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Serbia against Cancer

The first National conference 'Serbia against Cancer' was held on June 4th 2013 in Sava Center, Belgrade. It served primarily as a platform for the presentation of final results of the project implemented by ECG "Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the National Screening Programme for cancer" funded by the European Union pre-accession funds for Serbia with 1.8 million Eur. The conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Serbia, Ivica Dacic, and speakers included the Minister of Health of Serbia, Prof. Dr. Slavica Djukic Dejanovic, EU Delegation Ambassador, Dr. Vincent Degert, Project Team Leader Prof.Dr. Dusan Keber, and Prof.Dr. Jean Faivre. The conference was attended by health professionals and representatives of local governments from Serbia who are taking part in the project implementation, in addition to the project team members and partners.



Serbian Prime Minister Mr. Ivica Dacic, opening the conference



Minister of Health, Prof.Dr.Dejanovic, with Project Team Leader, Prof.Dr.Keber, and Ambassador of the EU Delegation in Serbia, Mr. Degert

Technical preparations within the Serbian health system for implementing the national program 'Serbia against Cancer' have been successfully completed and healthcare facilities are now ready to begin the first cycle of cancer screening. The goal of the national program is the introduction and promotion of organized screening for early detection of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer in the Republic of Serbia. As emphasized at the conference, and following the successful implementation of the project, the health system of Serbia is now fully competent to carry out the cycle of screening for cancer.

The project "Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the National Screening Programme for cancer" (EuropeAid/129574/C/SER/RS) was successfully implemented by ECG in Serbia during two years. The project resulted in the permanent establishment of a National Cancer Screening Office, and the following results were achieved: Strengthening Public Health capacities of the Serbian public health institutions; Strengthening human resources for cancer screening; Assisting the Ministry of Health in awareness raising awareness and mobilization campaigns. The project included participation of public health institutes throughout Serbia, and great focus was placed on the training of key staff involved in the operation of national cancer screening programmes.

For more information about the project, please view: <http://www.screeningserbia.rs/>

The project is of great significance for the reform of the national system for blood transfusion of Macedonia

Since the start of the project, the number of cases of rabies has significantly diminished, with only **3** cases registered in 2012

Strengthening of the Blood Safety System in Macedonia

An opening conference marked the launch of the EU-funded project “*Strengthening of the Blood Safety System*” implemented by ECG in consortium with Epos Health Management and the Serbian Institute for Blood Transfusion, in cooperation with the Ministry for Health of Macedonia. The event took place on May 29th 2013 at the EU InfoCentre of the Delegation of the European Union in Skopje, Macedonia. Project stakeholders were welcomed by the EU Ambassador Aivo Orav, Nikola Todorov, Minister of Health, and Hendrik W. Reesink, Team Leader of the project.



Strengthening of the Blood Safety System in Macedonia

Financial assistance for this project is provided by the EU through IPA in the amount of €438.700 which will further strengthen the system through its two segments: staff training and purchase of equipment. The project is of great significance for the reform of the national system of transfusion, and for the provision of sufficient quantities of safe blood and blood components for all patients of public and private health institutions. The project's purpose is to provide quality, efficient and continuous care of the population ensuring safety of blood and blood components, as well as protecting the public against contagious diseases.

Publicity services for rabies and classical swine fever vaccination campaigns in Serbia

The project's successful finalization was marked on May 23th 2013 with a gala cocktail party held at the International Agricultural Fair in Novi Sad, Serbia. Guests and media were welcomed at the project booth by the project team, speakers Ms. Zorica Novakovic, coordinator of operations at the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Mr. Andrew Headey, Head of Operations Section III of the EU Delegation in Serbia.

The project “*Publicity services for rabies and classical swine fever vaccination campaigns*” (EuropeAid/130524/C/SER/RS) funded by the EU with €582.000, was successfully implemented during two years in order to support the improvement of animal health in Serbia through the development and implementation of national strategies to eradicate, control and monitor rabies in foxes and to eradicate, control and monitor Classical Swine Fever (CSF) in pig population as well to prevent the spread of CSF from feral pig population to domestic pig, thus improving the prospects for trade of agricultural products. The project achieved significant results through comprehensive



Head of Operations Section III of the EU Delegation in Serbia, Mr. Andrew Headey

public awareness campaigns: overall improvement of the knowledge of the general public and target groups in Serbia regarding the risk of rabies and CSF, and the announcement/information about the process of control and eradication of rabies and CSF in Serbia, generating widespread consensus on the topic.

