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Ongoing EU Integration Processes in Serbia

The past six months have been especially dynamic when it comes to the process of European integration for the Republic of Serbia. In the report presented to Serbian officials on 10th October 2012, the European Commission has commended the efforts of the Republic of Serbia in the areas of judicial reform and reappointment of Ombudsman, requesting on the other side further improvement of legal framework for NBS, harmonizing relations with Pristina and implementation of agreements and progress in Vojvodina's competences and financing.

In preparation for the decision of the European Council the Government of Serbia has adopted an Action Plan for the implementation of recommendations of the European Commission for progression toward the European integration on 06th December in order to encourage further dialogue with Pristina, and implement measures that will further boost fight against corruption and organized crime, and judicial reform. On the other side better control over the problem of unjustified asylum claims of Serbian citizens and the right of access to sensitive data and files are further requested.

At the meeting held on 11th December foreign ministers of the EU member states have concluded that the European Council during the first half of next year will propose initiation of negotiations with Serbia, provided that Serbia continues with reforms and sufficient progress in dialogue with Pristina is made. ■

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2012/package/sr_rapport_2012_en.pdf 

The Serbian Anti-corruption Forum

On November 21, 2012 the project *Support to the Establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency* hosted a number of government, EUD and key stakeholder representatives at the Anti-corruption Forum held in the Palace of Serbia. Key speakers included Mr. Ivica Dačić, Serbian Prime minister, Mr. Nikola Selaković, Minister of Justice, and the EU Ambassador to Serbia Mr. Vincent Degert. Government representatives pledged to actively battle the corruption through adopting the new



Introductory Round Table at the Serbia Palace

anti-corruption strategy and introduction of zero tolerance towards this crime. After the opening statements, and presentation on the perception of corruption and the importance of the anti-corruption efforts in Serbia, the audience was directed towards three separate forums, where the problem of corruption was considered in the areas of public governance, public and private enterprise, and media and NGOs.

Project *Support to the Establishment of the Anti-Corruption Agency* (EuropeAid/128113/C/SER/RS), initiated in February 2011, is supported by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia. The project is implemented by a Consortium led by Human Dynamics, with HD European Consulting Group, Dbb akademie, and Transparency International as partners.



Opening statements were given by the Prime Minister Dačić, Ambassador Degert, and Minister of Justice Selaković

Campaign for raising awareness about rabies among schoolchildren open/ starting in Serbian schools

On the International Children's Day, 20th of November, a presentation of the danger of rabies and how to eradicate this disease was held in the *Filip Filipović primary school* in Belgrade. This is only one of the fifty schools in Serbia selected for open lectures within the project *Publicity services for Rabies and classical swine fever vaccination campaign*. Mr. Andrew Headey, who represented the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia, talked to school children about Rabies and responsible pet keeping. He declared that these lectures are a great example of EU funded programs that include civic education. Other key speakers included Mr. Dejan Krnjajić, The State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and Mr. Zoran Kostić, Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Education.

Publicity services for Rabies and classical swine fever vaccination campaign project (EuropeAid/130524/C/SER/RS) follows the activities of the parallel larger-scale project of vaccination campaigns against rabies and swine fever in Serbia. The overall goal of this project is to raise awareness among general public about the importance of animal protection against these two diseases, with the general goal of eradicating them in the region and the entire EU territory.



Mr. Andrew Headey addressing students in a campaign to raise awareness of rabies among schoolchildren



Students and the State Secretary Krnjajić standing for a group photo

Children safety comes first: To date, more than **3200** students in **51** primary schools from **44** Serbian municipalities attended public presentations about prevention and control of rabies

Visit to Berlin: Leaders of **9** Bosnian NGOs visited key German public and civil sector stakeholders who deal with anti-corruption

Prison education programs start: **3** largest penitentiaries in Serbia host pilot programs for more than **500** prisoners, training them in **5** different professions

Fight against Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Enhanced by German Experience

A number of NGOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited some of the most prominent German public and civil sector institutions, such as the House of Parliament, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Transparency International Deutschland, Freie Universität Berlin FU, Europäische Akademie für städtische Umwelt, ZDF-Hauptstadtstudio (German television), Europäische Akademie für städtische Umwelt, and held meetings with DBB Akademie, a partner in the implementation of the Project.

As Germany excels in efficiency of anti-corruption measures, the visit focused on the exchange of know-how between the Bosnian and German institutions in preventing and curbing corruption, as well as establishing contacts for future cooperation with the related organizations and institutions in Germany.

This Study visit was organized in November, with participation of nine representatives of the Grant Beneficiary NGOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina. This activity was one of the five channels of providing technical assistance to the Grant Beneficiaries of the Project “*Supporting NGOs in the fight against corruption*” (EuropeAid/129253/C/SER/BA), initiated in March 2011 and closing in March 2013.



NGO representatives visiting German Parliament



Discussion at Transparency International Deutschland

Training programs Commence in Serbian Prisons

The project “*VET Support to Serbian Detention Facilities*” (EuropeAid/130043/C/SER/RS), initiates the first VET pilot training in three prisons in Serbia - Požarevac, Sremska Mitrovica and Niš. About five hundred prisoners were given the opportunity to choose between five professions: welders, printers, woodworkers, bakers and agriculture practitioners. These are the professions that have, for a long time, been scarce in the labor market of Serbia.

All teaching materials and equipment manuals have been prepared in close cooperation with the Institute for Improvement of Education. Selected teachers from VET schools went through comprehensive preparations and training, which included adult learning, student motivation, conflict management, modern strategies of teaching and learning,



Teachers going through the modular training program

monitoring and evaluation. Methods for enhancing the motivation of prisoners for further education were also addressed.

