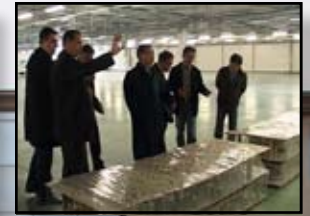




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RECONSTRUCTION OF ČAIR STADIUM

Niš Stadium Reconstruction officially started on March 30, 2011 by tearing down the old stands on the East side of the stadium.



Future Čair Stadium Design

The ceremony which marked the reconstruction project beginning was attended by the Minister of environment, mining and spatial planning Oliver Dulić, Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and his associates, representatives of Radnički Football Club and numerous people from the world of sports.

"This is a big day for Niš and for all those to whom this stadium means something special. This stadium was built 50 years ago and I am very proud that its reconstruction has started today. I would like to thank all the people participating in

this project. This phase of works will last for 274 days. We expect to find the funds for the works on the West side stadium stands until the end of this year. After reconstruction, Čair Stadium will be the third biggest stadium in Serbia and the first one to meet all the World Football Federation standards", said Miloš Simonović.

"Today is that day when all of us can be satisfied. Niš Stadium is the biggest project worth almost 1 billion dinars. Besides the fact that Niš will get a modern stadium, it is also important to say that between 500 and 1000 construction workers will be engaged





Tearing down East side stands

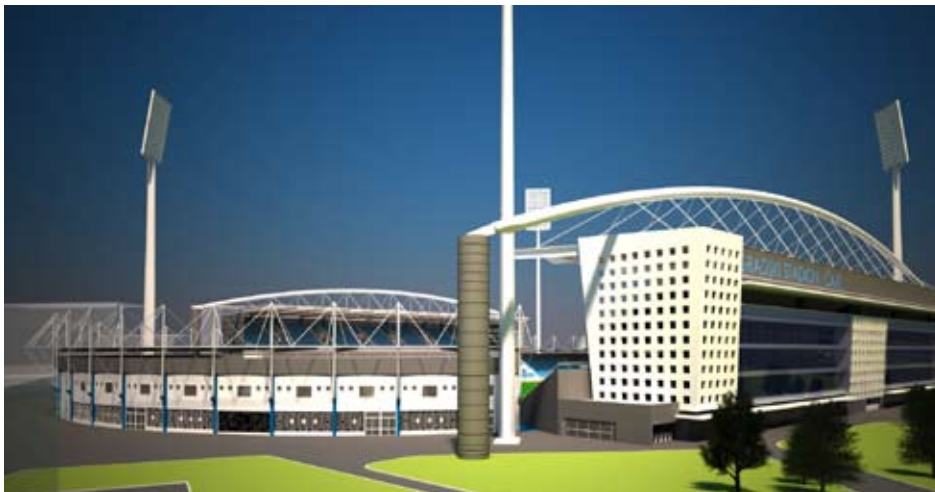
in this project. I expect that, when I come back to Niš in 270 days, we will open the Stadium”, said Minister Dulić.

Official start up of reconstruction was attended by fans of Radnički Football Club. Mayor Simonović handed over a stone from

the East Side Stand wrecks to the representative of Radnicki Fan Club as a sign of initiation of works. He added that he expected Radnički to enter Super League with the matches at new stadium by 2013.



Future Čair Stadium Design – East Stands



Future Čair Stadium Design – West Stands



First match under flood lights

Niš Stadium Čair was built in 1963. No investment has been made for last 30 years. After the reconstruction in line with FIFA standards Niš Stadium will have a completely new look.



Sports Arena Čair Reconstruction

Niš City will get contemporary sport complex with reconstructed Stadium and Arena Čair and constructed open air swimming pool.