For more information about the project, please access: <http://www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/projekti/besnilo/?lng=lat>

Support to Evidence-based Employment Policy Creation

European Consulting Group, alongside its consortium partners is currently engaged in the implementation of the EU-funded project "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" in the Republic of Serbia. The main aim 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.

During the month of April, numerous activities were carried out, including two comprehensive surveys which were launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, in cooperation with the National Employment Service and the project team. These surveys will provide a clear image of the current labour market situation and give support to employment policy improvement and responsiveness of educational institutions to the needs of the labour market. In particular, the first survey covered over 10.000 employers and targeted exploration of the required employees' skills and possible employment niches in order to use this information for development of active measures in 2014. The last update of the current National classification of the occupation was almost 14 years ago (in 1990, and the second survey was focused on the classification of the occupations and on its modification to the international ISCO 2008 standards. The aforementioned researches were conducted by 700 trained National Employment Service Counselors, who were visited and interviewed employers and collected feedback relevant for the completion of the researches and upcoming project activities

The project "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) is funded by the European Union with an overall value of €1.200.500, managed by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia and implemented by ECG in consortium with Pole Emploi, EPRD Policy and Development and FREN. The beneficiary institutions are the Ministry for Employment, Labour and Social Policy and the National Employment Service. The implementation phase of the project began in November 2012 and will last until September 2014.

For more information about the project, please view: <http://podrskapoliticizaposljavanja.org/en/>



Ms. Ljiljana Dzuver, Assistant Minister in the area of employment, Mr. Zoran Martinovic, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, and Mr. Jose Antonio Gomez, Head of Operations II Section, EU Delegation – press conference and project presentation held 15th April at the Media Center in Belgrade

675 counselors
trained in relation to
employer surveys
and research on job
occupations

Up until now, 145 convicted persons from three detention facilities in Serbia have successfully completed training and obtained a certificate, with 126 more prisoners currently attending training

VET Support to Serbian Detention Facilities – a pattern of good practice and social responsibility

More than 500 prisoners in three Serbian detention facilities in Nis, Sremska Mitovica and Pozarevac are currently participating in the vocational and educational trainings with the aim of acquiring the capabilities and skills necessary upon release and integration into the labour market. The EU-funded project “VET Support for Serbian Detention Facilities” provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration in the field of establishment sustainable system of vocational and educational training (VET) in Serbian detention facilities.



Minister of Justice and State Administration, Mr. Nikola Selakovic, head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, Ambassador Vincent Degert, and head of Administration for Execution of Penitentiary Sanctions, Mr. Milan Stevovic, during the tour of the Požarevac – Zabela prison.

Different institutions are involved in the project, with 37 National Employment Service counselors attending trainings regarding employment mediation of former prisoners. A strong focus is given to the former convicts' motivation and stimulation for job pursuit, informing employers about the possibility of hiring former convicts. After the completion of the training process, every prisoner will receive a certificate valid for employers in the Serbian labor market after their prison sentence is complete.

The project has received great community interest and widespread media attention, as the first of its kind in the Republic of Serbia and its importance exceeds national borders. Earlier this year, head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, Ambassador Vincent Degert, visited the Pozarevac-Zabela Prison, alongside the Minister of Justice and State Administration, Nikola Selakovic, and head of the Administration for Execution of Penitentiary Sanctions, Milan Stevovic. Together with journalists, they took a tour of facilities used for ongoing trainings of convicted persons in one of the five deficient vocations: welding, silk screen printing, production of furniture, bakery and production of vegetables.

The social reintegration of prisoners is important not only for their own integration into the labour market but for the entire society. In particular, the project carries profound social significance, primarily because of the prevention of criminal activity and deterrence of crime, which directly influences socio-economic circumstances. The project represents a pattern of a successful, effective and socially responsible assignment and will have profound positive long-term impact on the society. ■

More about the project activities is available here: <http://www.vet-kpz.rs/> 

Action Plans for Business Clusters presented to the public

Five actions plans for business clusters from South and Southwest Serbia, developed by ECG, were presented to the public at the cluster promotion event, on February 27th 2013, held in the American Hall of Belgrade's Youth Center. The development and presentation of the action plans

5 emerging business clusters in South and South-West Serbia open up new regional economic opportunities, for approximately **52** companies and **11** related institutions

represents the final stage of intensive business support provided to business cluster members, as well as the concluding activity of the project “*Delivery of Consultancy Services for Development of Action Plans for SME Clusters in South and South-Western Serbia*” funded by USAID. A keynote speech was delivered by H. E. Mr. Michael Kirby, Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of Serbia, who summarized the achievements and results made in this field over the course of the past six years and the cluster action plans were presented by Mr. Danijel Pantic, Managing Partner of European Consulting Group (ECG).



