

## Welcome to ECG Summit Highlights of 2020

### Note from Director, Danijel Pantic

To say that 2020 was a challenging year, might be an understatement. It was a year of world-changing moments, paradigm-shifting developments for public health and global economy. With the coronavirus pandemic still raging even at the year's end, there are still many concerns about what will come next.



Despite the challenges and uncertainties this year presented, we are pleased to say that ECG has continued to support our public sector clients during these challenging times, continuing with project activities, assisting with digital and virtual modes of delivering trainings and other project activities. All three projects where ECG is a lead company continued with project activities adjusting to new work conditions and responding to EU Delegations and Contracting Authorities in timely fashion. It has helped that these projects were all in the Western Balkans region (allowing us to quickly react to the situation on the ground), two in Serbia - **"Improving Capacities of the Prison Administration in the area of Alternative Sanctions, Post Penal Care and Healthcare"** and **"Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising of rights of Internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and returnees"** - and one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, **"Support to implementing anti-corruption strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina"**.

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# ECG Summit Newsletter

Issue No/23

December 2020

*Despite the challenges and uncertainties this year presented, we are pleased to say that ECG has continued to support our public sector clients during these challenging times, continuing with project activities, assisting with digital and virtual modes of delivering trainings and other project activities.*

As a result of COVID-19, we have reassessed our health and safety measures and reevaluated our travel needs and safety of our offices. We have also made a conscious effort to support the humanitarian action of FundB92 in a fight against coronavirus in Serbia by donating to the Clinical Centre of Serbia to help improve conditions and treatment of patients during their stay in health institutions during the ongoing health pandemic. As you will read in this newsletter, we are pleased that ECG was honoured for this effort.



Despite the slowdown of new projects in the region, **ECG Summit has remained No.1 EuropeAid contractor in Serbia and maintained its AAA status. The company was part of Consortium, led by Serenas Turizm Kongre ve Organizasyon Hizmetleri Ltd. Sti. (Serenas Tourism & Organisation), which was awarded the EU funded project in Turkey "Technical Assistance for Revitalisation of the Tourism Sector in Adiyaman", EuropeAid/139608/ IH/SER/TR. Also, we are pleased to announce that ECG was part of Consortium led by REPRESENT COMMUNICATIONS which was awarded to write Communication Strategy and Action Plan for CEFTA.**

You can read more about ECG news and our project highlights in this newsletter.



## ECG Joins European Federation of Management Consultancies Associations

**feaco**

European Federation of Management Consultancies Associations  
Fédération Européenne des Associations de Conseils en Organisation

After two decades of successfully providing technical assistance of internationally funded development programs for public sector clients, we are pleased to announce that ECG Summit joined European Federation of Management Consultancies Associations (FEACO) in September 2020. This is a great acknowledgement for ECG from our colleagues in the industry as we are the only company from Serbia, and in the Western Balkans region, to be part of this organization.

FEACO, the European Federation of Management Consultancies Associations, is a not-for-profit organization established in 1960. The general purpose of FEACO is to assist in the promotion and development of the profession of Management Consultancy in Europe by providing support to its constituent National Association membership in those areas where a collective voice is stronger than the sum of its individual members.

The FEACO Procurement Committee (FPC), within the FEACO, advocates for the management consultancy industry with regard to policies and procurement, by making the FPC a credible partner for EU institutions and other key international Institutions.

*As the only Serbian management consulting company, we are happy to be active contributor, provide feedbacks and "on-the-ground experience" from the Western Balkans to Permanent Representations, EU Institutions and other IFI'S with the aim of improving the procurement regulatory framework and the implementation thereof.*

Some of the topics discussed by members this year include impact of Covid-19 on the industry, PRAG changes, OPSYS and drop in RfPs for Framework contracts in all lots.



Brussels, Belgium

*We are pleased to join European Federation of Management Consultancies Associations (FEACO) and provide feedback from the Western Balkans with the aim of improving the procurement regulatory framework and the implementation thereof.*

## ECG Led Projects Continued and Progressed Despite the Coronavirus Pandemic

*We are happy to report that despite the pandemic all three projects where ECG was a lead company continued with project activities adjusting to new work conditions and responding to EU Delegations and Contracting Authorities in timely fashion.*

2020 was unpredictable and challenging year, as an unusually complex mix of economic and geo-political factors and events unfolded in addition to the global pandemic. Concerns about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic made health and safety of our permanent staff, key experts, and non-key experts our priority while ensuring continuation of our current projects and planned activities.



