



Government
of the Republic
of Serbia

The Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) in Serbia is a medium-term development framework aimed at reducing the key forms of poverty by creating material and other prerequisites and by providing opportunities to each person to provide the basic subsistence for themselves and their families. The PRS offers an analysis of causes, characteristics and profile of poverty in Serbia, as well as main strategic guidelines for eliminating them in the coming years. The Government of Serbia is committed to economic growth and development, for which reason the PRS activities are geared towards economic development and growth, prevention of emergence of new poverty and care for the traditionally poor groups. The final PRS document was adopted on October 16, 2003, whereas on February 17, 2005 the Government authorized the Deputy Prime Minister to regularly inform the Government on the Strategy implementation process, in cooperation with the PRS Implementation Focal Point.

MIRKO CVETKOVIĆ, PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Towards Society of Solidarity and Equal Opportunities

Today, eight years after the launch of reforms and democratic transition, Serbia has become a more equitable and fair state striving towards social and economic integration into the European Union and the region. It is characterized by stable democratic society with open market economy. Furthermore, Serbia is a country which has over the years considerably improved the living standards of its citizens and halved the number of the poor population with regard to the year 2002. Although reforms could have been faster, these results are certainly encouraging.

However, although all Serbian citizens have equal entitlement to employment, education, social welfare and healthcare, this is necessarily not the case in practice. The state has developed a number of policies supporting citizens who are not able to exercise their right to decent living. As much as half a million of our population still live in absolute poverty, while a large majority live slightly above the line itself in terms of the quality of life. Taking into consideration the impact of the global financial crisis on the overall development, the danger of an increase in the number of the poor is insomuch higher.

As a response to these challenges, the Government of Serbia has adopted a set of economic measures for fighting adverse impact of the global financial crisis. The union of all key systemic institutions is relevant for the successful implementation of the measures, as well as of all other relevant entities with the decision-making authority. Furthermore, successful realization of measures for mitigating the effects of the economic crisis is possible if the proposed measures are embraced by Serbian citizens. Taking into account

that the depth of the economic crisis is still not evident on the global level, even less the segments of Serbian economy which shall be affected, it is necessary that the effects are monitored continuously and that every new aspect of the crisis is reacted to adequately.

Undertaken measures are restrictive and stimulating. Restrictiveness relates to reducing public sector spending. At the same time, measures are stimulating with the aim of avoiding recession and establishing continuous economic growth, even at a significantly lower level than was the case over the previous few years.

It is important that the Government reacts promptly so as to minimize the effects of the global financial crisis on living standards. Equally important is not to steer away from the strategic direction which our society is taking in the next few years. We have achieved the goal set in 2003 by adopting the Poverty Reduction Strategy – to halve the number of poor population. No Government should resolve to the fact that a large number of its citizens lack basic living conditions, and we are obliged to utilize all available opportunities in order to continue improving living conditions in Serbia.

By approaching the EU, the issues of social inclusion and poverty reduction are becoming part of the European integration process more closely. We have launched an initiative of harmonizing our social system with the European Union standards and we shall not give up on this goal. This process can be realized, and the goal ahead of us is to build equitable society based on solidarity and equal opportunities for all.

JOSEP LLOVERAS, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The role of the EU and its objectives in the field of social inclusion and poverty reduction

The EU is resolved in its intention to assist Serbia in embracing core European values such as equality, solidarity, tolerance and fundamental Human Rights. These values include the right to decent living and work conditions, the right to adequate social protection and proper schooling and the right to live in a healthy and safe environment. It is even more difficult to fulfill these values in a society where there is widespread poverty. Poverty reduction is therefore a fundamental objective of various actions carried out by the EU in Serbia.

According to the latest research, poverty in Serbia decreased by around 50 percent in the period 2002 – 2007. This is an impressive result, achieved mainly through significant and continuous economic growth, accompanied by a rise in real earnings and other income sources. However, 6.6 percent of the Serbian population still lives in poverty.

Poverty, alongside other factors such as disability, is the main cause of social exclusion. Socially-excluded persons do not have a chance to enjoy

their full fundamental rights. Our aim is to reduce social exclusion to the minimum, by giving the chance to the socially-excluded to work, to be independent and self-sustainable.

Until recently, the concept of social inclusion was unknown to the Serbian public. By adopting this concept, Serbia has a chance to eradicate poverty by ensuring access for all to the necessary resources, rights and services. This will allow for their participation in society and help prevent social exclusion. The Serbian Government does have a policy of active social inclusion, but its implementation requires well-coordinated action involving all levels of government and other relevant actors.

The EU is aware that there is a long way ahead for Serbia to go in the implementation of this policy, and consequently it has devoted increased attention to this issue. Substantial resources have been allocated through IPA to address the issue of social inclusion. These funds cover programmes that tackle the problems of various vulnerable groups, such as the long-term unemployed, the

Roma, disabled persons, children without parental care and the destitute.

The assistance that the EU is giving in this field aims to build-up the capacities of the relevant ministries and other stakeholders to absorb present and future funds in an efficient and sustainable way. The aim of this assistance is also to prepare Serbia to use, eventually, future structural funds.

In order to achieve this goal, the EU is helping Serbia to reduce poverty by promoting comprehensive social inclusion, which will give the chance and encourage everyone to use their own capacities, regardless of their social status, health conditions or nationality. The role of the EU in this process is very important, and goes beyond mere financial assistance.

The international financial crisis which the world is currently facing is giving a new dimension to the social inclusion issue. The European Commission is convinced that the response to this crisis should take full account of the need to tackle social inclusion if the people who are already marginalized are not to suffer even more.



WORLD BANK

Poverty Project Awarded

The poverty assessment project implemented in Serbia is one of the 13 projects awarded by the World Bank within the competition entitled "Improving the Lives of People in Europe and Central Asia 2009". The project provided funds for the Republic Statistical Office (RSO) to conduct the Living Standards Measurement Survey. The award was granted to the RSO and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point (PRS IFP).

Based on the survey findings, experts produced a comprehensive analysis of poverty trends, which indicated that the poorest population include rural, undereducated population, refugees and IDPs, while the poorest ethnic minority are the Roma.