Managing Director of ECG, Mr. Danijel Pantic, accompanied by H. E. Mr. Michael Kirby, Ambassador of the USA to the Republic of Serbia, at the Business Cluster Promotion Event in Belgrade

The action plans for business clusters were produced within the scope of the Economic Security Project, a USAID-funded initiative, implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. The six-year project to support Serbian civil society, as well as small businesses from Sandzak and South Serbia regions has culminated with the creation of five business clusters. These are the “Asstex” association of jeans and textile producers from Novi Pazar, Prijepolje Textile Association, “Keepers of Tradition” dairy and processed meat producers’ association from Pester, Kopaonik and Golija, “Kostana Shoes” cluster from Vranje, and Presevo Construction Association.

A copy of the full Report on the project, prepared by ECG is available for download – [Report](#).

ECG awarded with “Hospital Master Planning” project in Croatia

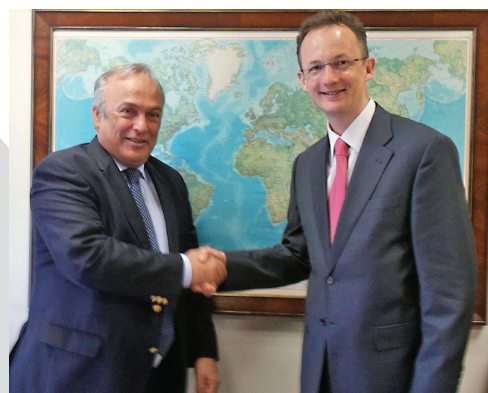
The project involves key elements in the overall health care delivery and the current health policy and strategy in Croatia

The project “*Hospital Master Planning*” is funded by the World Bank, and will be implemented by ECG in consortium with Conseil Santé and Sofreco from France over the period of six months. The project aims to develop a new Hospital Masterplan for Croatia and will consider secondary and tertiary key elements in the overall health care delivery and current generic health policy and strategy, with an emphasis on public health, health promotion, health education and wider government policies such as environment, housing, food safety, etc. The project includes the Development of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Institutional Support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for Strategic Planning. The Scope of Work of the project includes: the analysis and evaluation of currently determined national and local economic and legal factors in the field of health care, identifying and exploring enhancements to the health service delivery model and regulatory framework, preparing the Hospital Masterplan as a strategic planning framework for health service development, developing mechanisms for efficient and sustainable hospital financing, and developing/proposing an Action Plan.

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Consulgal

Managing Director of HD European Consulting Group, Mr. Danijel Pantic has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Consulgal, a Portuguese company providing engineering, project management and environmental consultancy services of excellence and one of the leading companies in the industry.

This cooperation represents a mutual synergy between the two companies and is the first step towards successful cooperation in the future. Moreover, the cooperation will enforce expansion endeavors throughout new sectors such as infrastructure and will provide a strong positioning of ECG in terms of new markets and project opportunities in the region of South East Europe and beyond.



President and CEO of Consulgal, Mr. Rogerio Monteiro Nunes, with the Managing Director of ECG, Mr. Danijel Pantic

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome **Ms. Arleta Manojlovic** as Senior Project Manager at ECG. Ms. Manojlovic has a strong background in the programming, management and implementation of EU funds, due to her previous position as Assistant Minister for Contracting and Financing (CFCU) of EU funded projects. In the course of her mandate she was nominated as Head of Contracting Authority for Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) components I-IV, directly accountable for applying for EU funds management under the Decentralised Management System. As Programme Authorizing Officer (PAO) for Technical Assistance and Institution-Building component (IPA I) and Head of Operation Structure for Regional Development component (IPA III) covering Transport, Environment and Competitiveness, she was responsible for programme preparation and coordination of 17 line ministries. Ms. Manojlovic has a detailed knowledge of project cycle management (PCM), project preparation and implementation in accordance with EU procurement rules, with special focus on PRAG rules.



LINKS



www.screeningserbia.rs/

[www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/
projekti/besnilo](http://www.vet.minpolj.gov.rs/projekti/besnilo)

[www.
podrska politicizaposljavanja.org/
en/](http://www.podrska politicizaposljavanja.org/en/)

www.vet-kpz.rs/

www.europa.rs

www.euractiv.rs

www.zdravlje.gov.rs

www.mpt.gov.rs

www.mpravde.gov.rs

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