The foremost goal of this project is to develop a viable concept for the future model of vocational education and training in all institutions for execution of criminal sanctions in Serbia. In order to improve the visibility of the project, a logo and web site www.vet-kpz.rs have been developed. ■



Training of trainers at Silver Lake

Continuous Education for Cancer Screening Professionals

Implementation of the National Screening Programme for Colorectal, Cervical and Breast Cancer Project (EuropeAid/129574/C/SER/RS) hosted a series of trainings specializing in cervical, breast and colorectal cancer screening, held in the period from September to December 2012. The trainings will continue well into 2013 and will provide the Serbian public health sector with a pool of trained experts to carry out this important process in the future.

All the lectures were held by highly skilled professionals from Serbia and Slovenia. The trainings are from one to six months in length, and include theory and practice classes. Final testing is foreseen for all the trainees, as a prior verification of their acquired competence for cancer screening.

Serbia has one of the highest mortality rates due to cancer in the WHO European region. The goal of this project is to improve the implementation capacities of the Ministry of Health to battle the three most common types of cancer. Project's training component is critical, as through this comprehensive education the Ministry of Health assists national and regional institutes for public health in mobilization and motivation campaigns directed at public health services users. ■



School of cervical cytology for pathologists (testing in PAP smears reading)



Colorectal cancer screening program kick-off

The National Screening Programme initiated: **95** cervical screening medical workers, **36** colorectal screening doctors and **8** radiologists for breast screening from **12** Serbian cities receive trainings for implementation of the programme

This EU funded project was aimed at capacity building and technical support to the Ministry of Finance and Economy – Department for Tourism was assisted by more than **25** international and local experts, through **3** blocks of trainings and certification of tourism professionals; **24** workshops in the area of tourism strategy revision, investment and SMEs

ECG awarded with two EU funded project in 2012, one in Serbia and one in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tourism Development Strategy

On 22nd August in the conference room of the *Aeroclub* in Belgrade, a Final Conference was organized for the project *Support to Implementation of the National Strategy for Tourism*. The project was formally finished and the conference was an opportunity to review the results of the project and emphasize major achievements of the project team, MoFE, EU Delegation and project stakeholders. Head of Operations II from the EU Delegation, Mr. Gomez Gomez addressed the gathering emphasizing that there were key questions that the project stakeholders have to ask themselves at the end of this important project, focusing on the status of the Tourism Strategy in Serbia and the future tourism development.

This project (EuropeAid/126/C/SER/RS) was successfully implemented by HD European Consulting Group between May 2010 and August 2012, producing among its results amendments to the National Strategy for Tourism Development, raising the capacities of the National Corporation for Tourism Development, and increasing awareness of population regarding the importance and potential economic benefit from tourism in Serbia, while providing training to tourism professionals throughout the country at the cross-sectorial principle. ■



State Secretary Petković commending project outcomes at the final conference



Mr. Gomez Gomez speaking about the great economic potential of the tourism sector in Serbia and the entire region

New Business:

We have recently been awarded and started with the implementation of the two new projects. The first one, in Serbia, *Further Integration of Forecasting, Monitoring and Evaluation in the Design and Implementation of Active Labour market Policies and Adjustment of National Classification of Occupations to ISCO 08 standards* (EuropeAid/131428/C/SER/RS), was launched on 5th September 2012. This project in its three components addresses: forecasting labour market needs and evaluation of active labour market measures, assistance to preparation of the National Employment Action Plans for 2014 and 2015, and adjustment of the national classification of occupations to ISCO 08. The project office was formed in the premises of the National Employment Service. The project is expected to last for 24 months and end in September 2014. The main project beneficiaries are the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy and the National Employment Service of the Republic of Serbia. The overall objective of the project is to improve the impact of Serbian employment policy.

The second project, *Institutional Capacity Development of Three Innovation Centers and the Research Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (EuopeAid/129575/C/SER/BA), started in October 2012. This project has three major components: to strengthen the innovation system in BiH through support to and development of three innovation centers, to further assist and strengthen the capabilities of the MOCA and the entity ministries to design and implement support measures assisting universities, public research organizations and business to undertake research and innovation projects, and to support the execution of the action plan of the STI Statistics Manual for BiH in order to ensure that BiH provides the minimum set of statistics required by Eurostat/OECD by 2015. The overall objective of the project is to improve the competitiveness and productivity of the scientific community and economic impact of BiH to be able to participate more actively in the European research area and to be more involved in international scientific cooperation through the FP, COST and EUREKA programmes. ■

New Staff

Our team of professionals welcomes a new member, **Mr. Milan Simić**, who joined us earlier this year on the position of Business Development Manager. Milan holds multiple certifications in project management, including PMP certificate from the PM Institute and PRINCE2 certificate, and has substantial experience in drafting and managing project funded by various development organizations, such as UNDP, EU, USAID etc. "I am delighted to be a part of this successful and dynamic team, especially bearing in mind that ECG is currently a leader in the region in TA project management services" Milan said. ■



LINKS

www.hd-ecg.com
www.vet-kpz.rs
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Cooperation with the Faculty of Organizational Sciences

"HD European Consulting Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty of Organizational Sciences (FON) in October 2012, which anticipates collaboration and assistance between the two institutions in a number of activities. As part of this agreement, HD ECG shall bring a number of guest speakers who will share their experience and knowledge in the area of EU and related project management to FON, contributing to students' understanding of EU enlargement processes. Furthermore, we plan to initiate closer cooperation with the Faculty regarding students majoring in Project Management, offering them an opportunity to experience real-life situations through working and learning at HD ECG as interns." ■