Simon Gray, Head of the World Bank Office in Serbia, said that Serbia had realized that the Poverty Reduction Strategy was a powerful tool for harmonizing policies conducive to economic growth and poverty reduction.

He said that Serbia, thanks to the project thereof, may develop a comprehensive analysis which shall enable the decision makers to create evidence-based policies.

Republic Statistical Office, tel. 011 24 2 922 www.statserb.sr.gov.yu
World Bank Office, tel. 011 30 23 700, www.worldbank.rs

**Policy Impact Analysis
2003–2007**

By conducting the impact analysis of policies implemented between 2003–2007, the PRS Implementation Focal Point (PRS IFP) attempted to identify the Government policies which improved the life of Serbian citizens, as well as the policies which are not cost-effective and which should be either made more efficient or repealed altogether. One of the imperatives of creating accountable Government is to create evidence-based measures and policies. Measures analyzed were identified in cooperation with Government and non-government partners.

In the period between June and December 2008, immediate impact of active employment policies was comprehensively analyzed, as well as their indirect impact on poverty reduction. The link between employment and adult education, additional training and retraining was analyzed too. As the lack of education was identified as one of the main causes of poverty in Serbia, specific attention was dedicated to educational policies implemented between 2003 and 2007, as well as their impact on poverty reduction in Serbia.

The impact of introducing mandatory pre-school education was analyzed, the link between poverty and students' achievements, as well as the impact and efficiency of affirmative measures implemented in the previous four years.

The subject of analysis was the impact of health policies targeting

the poorest population, focusing on Roma population. In order to obtain a comprehensive insight into the efficiency of state policies targeting the poorest population, a detailed analysis of the impact of allowances was analyzed (MOP and child allowance). There was also an analysis of the impact of material subsidies for SMEs, as well as the impact of measures implemented by the Government conducive to agricultural development.

Global good practices indicate that an established system and regular impact analysis of measures and policies contributes to the transparency of the work of governments, to a better distribution of available funds and capacities, as well as to the creation of more efficient and effective measures.

Findings obtained in the policy impact assessment have been presented to relevant Government institutions and civil society. Further activity directions have been identified jointly by these sectors, paving the way for direct influence on improving the living standards of the poorest population in Serbia in the forthcoming period. Furthermore, this shall enable further capacity building primarily of Government institutions for conducting regular policy impact assessment and commitment to creating a democratic and accountable Government.

The abovementioned analyses are available at www.prsp.sr.gov.yu

**Monitoring Social
Inclusion in Serbia**

The Deputy Prime Minister's PRS Implementation Focal Point (DPM PRS IFP) presented the draft social inclusion indicators in the context of Serbia at the round table entitled "Measuring Social Inclusion in Serbia", held on February 17 in Belgrade. The round table was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integrations – Božidar Đelić, Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Belgrade – Josep Lloveras and the Director of the Republic Statistical Office – Dragan Vukmirović. Isabelle Maquet – representative of the European Commission in charge of monitoring indicators within the Social Welfare Committee, spoke of monitoring the social exclusion indicators at the level of EU.

The preparation of the report "Monitoring Social Inclusion in Serbia" was launched by the DPM PRS IFP. The report was drafted by an expert team from Secons, CESID and the Republic Social Welfare Institute. The report provides an overview of the European strategic framework, as well as an overview of indicators monitored by EU member states in the field of social inclusion. The report provides initial draft social inclusion indicators that Serbia shall be monitoring and reporting against in the forthcoming period. Furthermore, the report shall represent a platform for defining future policies which are to contribute to increasing social inclusion in Serbia, in line with the European standards.

European Union member states have defined increased social cohesion as one of the three strategic goals of the EU by 2010. There is an agreement that the implementation of national social inclusion policies be coordinated through National Plans of Action on Social Inclusion. Furthermore, member states submit regular reports to the European commission on joint indicators at the level of EU, as well as on national indicators that each member state develops with regard to its own social and economic context.

With the gradual entering into a contractual relationship with the EU (SAA), social inclusion and poverty reduction issues are becoming a more explicit issue within the European integrations process. Taking this into account, the DPM PRS IFP has launched a set of activities which shall contribute to the establishment of preconditions conducive to monitoring, reporting, promoting and coordinating the process of improving social inclusion and poverty reduction in Serbia.

The report, as well as other materials presented at the round table, may be downloaded at www.prsp.sr.gov.yu

**Policy Impact Assessment
Training for Civil Servants**

The Deputy Prime Minister's PRS Implementation Focal Point (DPM PRS IFP) and the Human Resources Office organized a training entitled "Policy Impact Assessment" (PIA). The overall goal of the module is to contribute to developing skills among civil servants to conduct policy impact analyses, as well as to promote the significance of such analyses for developing adequate strategies, policies and accountable Government.

The policy impact assessment is a tool which should enable the development of policies based on objective evidence-based analyses and revision thereof in line with the needs and available in-country capacities.

The DPM PRS IFP leads on the national PIA initiative.

**CSO Project Database: Monitoring and
Presentation of Results to the Business Sector**

The Deputy Prime Minister's PRS Implementation Focal Point (DPM PRS IFP) is continuing the project entitled "CSO Project Database – Cooperation with the Business Sector" by promoting and monitoring the project results.

The Balkan Fund for Local Initiatives (BCIF), the project partner, has promoted the Database widely and monitors its implementation. The Database provides an overview of 118 civil society organizations and their projects contributing to poverty reduction among vulnerable population, which may be funded by the business sector. The Database shall facilitate the building of partnerships between CSOs and the business sector and co-financing of initiatives.

The Database is uploaded at www.prsp.sr.gov.yu/grupe/BCIF.swf and may be accessed at all times free-of-charge.



GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA

Measures for Overcoming Effects of the Economic Crisis

The Government of Serbia has adopted Orders on implementing measures for overcoming the effects of the economic crisis, relating to subsidizing interest rates on loans for liquidity, investments and purchase of domestic products.