Palace of Serbia, Belgrade

From the onset of the pandemic, ECG worked hard to ensure safe working conditions for staff, experts, personnel in headquarters, project offices and has implemented special health and safety regulations to deal with the ongoing health crisis.

We are happy to report that despite the pandemic all three projects where ECG was a lead company continued with project activities adjusting to new work conditions and responding to EU Delegations and Contracting Authorities in timely fashion.

Above-mentioned projects which ECG currently leads are:

***“Improving Capacities of the Prison Administration in the area of Alternative Sanctions, Post Penal Care and Healthcare”, EuropeAid/138440/DH/SER/RS - Serbia.***

***“Support to implementing anti-corruption strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, EuropeAid/139068/DH/SER/BA - Bosnia and Herzegovina.***

***“Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising of rights of Internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and returnees, EuropeAid/139294/DH/SER/RS- Serbia.***

You can read more about these projects along with project highlights in this issue.



## NEW PROJECTS

### **"Technical Assistance for Revitalisation of the Tourism Sector in Adiyaman" - EuropeAid/139608/IH/SER/TR**

ECG Summit was part of Consortium, led by Serenas Turizm Kongre ve Organizasyon Hizmetleri Ltd. Sti. (Serenas Tourism & Organisation), **which was awarded the EU funded project in Turkey "Technical Assistance for Revitalisation of the Tourism Sector in Adiyaman", EuropeAid/139608/ IH/SER/TR.**



The main objective of this contract is to improve competitiveness of the tourism sector in Adiyaman. In the scope of this purpose technical assistance will be provided for escalating the number and visibility of marketable tourism assets and facilitating the establishment and/or improvement of local capacities, especially those of the SMEs, to contribute to and benefit from the new tourism development trajectory of the province.

**We are also pleased to announce that ECG was part of Consortium led by REPRESENT COMMUNICATIONS which was awarded to write Communication Strategy and Action Plan for CEFTA.** The overall objective of the project is to raise awareness on CEFTA activities in member countries, demystify its role and bring it closer in competitiveness of the organization by supporting regional cooperation and creating more favorable economic environment.

In order to increase visibility and impact of the CEFTA's achievements, the Communication Strategy and Action Plan will enable more effective communication with key stakeholder groups by developing and providing support in implementing CEFTA Communication Strategy, a tool for streamlining and seeking synergy in the efforts invested by the CEFTA Parties, CEFTA Secretariat and their partner organisations.



*We are happy to announce that ECG was part of Consortium that won the EU funded project in Turkey and part of Consortium that won CEFTA communication project.*



## ECG SUMMIT PROJECT UPDATE

### Improving Capacities of the Prison Administration in the Area of Alternative Sanctions, Post Penal Care and Healthcare

*Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the EU funded project "Improving capacities of the prison administration in the area of alternative sanctions, post penal care and penal healthcare" in Serbia continued with many activities, including Training for Trainers.*

Consortium led by ECG is continuing its successful work on the EU funded project **"Improving capacities of the prison administration in the area of alternative sanctions, post penal care and penal healthcare"** in Serbia. Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the project continued with many activities, some of which we are highlighting below.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the project team organized the workshop at the IN HOTEL in Belgrade, which gathered representatives of institutions and organizations working in the field of penal and post penal treatment with two main goals:



Workshop with Commissioners, representatives of prison institutions' treatment staff and representatives of the project.

- 1) to provide information relevant to the project activities for treatment staff and commissioners
- 2) to inform treatment staff and commissioners on the purpose of the project and its activities.

During this workshop, the project's Team Leader, Chris Frost, presented the mandate and purpose of the project, as well as activities the project team will undertake in order to achieve set results. The Workshop was concluded with session where the feedback from group discussions held during the workshop were presented to attendees.

### ToT (Training for trainers)

During July and August 2020, a training for basic trainer skills was organized for workers in field of penal and post penal treatment. The three-day training course was attended by 21 trainees divided in three groups. In order to implement this activity respecting health and safety measures during the current COVID 19 pandemic, the project team developed a methodology for online training for all three groups and courses were carried out successfully via Google Meet platform.



Representatives of County Prisons, Penal Correctional Facilities and Special Prison Hospital.

