project Capacity Building of the Institute for Intellectual Property through the Establishment of Informational-Educational Centres of the Institute (CBIIP) begins today in Hotel Hollywood.

This conference gathered most prominent stakeholders in the area of intellectual and industrial property in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), a community of organisations, including representatives of innovation centres, small and medium-enterprises (SMEs), clusters and universities, who, although not directly involved in creating innovation are considered to support and enhance the innovation and transfer of technology and are the facilitators of innovation and transfer of technology.

The Conference hosted three international speakers, Mr. Vladimir Yossifov, the previous director in the World Intellectual Property Organisation – WIPO; Prof. D. Habip Asan, President of the Turkish Patent Institute (TPE); and Mr. Johannes Werner, Head of International Relations of the Austrian Patent Office. These speakers contributed to the exchange of information by discussing the intellectual property innovation systems along with a particular focus on the latest developments and innovative services of the technology transfer system in their countries.

The current situation in BiH on the innovation system and intellectual property involvement was chaired by Ms. Lidija Vignjevic, Director of the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina and was covered by three speakers from the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Development (INTERA) Technology Park Mostar, the Innovation Centre Banja Luka (ICBL) and the University of Travnik.



The aim of the EU-funded project, Capacity Building of the Institute for Intellectual Property through the Establishment of Information-Education Centres of the Institute (CBIIP) is to raise the capacity of the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) through the establishment of three Information-Education Centres (IECs) within the Institute. The IECs will provide significant support to the users of the intellectual property system in BiH as well as increase the overall knowledge and understanding of the intellectual property culture and innovation in the country.

Our project is to raise the capacities of the Institute for IP of BiH through establishment of three information and education centers within the Institute.

Trainings and workshops in the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications (MTTT)

On the road to drafting the law on services

Within the first public procurement project implemented by ECG, the team of three key project experts – Konstantinos Bouas, Marija Karanikic Miric, Dragan Jeremic, have held a series of trainings and workshops for the employees of the Ministry of TTT and wider professional public. In this phase training goals were to inform, educate and open wider discussions regarding the main output of the project – Draft Law on Services.

The overall objective of this project is to support the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications (MTTT) of the Republic of Serbia in the process of harmonizing the national legislation to the Acquis communautaire. More specifically, the project focuses on the provision of technical support regarding the transposition of the Directive 2006/123 EC (better known as Services Directive), both in legal as well as in policy terms. This project will produce several key results:



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- Analysis of state regulation in the area of services, subject of the Services Directive (Directive 2006/123 / EC), and compilation of all regulations and compliance analysis
- recommendations for short - mid-term development and objectives of long-term development of the services sector
- Comparative analysis of best practices of the Point of single contact in three EU member states, and Creation of a concept for a new Information system of services for effective decision making.

Serbia is harmonizing national legislation to the Acquis communautaire in regards transposition of the Directive 2006/123EC.

Other news regarding Strengthening the Services Sector project



The Public hearings related to the Draft Law on Services took place on 20th November, 2015 in Belgrade, with Ms. Vesna Kovac, State Secretary in The Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunication, introducing the work that has been done jointly by the “Strengthening Services Sector” project team and the Working Group from the MTTT.

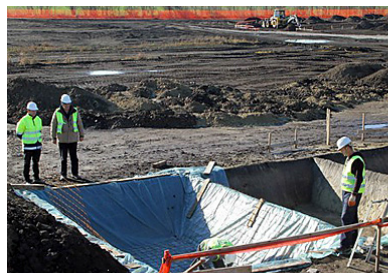
New regional landfill opens in 2017

A building permit handed to the facility

A new waste management concept that educates citizens to significantly reduce municipal waste will be applied with the construction of Regional Landfill in Subotica, serving a total of six municipalities.

Around 19.5 million euro was provided from the IPA funds to the Ministry of Environmental Protection, who reserved the sum of 3.2 million euro for the construction of four transfer stations, while the member municipalities contributed with EUR 700,000 each.

Regional Landfill in Subotica should be put into operation in 2017.



A new waste management concept that educates citizens to significantly reduce municipal waste will be applied through the construction of the regional landfill in Subotica, serving 6 municipalities.



Construction of this Regional Landfill should enhance the quality of life for 260,000 people living in Subotica and neighboring municipalities of Backa Topola, Mali Idjos, Coka, Kanjiza, Novi Knezevac and Senta. The construction works commenced July 2015, and the deadline for delivery is 28th February 2017.



This regional landfill is under construction at the location of Bikovacki put, two kilometers away from Orom. Construction of aforementioned facility will solve the ongoing issues with waste disposal in seven municipalities of Backa and Potisje. It will be the ninth regional waste management center in Serbia, while it is planned to build a total of 26 such centres by 2028.

With the implementation of the project 'Construction of Regional Landfill in Subotica', a comprehensive system of final disposal of municipal waste by EU standards, in line with the National Strategy for Waste Management 2010-2019, will be applied for the first time in Serbia.

This project is implemented by the Consortium led by Portuguese consulting company Consulgal, where European Consulting Group is in charge of offering local and institutional support, designing the financial part of the business plan for this regional landfill, and monitoring of the tendering procedures and the plant construction process.

Links

www.tap-eu.ba/

www.ceed-serbia.org

www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/projekti/

www.pak.ba

www.hrmis.rs

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