The state shall subsidize 40 billion RSD of liquidity loans with two billion dinars, at least 50 percent of which target exporters. The Order relating to subsidized liquidity loans prescribes that the interest rate on subsidized loans and permanent working capital shall not exceed 5.5 percent per annum, with the payment deadline of a year.

The Order prescribes that the maximum amount of a loan for an entrepreneurship store is EUR 20,000, while the amount of EUR 500,000 is the limit for medium-sized enterprises employing up to 250 workers and/or EUR 2 million for large enterprises. The overall amount of loans is RSD 122 billion.

The Government adopted the Order on Conditions of Using Co-financed Loans on Investments with Guarantees Issued by the Guarantee Fund, which defines that the annual interest rate on the loans is some 6 percent, and the payment deadline three to five years with the grace period between 6-12 months. The loans shall amount to RSD 17 billion, entrepreneurship stores shall be entitled up to EUR 30,000, small enterprises to EUR 200,000, medium-sized up to 1.5 million and large enterprises up to EUR four million. The Development Fund shall provide 30 percent of the loans, and commercial banks shall provide the remaining 70 percent. The state shall provide guarantees for 75 percent of the bank placement.

Another Order on conditions and criteria for distributing loans for subsidizing the interest rate on consumer loans envisages that RSD 1 billion budget resources shall cover loans amounting to RSD 20 billion for purchasing domestic products.

Loans may be used for purchasing cars, agricultural mechanization, furnishings, floors and appliances. The interest rate for purchasing a car shall amount to 4.5 percent per annum, with the payment duration of five to seven years. The interest rate on purchasing other goods shall amount to 6 percent, with the payment duration of up to five years.

The Government has adopted the decision on subsidizing JAT with over EUR 10 million – five on account of investments and five for voluntary social program. RSD 6 billion shall be allocated from NIP resources on account of Corridor 10. The total of EUR 475 million shall be allocated for infrastructure this year, 340 of which from foreign loans.

Information: Government of Serbia, www.srbija.gov.rs

NATIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN

Only Indispensable Projects on the List

The Ministry for NIP has finalized consultations with line ministries and local authority representatives on setting the project list 2009.

The Minister for NIP, Verica Kalanović said that the list of priorities is brought down to the list of projects assessed as the most important in terms of citizens and which may be realized or continued in 2009.

The budget of the Ministry for NIP is two and a half times lower than last year, wherefore the projects to be financed in 2009 shall predominantly cover the fields of utility, transport and energy infrastructure. When it comes to large national projects, the ones to be continued are the projects of Corridor 10 and investments into the industrial zone of Kragujevac.

Contact and information: Ministry of NIP

tel: 011 361 75 83, 011 361 76 28, www.mnip.gov.rs

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Serbia in the Art Gold Program

The contract for improving economic development of the Kolubara and Mačva counties through the ART Gold Program was signed by the Minister of Economy and Regional Development Mladen Dinkić, Ambassador of Italy in Serbia Alessandro Merola and UNDP Permanent Representative Rini Reza. The ART Gold Program shall be financed by the Government of Italy with EUR 3 million, and shall be implemented by UNDP.

Dinkić said that the Kolubara and Mačva counties shall comprise a single statistical region pursuant to the Law on Regional Development, which may cooperate with EU regions and obtain European funds for regional development.

He said that local economic development plans and a map of economic potentials shall be developed within the three-year program, including the establishment of the Regional Development Agency and local guarantee funds for supporting SMEs, in order to promote employment.

Serbia is the 17th country to take part in the ART Gold Program.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Regional Development Department, tel: 011 28 55 067, www.merr.gov.rs

UNDP, tel: 011 20 40 400, www.undp.org.rs

Vojvodina Awarded by the Council of Europe

Vojvodina is among six European regions awarded by the newly established award of the Council of Europe for promoting social cohesion through economic development. Vojvodina was awarded for the project "Support for Development of Women Entrepreneurship".

The jury convened in Paris and awarded Berlin, Wales, the Turkish province of Kahramanmaraş, Polish region of Masovia and Vojvodina. The special award was given to Romanian and Greek projects.

The award, given by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, was established in May 2008, and the award ceremony was held on December 2 in Strasbourg.

FOUNDATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF ECONOMICS

Labor Statistics in Transition

The Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN), in cooperation with the Republic Statistical Office and the Deputy Prime Minister's PRS Implementation Focal Point, has launched the project entitled "Labor Statistics in Transition".

The project envisages three round tables, with the idea to gather both "producers" and users of statistical data on labor market in Serbia, and to promote this important field through a joint discussion and subsequent reports.

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www.fren.org.rs

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Slight Progress of Serbia in terms of Transition in 2008

The average rate in terms of progress in transition of Serbia increased from 2.7 to 2.85 due to the strengthening of the financial sector and trade liberalization, announced the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Serbia improved the rate on infrastructural reforms from 2 in 2007 to 2+ in 2008.

The EBRD stated in the report on transition in 2008 that Serbia "progressed significantly in terms of regional and European integrations" and that "progress has been achieved in negotiations with the World Trade Organization, whose member it could become in 2009". The EBRD assessed that economic growth of Serbia in 2009 shall amount to 3 percent.

The EBRD said that, although Serbia marks high economic growth, problems include a high inflation level and the deficit of current payment

balance. The economic growth rate in Serbia shall probably decrease, in the short run, due to the impact of the global economic crisis.

According to the EBRD, privatization of large Serbian companies is slow. Serbia needs the construction of infrastructure and crucial reforms in energy, transport and telecommunications sectors.

The signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and the repeal of ban on cereal exports led to a better rate in the field of trade and foreign-trade exchange from 3+ to 4-.

Strong growth of financial mediation and expansion of financial services in an improved legal framework contributed to an increase of the bank reforms and interest rate liberalization rate from 3- to 3.

www.ebrd.org



MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 150,000 USD for Promoting Quality of Services

The Municipal Development Program (PRO) in South-West Serbia has opened a competition of the Fund for Citizen Involvement targeting projects promoting the living conditions of the population and the quality of municipal services.