Training for trainers, as a part of project activities, is designed to give a foundation for further implementation of activities aiming to train and prepare staff working in the area of penal and post-penal care in terms of new programmes of the Administration for Execution of Penal Sanctions.

## ECG SUMMIT PROJECT UPDATE

### Legal Aid, Assistance and Dissemination of Information Necessary for Ensuring the Protection and Exercising Right of IDPs, Refugees and Returnees



The project team and representative of the Office for KiM in Sarajevo.

Consortium led by ECG is continuing its successful work on the EU funded project **"Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising right of IDPs, refugees and returnees"** in Serbia. Despite coronavirus pandemic, the project continued with many of the planned activities, including panel discussions, trainings, open door events some of which are highlighted below.

#### Panel discussions

The project organized the first panel discussion, "Right of returnees to right" on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 in Belgrade. Within this panel discussion, the project's expert Mr. Stevan Nikolic presented current mechanisms of returnees' acceptance, as well as recommendations for improving those mechanisms to make re-inclusion of this group easier. The event was opened by Dr. Zoran Bojović, Assistant Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, and besides Mr. Stevan Nikolic, representatives of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (CSR) and the project their perspective on this topic.



Photo – Panel discussion "Right of returnees to right".

*The EU funded project "Legal aid, assistance and dissemination of information necessary for ensuring the protection and exercising right of IDPs, refugees and returnees" in Serbia continued with many of the planned activities, including panel discussions, trainings and open door events.*

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*Panel discussion "Economic empowerment of returnees to Serbia".*

The panel discussion "Economic empowerment of returnees to Serbia" was organized on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. On this occasion, the project's expert Ales Zupan presented the thematic report with the same title, followed by representatives of CSR, Roma League and the project.

## Trainings



*Shooting of Pravo na sutra with Roma Sijam*

The free legal aid project continued training young project experts in field of providing legal assistance to its targeted groups. During this period, the project organized two training courses focused on assisting returnees upon readmission agreements in obtaining their legal documents, as well as the work and organization of relevant institutions in KiM: 1) Training course, organized on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May in Vrnjacka Banja, focused on the definition and meaning of citizenship, birth registry and personal documents and collaboration of the project with state institutions on providing needed assistance to returnees; and 2) Training course organized on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 in Vrnjacka Banja covered the organization of work of the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court in Pristina in charge of matters of social enterprises' privatization. Apart from the theoretical part, trainees had an exercise of determining legal actions in concrete cases.

## Open door events

The Free legal aid project in collaboration with the Municipality of Beocin and a local trustee for refugees and migration organized on 27 February 2020 an Open door event for internally displaced people, refugees and returnees upon readmission agreements residing in this municipality.



*Open door in Beocin.*

The event was organized with purpose to inform all the interested parties on legal assistance the project provides for these targeted groups to help them resolve legal issues caused by their migration status. Apart from this informational part of the event, all gathered had the opportunity to present to the legal team their legal issues at individual meetings. This event was attended by more than 40 interested residents of Beocin with IDP, refugee or returnee status.



## ECG SUMMIT PROJECT UPDATE

### Support to Implementing Anti-Corruption Strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Consortium led by ECG successfully continued implementation of the EU funded project "Support to implementing anti-corruption strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" which provides assistance to anticorruption bodies and institutions at all levels of government in BiH to raise the fight against corruption in the country at a higher and more engaged level.

In January 2020, IPAK project concluded 7-month long support to BiH Anti-corruption Agency (APIK) on drafting new anti-corruption strategy and action plan for its implementation. Strategy and action plan could have significant impact on the sectorial approach in the prevention and fight against corruption, improve detection and repression of corruption and improve cooperation and coordination of work of anti-corruption bodies (ACB) at all levels in BiH. IPAK also continued support for raising competencies, position and capacities (so called professionalization) of ACBs at all levels.



Representatives of cantonal anti-corruption bodies, institutions and organisations dealing with corruption reporting at the conference organized by IPAK project on February 21, 2020 (<https://vijesti.ba/clanak/480322/eu-pomaze-bih-u-napretku-u-borbi-protiv-korupcije>). Seated at the head of the table (from left to right) PT leader Zoran Jachev, Bosnian - Podrinje Canton minister of justice Natasa Danojlic, project manager Johannes Hintzen.