Swimming pool complex at Sports Center Čair



Future Čair Stadium Design



1982 UEFA Championship – Radnicki vs. Hamburger

Čair Stadium Reconstruction started with the preparation works on the East side Stands which had been out of function for previous 15 years. The main reconstruction conceptual design envisages all-seater stadium with 6966 seats on the East side stands, 9037 seats on South and North side stands and 2154 seats on West side stands. Reconstructed stadium will have the capacity of 18 151, with additional 120 seats for VIPs and 50 seats for media.

925 million dinars will be needed for completes reconstruction. Both City of Niš and RS Government will allocate 10% of the needed funds from their budgets for the year 2011 while the rest of the finances will be secured from the RS Development Fund credit line.

Electronic reading ticket machines will be placed at the entrances for the spectators. The maximum time for the exit of spectators will be 8 minutes while FIFA recommends 10 minutes. The Stadium shall provide seats for every spectator implementing the requisite safety standards. Each spectator shall be allotted an individual, numbered seat.

According to FIFA standards the premises for the players, officials and media will be on the same side and thus the East Side Stands will become the primary ones since they will be newly built. The newly built space will be used for dressing rooms for teams and referees, infirmaries, VIP

boxes with separate entrances and lift, press area and press conference room, café restaurant, room for anti-doping control, TV broadcasting and editing room and separate place for OB truck.

According to FIFA regulations, the football players will enter by bus into the space inside East Side stands so there will be no physical contact between players and fans. Special parking lots will be inside for the vehicles used by referees and delegates. VIP guests will have their own underground parking lots which would enable even the highest state officials to attend the games. The players and officials will have separate walking entrance and entrance for 2 buses for players. The parking lot leads into the common space, mix zone and exit to the playfield and press conference room. Both home and guest teams will have identical dressing rooms.

The anti-doping control room will consist of 2 rooms with separate showers and toilet facilities. First - aid block is connected directly to mix zone, playing field and ambulance vehicle.

VIPs will be able to walk and drive into the stadium through separate entrances connected with separate parking lots. The drive - in entrance is connected via mix zone to the press conference room. The VIP boxes will accommodate 120 seats.

Media representatives will have separate entrance with the reception

area where the accreditations could be obtained. The media block has its own toilet facilities. Entrance area leads to the press conference room which is connected to mix zone for the interviews with the players before and after the game. The press conference room can used independently even when there are no matches. Journalists will have the room for working and sending their reports facilitated by contemporary communication lines. The photographers will have special storage room for their cameras and other equipment. The project designs the space for OB truck and TV broadcasting and editing. The box for managing floodlights, speakers, and the boxes for TV commentators will be located in this part of stadium. Media lounge will have mini bar and it can be used as journalists' club. Media sector is connected with stadium management sector.



FC Radnicki fans at the stadium stands in 1963

EHF SATISFIED WITH THE ARENA ČAIR RECONSTRUCTION DYNAMICS

European Handball Federation delegation led by the president of the Competition Commission Jan Tuik inspected the current reconstruction works at the Sports Arena Čair.

The delegation met with all the people responsible for the project design and execution of the construction works. The EHF delegation also had the meeting with city management representatives. The EHF delegation was very satisfied with the dynamics of the works executed so far.

The EHF representatives visited Niš in November 2010 to recheck the possibilities of overcoming the obstacles for meeting the conditions necessary for hosting the European Championship 2012 at Sports Arena Čair. The dynamics of reconstruction works agreed then has been respected so far.

After visit to Arena, the meeting of the Local Organisational Committee for preparation for EHF Men's European Handball Championship 2012 was held and it was attended by EHF representatives as well. Mayor Simonovic announced the completion of the works by July this year which will be followed with interior furnishing of the arena. Once the reconstruction works are finished, the hall will be ready for the organisation of the biggest sports competitions. It will satisfy high standards of sports federations referring to provision of the unhampered communication between the organizers, spectators, sportsmen and media.