The projects should be based on partnership between citizen associations and municipal institutions. The competition is applicable to the municipalities of Ivanjica, Nova Varoš, Novi Pazar, Priboj, Prijepolje, Raška, Sjenica and Tutin.

The Fund is awarding USD 150,000 for projects dealing with promoting the quality of municipal services. Special emphasis is given to the increase in accessibility of local authority services targeting vulnerable and marginalized groups, stimulation of citizen involvement in the work of municipal organizations, improvement of environment, human rights, youth involvement.

The maximum amount of resources awarded through the program per project is USD 10,000, while the total budget shall not exceed USD 20,000 if the remaining resources may be provided from other sources.

The Fund comprises a PRO program component, supporting sustainable social and economic development of eight municipalities in South-West Serbia. The PRO program is financed and implemented in partnership between the European Union, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Government of Serbia and eight municipalities which take part in the program.

UNDP, tel: 011 20 40 400; www.undp.org.rs

Municipal Development Program (PRO) in South-West Serbia, tel: 020 337 300, www.pro.undp.org.rs

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft Law on Regional Development in Parliament in mid-2009

The final version of the Draft Law on Regional Development was to be prepared by end February, and the adoption in the Parliament may be expected in mid-2009, said the Minister of Economy and Regional Development Mladan Dinkić.

Dinkić said that the law shall significantly improve the conditions for balanced regional development of the country. He added that the law is important because regional disproportions in Serbia are deep. The law was prepared by European standards so as to prevent the emigration of population.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development
www.merr.sr.gov.yu

WORLD BANK OFFICE IN SERBIA

Competition for Projects Dealing with Regional Development

The World Bank Office in Serbia opened a competition for awarding grants to non-government organizations to implement projects dealing with the promotion of opportunities conducive to balanced regional development and poverty reduction by empowering vulnerable groups, in particular the Roma and youth, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

The World Bank Headquarters of Washington D.C. have approved of USD 45,000 for Serbia. Eligible are non-government organizations registered

in Serbia. The grants shall amount up to USD 4,500. The competition shall be open by March 31, 2009. The program – Fund for Civil Society, was formerly known as the Small Grants Program.

According to the rules of the Fund for Civil Society program, financed activities should contribute to the involvement of marginalized groups into social trends, distribution of information, development of dialogue and reaching consensus on issues relevant to society.

World Bank Office
www.worldbank.rs

Agreement on the Development of Social Dialogue

The Minister of Labor and Social Policy Rasim Ljajić signed the Agreement of Further Development of Social Dialogue with the President of the Serbian Association of Employers and presidents of the Confederation of Autonomous Unions of Serbia and the “Nezavisnost” Union. The signing ceremony was preceded by the regular session of the Socio-Economic Council of the Republic of Serbia, which adopted a positive opinion of the wording of the Agreement.

Pursuant to the Agreement, Annex II to the General Collective Agreement was signed too, which defers the implementation of provisions stipulated in the General Collective Agreement relating to financial liabilities of employers for a period of six months.

This was followed by Minister Ljajić signing the Decision on the Application of the General Collective Agreement to all Employers at the territory of the Republic, while the Serbian Association of Employers got obliged to repeal the Cancellation of the General Collective Agreement. The Decision was adopted at the session setting forth the minimum salary without taxes and contributions for the period January – June 2009 amounting to RSD 87 (net) per working hour.

Socio-Economic Council of the Republic of Serbia, tel: 011 3285 235

e-mail: socijalnoekonomskisavet@eunet.rs, www.socijalnoekonomskisavet.rs

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT Loans for 3,000 Beginner Entrepreneurs

The Youth Entrepreneurship and Loan Program initiated by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development envisages state loans for 3,000 youth beginner entrepreneurs.

The Minister of Economy and Regional Development Mladan Dinkić said that this shall facilitate employment of 12,000 people. One of the biggest obstacles to employment of youth that was stated by the Minister was the lack of professional practice. He added that there is theoretical knowledge, which is often inapplicable after the completion of school, which calls for thorough reform of the education system.

The USAID Director in Serbia Michael Harvey announced cooperation between USAID and the Ministry of Youth and sports at the opening ceremony of offices which shall be offering programs of entrepreneurship for youth living outside of Belgrade.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, tel: 011 2855 067

USAID Serbia, <http://serbia-montenegro.usaid.gov>

e-mail: comments-Belgrade@usaid.gov, www.merr.gov.rs

SERBIAN IMPORT AND EXPORT PROMOTION AGENCY

“Ball Packaging Europe” the Best Exporter

Serbian Import and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) awarded the company Ball Packaging Europe as the best exporter in 2008.

The company produces 750 million aluminum cans per year, 85 percent of which is exported to the markets in the region.

“Termometal” of Ada and “Radijator inženjering” of Kraljevo are sharing the award in the category of the best SME exporter.

The Techno Nice Group was awarded for the best exported product – CT scanner, used in medical purposes and which positioned the company as the third biggest producer of ORL diagnostics scanner. The “Marni” company of Kruševac was awarded for placing the mushroom products at the highly demanding American and EU markets.

SIEPA awarded the prizes fifth time in a row, in order to stimulate and promote Serbian exporters. The official sponsor was the DHL International company, which provided awards amounting to EUR 30,000 for the abovementioned companies.

Serbian Import and Export Promotion Agency, tel: 011 33 98 550

e-mail: office@siepa.gov.rs, www.siepa.gov.rs

Conference on Microfinancing

Belgrade shall be hosting the international conference on microfinancing on May 25-27, 2009. The conference shall be organized by the Microfinance Center (MFC) situated in Poland. The conference shall represent an opportunity to present best microfinancing practices in the region, impact of the financial crisis, legal environment for microfinancing institutions and standards in this field.

MFC is a network providing support to members from Eastern European countries, developing countries and Central Asia. The annual conference shall be attended by representatives of microfinancing institutions in the region, as well as the financing parties/donors (IFC, EBRD, KfW, EFSE, USAID...).