Part of these efforts to support ACBs was round-table organized in Gorazde, with local Anti-Corruption Team in Bosnian - Podrinje Canton. This was the final event in activity which included: assessment of status of anticorruption network and citizens reporting system in the institutions at all levels; recommendations for establishment, competencies and work of AC network in the institutions. It was also the last event with physical participation before moving to online conferences due to covid-19.

Due to covid-19 situations project's Steering Committee's meetings in May and September were successfully organized as online events. Deterioration of the covid-19 situation in the region in autumn 2020 resulted in decision to keep with this format for both SCM and events, such as presentation of the analysis and conference on BiH anti-corruption legislation, planned for November.



*The EU funded project "Support to implementing anti-corruption strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina" continued with providing assistance to anticorruption bodies and institutions at all levels of government in BiH to raise the fight against corruption in the country despite the coronavirus pandemic.*



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## ECG HIGHLIGHT

### ECG SUMMIT Still No.1 EuropeAid Contractor in Serbia

Despite the slowdown of new EU development projects in the region we are happy to say, we remained **No.1 EuropeAid Contractor in Republic of Serbia according to Assortis**. Since its humble beginnings, ECG has grown to participate in major development programs funded by international donors such as EU Commission-EuropeAid, USAID, EBRD, EDF and other schemes, in Serbia, and neighboring countries. Currently, according to Assortis and based on historical data, ECG is still



Ranked **#1** for Serbia  
with **52** awarded  
and **227** shortlisted deals.

Source: Assortis, November 2020



### ECG SUMMIT Acknowledged by Serbian Philanthropy Forum and Fund B92

Thank you to the Serbian Philanthropy Forum and Fund B92 for honouring and acknowledging our efforts during the battle against the coronavirus.



Earlier this year ECG supported the humanitarian action of FundB92 in a fight against coronavirus pandemic in Serbia by donating to the Clinical Centre of Serbia to help improve conditions and treatment of patients during their stay in health institutions during the ongoing health pandemic.

Earlier this year, our company joined the Serbian Philanthropy Forum as it aligns with ECG's mission of investing in a better

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society in Serbia and creating an environment that stimulates giving and promotes philanthropy as a social value.

Since its inception, ECG has engaged in charitable giving through sponsorship of local charitable events and donations in variety of sectors. Over the years, the company made charitable donations in sectors such as Arts& Culture, health, education among others and has sponsored the reputable Belgrade Dance Festival.

**ECG continues to belong to the highest class of creditworthiness in Serbia.** The company has fulfilled creditworthiness criteria again for 2020 and belongs to the top Serbian companies that can use status AAA as a symbol of Credit rating Excellence.



ECG Team in front of the award.

Povodom 9. oktobra - Nacionalnog dana davanja  
Srpski filantropski forum i Fond B92  
ovom poveljom odlikuju



KOMPAJNU  
EVROPSKA  
KONSALTING GRUPA  
D.O.O.

Za izuzetan doprinos tokom  
bitke protiv koronavirusa 2020. godine  
i za razvoj dobročinstva i filantropije

„Ništa ne čini čoveka toliko  
srećnim kao njegovo pošteno  
uverenje da je učinio sve što je  
mogao ulažući u svoj rad svoje  
najbolje sposobnosti.“

Mihajlo Pupin

Hvala!



*Serbian Philanthropy  
Forum and Fund B92  
honoured our efforts  
during the battle against  
the coronavirus.*

AAA  
Highest Creditworthiness Rating

Bisnode awards a Certificate of Excellence to

**EVROPSKA KONSALTING GRUPA DOO  
BEOGRAD**  
17339192

The company belongs to the highest class of creditworthiness in Serbia.  
The company has fulfilled creditworthiness criteria for 2020 and therefore  
belongs to the top Serbian companies that are allowed to use the  
status AAA as a symbol of Credit Rating Excellence.

Belgrade, September 30th, 2020

Milan Dragić, General Manager Bisnode Southern Market

Bisnode

A stylized illustration of a person in a blue shirt and dark pants, holding up a large yellow star. There are two smaller yellow stars floating nearby.

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## JOIN OUR TEAM

We are always seeking motivated, committed, and experienced professionals to join our team.

Whether you are just starting your professional career and looking for internships opportunities or more seasoned professional, we invite you to register your CV today to our database by visiting our website at:

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<https://ecg.rs/ecg-internship/>



REGISTER  
YOUR CV TODAY

