

The Legal Aid project continues to evolve successfully

Representatives of the project "Protection and Promotion of Property Rights of Internally Displaced people, Refugees and Returnees Upon Readmission Agreements" EuropeAid/135633/IH/SER/RS, funded by the European Union and whose beneficiary is the Office for Kosovo and Metohija Government of the Republic Serbia, presented the report "Destroyed and Damaged Property of Internally Displaced People from Kosovo and Metohija" at the panel discussion held on June 5, 2017 in Belgrade.

Mr. Zoran Bojovic, the Assistant Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija emphasized that the issue of destroyed and damaged properties of IDPs from Kosovo and Metohija is one of the key issues to start from in finding durable solutions for improving the situation of this vulnerable group.



Panel discussion on the thematic report: "Destroyed and Damaged Property of Internally Displaced People from Kosovo and Metohija"

unable to get a natural restitution, should be affirmed", the expert for social and legal matters, Branislav Ristic, pointed out.

The author of the Report on fraudulent property transactions, an independent expert for social matters Ms. Mary Walsh, presented the findings of the report, main institutional obstacles for solving cases and recommendations mainly referring to increasing the capacity for the implementation of international standards in open cases.

Besides the representatives of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija and the project, the representative of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (KIRS), the UN High Commissariat for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs Sveti Spas, Balkan Center for Migration, Danish Council for Refugees, Praxis, etc.



Thematic report: "Fraudulent Property Transactions in Kosovo and Metohija"

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Mobile teams are project units consisted of junior experts and trainees, made to provide help and legal assistance to clients who are not capable to visit project offices, due to financial or health issues.

Field visits of the mobile teams

In coordination with Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, the mobile teams made organized visits to clients in Prizren, Prokuplje, Bela Palanka, Mladenovac, Novi Sad and Gadzin Han, who address the project for legal support.

On September 1, 2017, the Nis mobile office team met with 13 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohia in Prokuplje, who have legal problems and are unable to visit the closest office of the project. The documentation for representation was collected and the team signed contracts with the parties”.



Mobile team visited the parties in Mladenovac



Mobile team in Novi Sad

Supervision of Construction of Subotica and Kalenic Regional Waste Management Centres, EuropeAid/133972/C/SER/RS

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the achievement of the National Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019 of Republic of Serbia and EU Directives on Waste Management and Environment Protection, in turn leading to a better state of environment and public health. European Consulting Group is one of the partner in consortium who is implementing this project.

Completed works on connection of regional system facilities to basic infrastructure

In the final phase of the construction of the Regional Waste Management Center in Subotica, all connections for the future smooth operation of all facilities of this complex system have been built. At the site of the sanitary landfill in Bikov, works have been completed that enable connection of the system to the electricity and telecommunications network.

At the end of June and early July 2017, testing of transfer stations in Senta, Kanjiža and Backa Topola were successfully completed. After the complete construction and equipping of transfer stations in these municipalities, which were also waste collection centers, five-day testing of each station started. Testing has shown that the transfer stations are fully ready for accepting waste.



Construction of a landfill in Subotica

In the regional concept of waste management, transfer stations play a very important role because they convert and compact not only mixed but also recyclable waste, which makes the transportation costs of the waste completely rationalized."

EU INFO Centre and EU INFO Points in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The consortium led by ECG started in June 1, 2017 the implementation of the EU funded project "Management of EU Info Centre and EU Info Points 2017 – 2018" EuropeAid/138056/DH/SER/BA, or the Delegation of the EU in Bosnia and Herzegovina, acting as a beneficiary and contracting authority.

EU Info Centre marked the "European Researchers' Night" held on last Friday in September



European Researchers Night in BiH

The EU Info centre dedicated its participation in this year's European Researchers' Night to female scientists. Throughout the night two actresses featuring Marie Curie and Mileva Maric, thru experiments and interactive games, showed that women stand behind some of the most important scientific discoveries.

European Language Day: Languages are learned quickly

Since 2001, the European Day of Languages has been celebrating each year on September 26th across Europe. This year, students of elementary and high schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina learn about the rich heritage of European languages with “speedboats”.



European Language Day

European Mobility Week: Cycling becoming a more popular shared means of transport in BiH

During European Mobility Week, from 16 to 22 September, the EU Info Centre in BiH organised many activities to highlight the importance of use of alternative and shared means of transport, under the slogan “**Sharing gets you further**”. Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative in BiH also took part in riding bicycles and supported this event.



European Mobility Week in BiH

Erasmus students from BiH are the most compelling ambassadors of their country

"The European's Union's Erasmus Programme" gives young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina an important opportunity to understand the EU and to develop professional skills at the same time, "stated Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative in BiH, addressing BiH students who are joining the Erasmus Programme this year at a pre-departure event organised in the EU Info Centre in Sarajevo on 7 July.



Erasmus students from BiH

Young people offered 100 meters of solutions

On November 4th, at the event "One meter of problems - 100 meters of solutions" organized in Sarajevo and Banja Luka by the EU Info Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina, students from all over the BiH offered solutions for problems they face every day and wrote them on a hundred meters of canvas.