Fund for Micro-Development, tel/fax: 011 30 30 667, www.mdf.org.yu



“Severance to a Job” Project Extended until September 2009

The “Severance to a Job” project implemented during the last two years by the National Employment Service (NES) and the project team of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been extended until September 2009. The decision on extension was reached unanimously by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the Austrian Development Agency providing the funds, NES and the project team of the UNDP programme.

The project continues the support for re-employment of workers made redundant during the period of transition utilizing, among other things, self-employment subsidies and financial support to employers to engage redundant labor and workers left unemployed due to company bankruptcies.

1,622 workers have found employment with support from the “Severance to a Job” project. Of the total number of users, 1,257 have made use of the self-employment subsidies, while 365 have found work with new employers.

The financial support of the project for employing redundant labor living at the poverty line and workers left without employment due to company bankruptcies was made use of by 146 employers from the private sector. The age and gender structure analysis shows the average age of project beneficiaries to be 48, with the 40 percent of women.

The project covers all regions in Serbia, with most people placed thus far in Kragujevac, Užice, Vranje and Kraljevo.

“Severance to a Job” Project, tel: 011 301 43 36
National Employment Service, tel: 011 29 29 800

www.nsz.gov.rs

BUSINESS PROGRAMME

Education of 700 Young Entrepreneurs

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Norwegian organization Business Innovation Programs (BIPS) paved the way for a project aimed at training 700 youth in Serbia to start their own business.

The value of the project is EUR 456,000. The project shall provide non-financial support for youth who are potential candidates for start-up loans issued by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development. The target group are youth between 18 and 35, with a business idea they want to put into action.

The first step in the implementation of the project is the training of youth in 14 regional agencies. They are to continue training youth on business planning and business start-up for a period of 12 months.

The project envisages the organization of regional fairs for presenting new ideas and youth entrepreneurship.

Contact: Ministry of Youth and Sports, tel: 011 313 09 12, www.mos.gov.rs
BIPS, tel: +47 69 24 93 00, e-mail: info@bips.no, www.bips.no

USAID AND DMUS PROGRAM

Students Learn about Business

Twenty eight teachers and more than 300 students from 14 secondary schools of Pčinj and Jablanica counties shall be included in the Junior Achievement program during the summer semester 2009. The program shall be implemented in nine municipalities: Vranje, Bujanovac, Preševo, Vladičin Han, Surdulica, Leskovac, Vlasotince, Medveda and Lebane.

The Memorandum of Cooperation formally validating support of local governments to the program was signed by the Director of the USAID economic safety program, Vice-president of the DMUS Steering Committee and Mayors and Presidents of nine municipalities from the Pčinj and Jablanica counties.

The aim of the educational program is to promote values of entrepreneurship and business, market economy and financial aspects of doing business among Serbian youth. The program shall

provide students with practical work in launching and managing their own business and placing products and services at the market, by establishing at least one “student company” per school.

The USAID economic safety program facilitates advancement and empowerment of youth by enabling them to acquire specific skills and knowledge in line with market requirements.

The goal shall be achieved through the Junior Achievement program and other programs strengthening youth entrepreneurship and promoting employment and self-employment among youth.

USAID has been supporting DMUS from its establishment and has helped the implementation of programme activities with some USD 350,000.

USAID Serbia
e-mail: jasmine_majkovic@dai.co
<http://serbia-montenegro.usaid.gov>

Action Plan for Implementing the National Youth Strategy Has Been Adopted

The Government of Serbia has adopted the Action Plan for Implementing the National Youth Strategy 2009 – 2014. The Government adopted the National Youth Strategy on May 9, 2008. The AP defines roles, competencies and institutional mechanisms which are to enable the achievement of the results and goals of the Strategy. The AP establishes 40 implementing parties at the level of state and local administration. The AP sets forth activities for the period 2009 – 2014.

Ministry of Youth and Sports, tel: 011 313 09 12
e-mail: office@mos.sr.gov.yu, www.mos.gos.rs

Draft Law on Volunteerism

Serbia is to adopt the Law on Volunteerism this year. The draft law is being prepared by the working group established by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP).

Thanks to the activities of the Civil Society Focal Point for Youth (CSFP) and members of its cluster, the composition of the working group was expanded and included youth representatives.

The CSFP for Youth organized a conference of volunteer organizations and on this occasion forwarded a motion to the MLSP to include youth in the working group for drafting the Law, as one of the most prominent stakeholders in the context of the law.

www.prsp.sr.gov.yu

COMPETITION OF THE FUND FOR OPEN SOCIETY Stimulating Youth Activism

The Fund for Open Society (FOS) and Open Society Institute – Youth Initiative have opened a call for project proposals stimulating activism, creativity and accountability of youth for the quality of life in their own local environment.

FOS – Youth Program and Open Society Institute – Youth Initiative aim at supporting youth organizations to promote the quality of life in their local community by their ideas and initiatives.

Eligible are youth organizations and individuals of 15 to 29 years of age, living and working at the territory of Serbia, excluding organizations and individuals living and working at the territory of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kragujevac. The projects shall be awarded between RSD 150,000 and 500,000.

Fund for Open Society, tel: 011 30 25 800
e-mail: office@foserbia.org, www.foserbia.org

Promotion of Junior Achievement in Serbia

Junior Achievement in Serbia organized a round table “You Can Change the Future” in Belgrade. The organization today is operational in 112 countries and involves 8.5 million students per year.

The purpose of the program is to educate youth to foster the values of free entrepreneurship and understand business and economy.

e-mail: office@ja-serbia.org, www.ja-serbia.org

Results of the Competition “I Can Do It, Too!”

The project “I Can Do It, Too!” dealing with youth organizations and informal groups of youth aged between 15 and 30, selected 12 project proposals. The aim of the call for proposals was to stimulate youth to identify social problems in their environment and counter-react with specific actions so as to resolve or indicate their existence.

The project, which is integral to the implementation of the National Youth Strategy, is implemented by the European Movement in Serbia (EPuS) with support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia.

European Movement in Serbia, tel: 011 3640 174
e-mail: office@emins.org, www.emins.org



COUNCIL FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES Strategy for Stimulating Competitiveness

The Council for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises has adopted the Strategy for Stimulating Competitiveness and Innovative Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises 2008-2013.

The goal of the strategy is to create an entrepreneurial economy, based on knowledge and innovation, creating a competitive and export-oriented SME sector.

The Strategy is fully aligned with the "Small Business Act" of the European Commission. It is based on five pillars, encompassing the promotion of entrepreneurship and the formation of new enterprises through start-up loans, promotion of entrepreneurship education, facilitating more financing sources for SMEs, stimulating competition, as well as the creation of a better and fair institutional and business framework for SMEs in Serbia.

Council for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, tel: 011 32 16 776;
E-mail: jovanka.jovanovic@mpriv.gov.rs;
<http://smsp.nauka.gov.rs/cir>

COMPLETED "INVEST IN SERBIA 08" COMPETITION Stimulation of Municipal Economic Development

Zrenjanin, Loznica, Kragujevac, Vršac, Paraćin, Šabac and Užice have won the "Invest in Serbia 08" competition. Twenty towns and municipalities had competed in presenting destinations for future investments.

Teams were judged based on the quality of promotional materials and web sites, the ability to effectively communicate with potential investors, the appearance of the local government stand and the overall presentation of the municipality.

The first "Invest in Serbia 08" competition in 2006 gathered 10 municipalities USAID had been cooperating with in the field of local economic development. USAID supports 32 towns and municipalities in attracting investments and initiating local economic development.

A precondition for cooperation between the USAID and municipalities is that the municipality establishes an Office for Local Economic Development. The primary task of the Offices is to drive local economic development.

A first group of municipalities that joined the Project for Stimulating Municipal Development attracted direct investments worth 400 million Euros in 2006 and 2007, with more than 6 thousand new workplaces opened.

Contact: USAID Serbia, <http://serbia-montenegro.usaid.gov>;
National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED)
Tel: 011 334 76 34; e-mail: naled@naled-serbia.org
www.naled-serbia.org

Competition for Promoting Catering Services

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development has announced a competition for awarding credits for the improvement of the quality of catering services in tourism in 2009, with 320 million dinars dedicated to this end from the budget of Serbia.

The smallest amount of credit that entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises in tourism can apply for is two million dinars, where the loan share in the project may not exceed 50 percent of the project value. The interest rate is one percent annually, the payment period five years, with a one year grace period.

The funds can be used for building and adapting hotels, restaurants, sports and entertainment venues, reconstructing waterborne catering facilities, turning rural into tourist-catering facilities, as well as for marketing local catering offers and the design, preparation and production of souvenirs.

Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Tourism Sector
Tel: 011 28 55 071, www.merr.gov.rs

BCIF: Citizen Participation in Local Community Life

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) opened a competition for the Active Communities programme, with the goal of improving and developing local communities by stimulating active citizen involvement in problem solving.

Local associations and informal citizen groups are eligible for the programme, with a maximum budget of 350,000 dinars.

The initiatives relate to the local community, stimulate active involvement of citizens and bring wellbeing to the local community using local capacities, including cooperation with other sectors at the local level.

The program is not limited in theme and/or project proposals may refer to various areas: environmental protection, children and youth, citizen participation in decision-making, aid for vulnerable groups and their inclusion, establishment of social protection services, etc.

Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF), Office in Serbia
Tel: 011 26 22 511

Fund for Supporting Judicial Reform Has Been Established

The Ministry of Justice signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with representatives of the World Bank and donors, relating to the establishment of a common donor fund supporting reform and modernization of the judiciary in Serbia.

Denmark, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Great Britain have contributed 2.75 million Euros to the fund.

Contact: Ministry of Justice, tel: 011 36 20 497;
e-mail: info@mpravde.gov.rs; www.mpravde.gov.rs
World Bank Office, tel: 011 30 23 700
www.worldbank.rs

ERSTE AWARD

Support for Creating an Equitable Society

This year's ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration will be awarded in June 2009, with a total prize amounting to 295,000 Euros.

Eligible projects are those aiming to introduce changes in society and create equal opportunities for everyone and/or all those supporting social integration. This includes activities aiming at creating an equitable society where vulnerable groups, persons in an unfavorable social position and persons with special needs are included.

Ten projects will be rewarded, and another ten will receive honorary prizes. The projects will be rated based on their effectiveness and specific contribution to society.

The ERSTE Foundation Award for Social Integration is part of the ERSTE Foundation programme dedicated to social issues. The ERSTE Foundation is active in the region of Central and Southeast Europe, being the main shareholder in the Erste Group and one of the largest institutions of its kind in Europe.

Contact: ERSTE Group, www.erstegroup.com;
ERSTE Foundation for Social Integration
Tel: 011 34 47 270
www.integrationaward.org
e-mail: jelena_vujovic@executivegroup.co.rs

"SOLIDARITY" INITIATIVE Social Mapping in Serbia

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy launched the "Solidarity" initiative in February - to visit all municipalities in Serbia with the goal of mapping key problems within the mandate of the Ministry.

During the two month visits to municipalities, a database will be created based on the gathered information, providing for the first time an accurate social map of all municipalities in Serbia.

The Ministry also wishes to actively tackle potential adverse consequences of the oncoming crisis and provide aid to the most vulnerable population.

One of the goals of this initiative is to stimulate social accountability and create an opportunity for companies to direct the funds invested in social corporate activities towards priorities in 2009 in the field of labor and social policy.

The Ministry expects foreign donors to invest in the development and reform of social welfare in Serbia. The "Solidarity" initiative is to help identify solutions enabling the Ministry to react adequately with the aim of protecting children, the elderly, the sick and workers.

Contact: Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
Tel: 011 363 13
www.minrzs.gov.rs



Government Measures Stimulating Economy

According to the announcement of the Minister of Economy and Regional Development Mladen Dinkić, February 23 marks the launch of the implementation of Government measures stimulating economy.

These measures envisage, inter alia, loans for industry and citizens under favorable conditions. Currently, 15 banks have joined the project (Komerčijalna banka, Banca Intesa, Societe Generale, Unicredit, Erste, Hypo Alpe Adria, Raiffeisen, EFG, KBC, OTP, Privredna banka, Srpska banka, Čačanska banka, Agrobanka and Univerzal banka), with more banks expected to join the programme.