Solutions were put forward by primary, high school and university students as well as representatives of nongovernmental organizations from Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Kakanj, Zenica, Brčko, Prijedor, Bihać, Bijeljina, Visoko, Teslić and Kotor Varoš. They wrote down their ideas on how to solve the everyday problems they are faced with on a hundred meters of canvas.



Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark on Twitter: "Listen to how young people accros BiH want a country free on corruption and with better environment, education and employment".

The final Phase of the Project “Increasing the effectiveness of Employment Policies Towards Disadvantaged Groups”

European Consulting Group, alongside with Summit Consulting Services as leader, is implementing three LOT's within the Project “Increasing the effectiveness of Employment Policies Towards Disadvantaged Groups”, and the LOT which provided trainings for unemployed in the sectors of economics, administration, trade and hotels & restaurants is in its final phase.

The Following information concerning results of the implementation Training program in response to labor market needs, within the project “Increasing the Effectiveness of employment Policies Towards Disadvantaged Groups”, during the **period June-October 2017**.

LOT 4 **Ref. Number: 0045-4049-25/2016**, is finished as the draft of final report which is forwarded for approval PIU. It had 28 trainings and 237 successful participants. LOT 3 **Ref. Number: 0045-4049-24/2016**, had 133 successful participants within 17 trainings. There are 3 training courses more and



Assistant cook in Vranje

26 trainees by the completion of LOT 3. Last training will end on November the 4th. LOT 2 **Ref. Number: 0045-4049-33/2016**, had 257 successful participants through 34 trainings. There are 8 trainings left with 118 trainees. On November the 2nd, the final report draft will be started. The average rating of the trainers on LOT 3 and LOT 2 was 4.8, which is on an enviable level and the expectations are that they will remain excellent.

On November 2nd, 2017, in Summit Consulting Services offices, a Steering Committee Meeting was held. The meeting was attended by the members of NES, PIU, director of Serbian Association of Employers and consortium members. The general conclusion was that project results were extremely successful. Steering Committee approved the Final report and with that LOT4 is officially finished.



LOT 2, Company YUMCO

Results on the Labour market are visible through decreasing number of unemployed persons. In Vranje two participants got a job. These women had training in cutting and sewing for the company YUMCO. Outcome of their work was excellent so after successfully finished training, they started to work.

The overall project covers the provision of trainings courses in response to labor market needs, through three LOTs.

Entrance of Serbia and Montenegro in the European Union in 2025?

Juncker in the 2017 State of the EU: We must maintain a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans

In his State of the Union address, in which he presented his priorities for the year ahead and outlined his vision for how the European Union could evolve by 2025, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker reconfirmed and strengthened the EU's unequivocal support for their enlargement perspective.



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

"If we want more stability in our neighborhood, then we must maintain a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans. There will be no further enlargement during the mandate of this Commission and this Parliament. No candidate is ready yet. But thereafter the European Union will be greater than 27 in number. Accession candidates must give the rule of law, justice and fundamental rights utmost priority," said President Juncker.

In the Letter of Intent sent to the President of the European Parliament Tajani and Estonian Prime Minister Ratas, President Juncker expressed his intention to launch "a Strategy for a successful EU accession of Serbia and Montenegro as frontrunner candidates in the Western Balkans" with a 2025 perspective, as one of the initiatives to make the Union a stronger global actor. The Strategy should have a "particular emphasis on the rule of law, fundamental rights and the fight against corruption and on the overall stability of the region".

His speech represents the first occasion when an EU representative mentioned even a possible date for EU's future enlargement - 14 years since the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Thessaloniki, almost 8 years since Serbia lodged its membership application, and 4 years since the accession negotiations with the EU were opened.

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Active mobility in “Factory Discussions”

Danijel Pantic, the Director of ECG and one of the founders of the “Hrast” Association, held a lecture on “ACTIVE MOBILITY - Bike to Better Health, Greater Freedom and Healthy Environment” on October 12, 2017 in “Fabric”.



Danijel Pantic, Director of ECG

During this lecture, visitors had the opportunity to get to know one of the leading causes of health problems today, as well as the benefits of cycling and the impact of this type of activity on health, the environment and the economy.

After reviewing the basic data, statistics and advantages of using this type of transport, the topics of the discussion were poor infrastructure when cycling was in question, as well as the possibilities of advancing and solving the current problems of preserving both the health of the citizens and the environment. The conclusion of the discussion is that a regulatory framework and infrastructure must be created and that the cooperation of the traffic and health sectors must be upgraded to improve the public health indicators.

Due to traffic jams and problems with the lack of parking space, which increasingly deprives the green areas, countries are turning to the construction of a cycling infrastructure, due to the fact that bicycle transport has a significant share in everyday transportation.

Also, it is recommended that the National Center of Knowledge or the Academy for Vocational Training and Skills Development be established, in active mobility of citizens.

Numerous friends and associates of the association “Hrast” attended this event, the Ambassador Dusko Lopantic, Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, of the republic of Serbia Biljana Filipovic, President of the Bicycle Association of Serbia Branko Banovic, one of the founders of the “Hrast” Association Rados Dabetic, representatives of the Centers for improvement of the culture of life and work “ŽIR”, Director of Summit Consulting Services Zoran Mihailovic, and many others.