The Government measures for overcoming the impact of the economic crisis should provide for 122 billion dinars of loan for industry and purchase of durable goods produced in Serbia. Citizens shall be entitled to 20 billion dinars of consumer loans for purchasing cars, agricultural machinery, furniture and flooring, as well as household appliances produced in Serbia.

Loans shall be approved by commercial banks from their own funds, with the aid of three billion dinars from the budget of the Ministry of Economy, five billion dinars from the Development Fund and 45 billion dinars from international credit lines.

Public Administration Reform Newsletter

The Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government published the second issue of their electronic "Public Administration Reform Newsletter". The goal of the newsletter is to inform civil servants and citizens on issues relating to public administration reform in Serbia, because the success of reforms requires involvement of all public administration bodies.

The newsletter was initiated within the project entitled "Support for the Public Administration Reform Strategy in the Republic of Serbia - Phase Two". The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), along with the donor support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Department for International Development (DfID).

Ministry of Public Administration and Self Government, www.drzavnauprava.gov.rs

AUTONOMOUS WOMEN'S CENTER: Research on Legal Protection against Family Violence

The proceedings of protection against family violence is most often instigated by women - 85.3 percent of cases, as indicated by the "Proceedings for Imposing Protective Measures against Family Violence: Legal Practice of Belgrade Courts in 2007" research. The research was initiated by the Autonomous Women's Center and was conducted by Prof. Nevena Petrušić, PhD and Prof. Slobodanka Konstantinović Vilić, PhD.

The goal of the research was to analyze the phenomenology of family violence that calls for imposing protective measures, as well as to provide insight into practical functioning of the mechanisms of family-legal protection against family violence. This phase of the research covered cases tried before Belgrade municipal courts.

Men are predominant among the defendants (88.3%). Persons with secondary educational attainment are predominant as defendants too.

Children as plaintiffs and parents as defendants appear in 11.7% cases. In 64.5% cases, the plaintiff and the defendant have underage children together. Most plaintiffs reported prior cases of violence - except for 4.2% cases.

Violence was most frequently reported to the police - 54.2%, while criminal proceedings were instigated in just 14.2% cases. The venue of the violent event is the same as the place of residence in 97.4% cases.

In 44.1% cases the court imposed protection measures requested by the plaintiff. The most frequent protection measures were the ban on further harassment (43.5%) and a restraining order (22.6%), while the measure of eviction of the defendant was issued in 18.3% of the cases.

Contact: Autonomous Women's Center
Tel: 011 26 87 190,
e-mail: dobre_prakse@azc.org.rs
<http://www.womenngo.org.yu>

REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Gender Equality and EU

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) and the UNDP have signed the "Fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence" project worth three million USD. The project will be implemented in a three year period and will be financially supported by the Government of Norway, with the professional and technical support of UNDP.

The signing ceremony was held at the regional "Gender Equality and EU Accession" Conference. The goal of the conference was to gain specific proposals with regard to gender equality, to provide insight into international standards in the area and to have the issue of gender equality integrated into government action plans through the exchange of regional experiences and professional know-how.

Contact: MRSŽ, tel: 011 363 13 54, www.mirzs.gov.rs
UNDP, tel: 011 20 40 400; www.undp.org.rs

ROMA DECADE

Activities of Promoting the Position of Roma Minority

The Roma population faces problems in nearly all aspects of public and private life in Serbia, from inadequate health protection, education and social assistance, to barriers the labor market. The Roma population is characterized by significantly higher poverty, unemployment and ailment rates as compared to the rest of the population of Serbia.

At the "Roma in an Expanded Europe - Challenges for the Future" Conference, held in Budapest in June 2003, the international initiative of the Roma Inclusion Decade 2005-2015 was initiated based on the agreement of representatives of Serbia, Montenegro, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Bulgaria. The main goals of the Roma Inclusion Decade are to reduce differences between the Roma and the rest of society, to prevent discrimination by creating and implementing action plans in the priority fields of education, housing, healthcare and employment.

Serbia shall preside over the Roma Decade from July 1, 2008 through June 2009. As a member of the Decade, Serbia invested significant efforts into reducing Roma poverty by founding the Council for Promoting the Position of Roma and Implementing the Roma Inclusion Decade. A number of round tables have been held dealing with priority activities of Serbia's presiding over the Decade, the adoption of the Draft Strategy for Promoting the Position of Roma with pertaining action plans, establishment of working groups and adoption of the Financial Plan 2009.

By end 2008 public discussions were held on the Draft Strategy, action plans and budget proposals, including the organization of four round tables in Kragujevac, Niš, Novi Sad and Belgrade, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integrations, Božidar Đelić. They were attended by representatives of the National Roma Minority Council, state bodies, local government and international bodies and NGOs.

Line ministries prepared draft budget for implementing priority action plan measures for promoting the position of Roma in 2009, with projections for 2010 and 2011. The Draft Strategy for Promoting the Position of Roma and action plans were finalized.

Common activities relating to readmission, refugees and IDPs were defined at a round table of the former Yugoslavia countries, as well as the activities relating to the standardization of the Roma language and the development of the European Roma policy and access to EU funds by countries outside the EU.

Urban and social aspects of promoting and legalizing informal Roma settlements were considered at the workshop "For Better Roma Housing and Settlements", along with the relocation of settlements that cannot be legalized, as well as the willingness of the Roma to adapt.

Contact and information: Government of Serbia

www.srbija.gov.rs

Roma Decade, www.romadecade.org

ROMA EDUCATION FUND: Competition of Student Scholarships

The Roma Education Fund (REF) has opened a competition for student scholarships as part of the Roma Memorial Scholarship University Programme (RMUSP).

Students of the fourth grade of secondary school can apply, and one of the conditions is that the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia has accredited the study programme.

All information and required documentation can be downloaded at the <http://ref.rmusp.org> website under Core Program.

Fund for Open Society

Tel: 011 3025 800, email: office@fosserbia.org

www.fosserbia.org

COMMISSARIAT FOR REFUGEES

Government of Serbia Takes Care of Asylum-Seekers

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has taken over management of the Asylum Center in Banja Koviljača from UNHCR. The Asylum Center, renovated by UNHCR with the European Commission funds, is part of the Commissariat for Refugees, while funds for center operations are provided from the budget of the Republic of Serbia.

Pursuant to the Law on Asylum which came into effect last year, Serbia is obliged to take over care for future asylum-seekers. UNHCR dealt with issues and the status of asylum-seekers in Serbia for the past 30 years.

The Center was opened in November 2007, providing a home and elementary living conditions for persons seeking asylum in Serbia or leaving for other countries, until a final decision is rendered by Serbian state bodies. The Center may receive 88 persons.

Refugee Commission, tel: 011 26 34 361

E-mail: kirs@kirs.gov.rs, www.kirs.gov.rs

REFUGEE AND DISPLACED PERSONS CARE PROGRAM

Homes for 89 Families

The Humanitarian Organization Divac (HOD) and UNHCR provided care of 70 families in 2008, by way of program for providing housing for refugees and internally displaced persons.

Nineteen vulnerable families were secured as well, for whom houses were bought by UNHCR by own funds and in cooperation with other organizations.

In 2009, HOD plans to gather resources to provide housing for another 100 families currently residing in collective centers.

UNHCR is continuing cooperation with HOD by purchase of 22 houses from common funds, as well as additional 47 houses from own funds.

UNHCR, www.unhcr.org.yu

Humanitarian Organization Divac (HOD)
<http://divac.org.yu>

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Draft Law on Employment of Persons with Disabilities Enters Parliament Procedure

In September 2008, the Government of Serbia adopted the Draft Law on the Professional Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities, which is currently being adopted in the Parliament. In addition to stimulating employment, the law will provide for social integration in labor environment and accessibility of workplaces.

Of the total number of 800,000 persons with disabilities living in Serbia, according to

the estimates of relevant institutions, only some 20 percent are employed. Only 13 percent of the 25,000 persons registered with the National Employment Service are employed.

When it comes to professional rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, the Draft Law envisages measures aiming to prepare these persons for adequate jobs and/or employment and career advancement, as well as retraining for other professions.

PROGRESS PROGRAMME

Serbia Takes Part in Four Projects

Serbia is taking part in four projects of the Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity of the European Community - PROGRESS 2007-2013. Of the seven proposals submitted by institutions and organizations from Serbia, two project proposals were approved by the European Commission.

A total of 60 calls will be published in 2009-9 calls for proposals and 51 calls for tender. The total of EUR 106 million shall be allocated from the European Commission budget in 2009 for the programme.

Priority activities to be financed by the European Commission shall include the preparation of studies and analyses, strengthening networks at the EU level and exchange of good practices in areas such as: flexicurity, new trends in the labor market, policies to curb poverty, development of social services of public interest, etc.

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

www.minrzs.gov.rs

Progress Programme

Implementation Committee

Women's Influence on Public Policy

The "Violence against Women - Influence on Public Policy" Conference was held in Belgrade, organized by CARE International NWB, in cooperation with the Autonomous Women's Center (AWC) from Belgrade, Center for Education, Counseling and Research from Zagreb and MEDICA from Zenica. Twenty women's NGOs from the region took part in the conference. One of the conclusions was that women's groups from Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina will position themselves as participants in creating public policy by founding networks to take part in the European Women's Lobby.

They shall likewise call for the establishment of legal regulations protecting and supporting women, as well as the development of a gender-sensitive public registry and budgets in all fields of work.

Contact: CARE Internation NWB

www.carenwb.org

AWC, tel: 011 26 87 190; www.womenngo.org.yu

Center for Education, Counseling and Research

tel: +385 1 2422 800, www.cesi.hr

One Hour for the Earth

On March 28, the World Wildlife Fund will organize the "Earth Hour 2009" action, with the idea of turning lights off for one hour in cities around the world in order to contribute to the fight against climate changes. The goal is to gain support of a billion participants in more than thousand cities around the world, to exert pressure on global policy-makers when they meet to talk about global climate change agreements in Copenhagen, towards the end of this year. www.wwf.org

One in Ten Elderly Persons is Living below the Poverty Line

There are 1,335,000 persons aged 65 or over living in Serbia today, 350,000 of which do not receive any personal income, or their personal income is below 6,500 dinars per month, as indicated in the "Survey on Poverty among Elderly Persons in Serbia".

The Survey was conducted by the Amity non-government organization, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme and the EU, as part of the "Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Creating Policies and Practices for Poverty Reduction" project.

The survey was conducted with the aim of determining the needs of elderly persons for additional state support measures, and to advocate for changes in social policies as regards financial transfers to the poor.

Around 30,000 elderly persons receiving family agricultural pensions and 11,200 MOP beneficiaries receive income below 6,500 dinars. Of those, over 128,000 live below the poverty line. One person in eleven is a recipient of state social allowance.

The survey indicates that 90 percent of elderly persons suffer from chronic ailments. This percentage equals 81 percent for persons aged over 70. The most vulnerable are persons living alone, especially women and persons receiving social allowances.

A key recommendation to the Government of Serbia entails the need to establish a new financial program targeting exclusively the elderly population.

Contact: Power of Friendship - Amity

Tel: 011 21 31 261, www.amity-yu.org

HumanaS, tel: 011 26 22 121

www.humanas.rs

COMPETITION

BY THE CITY OF BELGRADE: Projects Promoting Social Security

The Secretariat for Social Welfare of the City of Belgrade has opened a competition for financing projects by public and non-government organizations in the field of social and veteran disability protection.

The goal of the competition is to provide support for projects representing innovation or improving existing social services and systems for protection, especially regarding non-institutional forms of social welfare, or projects encompassing a larger number of beneficiaries within the current social welfare system.

The commission will also support financing ongoing projects targeting protection of particularly vulnerable persons, if there is justification for their further financing.

Contact: City of Belgrade, Secretariat for Social Welfare, tel: 011 36 05 951

www.beograd.rs

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