Jan Tuik, EHF Competition Commission president



EHF delegation inspecting the Arena Čair reconstruction progress

BENETTON PRODUCTION AT NITEX IN SPRING

The representatives of Benetton Technical Department and Benetton Team for opening new production facility in Serbia spent two days in Niš on the preparations for opening Benetton Serbia Company.

After meeting with Benetton Team, Niš City Mayor Simonović confirmed that Purchase Sale Contract would be signed by mid April and that the beginning of the production could be expected by mid May.

Benetton intends to employ 2,700 new workers within the period of next four years. Total value of this investment project is estimated around 43 million EUR. The state will provide Investment incentives amounted to 9.000 EUR for each new workplace created within 3 years. Benetton plans to establish textile production facilities in the Nitex factory premises, to bring its own subsidiary and suppliers and

establish cooperation with local companies which can satisfy the standards that Benetton requires. The products will be intended for export and expected turnover will be around 72 million EUR per annum.

Benetton will keep and adapt the existing building within Nitex complex that satisfy the necessary requirements while the rest will be torn down. Completely new equipment will be installed both in old and new premises. The City of Niš will support Benetton within the jurisdiction of local authorities, assuming all responsibility for providing proper and expeditious administrative service and support



Benetton in Niš

and it will assist with the clearing out of the complex site. City of Niš, in cooperation with Free Customs Zones Administration and upon approval of RS Government shall extend free customs zone to the location of Nitex factory site, thus speeding up the process of customs clearance since whole Benetton production will be intended for export.

AMBASSADOR OF SOUTH KOREA VISITED NEW FACTORY IN DONJE MEDJUROVO

Nis City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Head of Office for Local Economic Development Milan Randjelović together with the Ambassador of South Korea in Serbia Kim Jonghae visited newly constructed Yura Corporation factory for the production of electro-installation for automobile industry in Donje Medjurovo.



Korean Ambassador visitin newly constructed Yura factory in Donje Medjurovo

The Ambassadors Jonghae said that he was extremely satisfied with the dynamics of the construction works and he pointed out the importance of respecting all agreed deadlines in the implementation of this investment project. Mayor Simonović said that he was pleased that in a month time newly built factory will be officially handed over to its owner. The beginning of the production can be expected at the end of May. Mayor Simonović and Ambassador

Jonghae inspected also works on the construction of the Yura affiliate company Yura Eltec factory.

Good cooperation between Niš City local administration and Korean company Yura was the recommendation to all other companies from this country to start their businesses in Niš. The efficiency of administration and local institutions were one of the preconditions for respecting of work dynamics on the construction of new factory.



Newly constructed production facility



Ambassador of South Korea in Serbia Kim Jonghae

CITY OF NIŠ SUPPORTS INVESTORS

SIEPA has closed a public call for 13th round of financial assistance for new investment projects in Serbia on March 4, 2011.

The City of Niš supported 5 companies from Niš which applied with their production and service programmes. This support is in accordance with the city strategic priorities which relate to speeded economic development of the city and of this region.

State grants are offered for Greenfield and Brownfield projects in all industries, except for Retail, Tourism, Hospitality and Agriculture. Eligible companies are those involved in the internationally marketable manufacturing activities and services sector. For investments in manufacturing activities SIEPA is granting funds from €2,000 to €5,000 per every new employee, and €4,000 to €10,000 for investments in the devastated areas and areas of special state interest (Zaječar, Kraljevo, Niš, Novi Pazar). For investments in the Automotive, Electronics and IT industry in the areas of special state interest available funds range from €5,000 to €10,000, and for investments in the internationally marketable services from €2,000 to €10,000 per every new employee.

So far, state grants have been given to the following companies with business operations in Niš: Seavus, Pacom, Cim College, Yura Corporation, Dytech F&F Serbia, Harder Digital, Bakery MBN, Haj Ararat, Euro Design, Ming, Bard , Status, Nišauto, El PCB Factory and Tagor Electronics.

NEW SHOPPING MALL FORUM OPENED IN NIŠ

New shopping mall "Forum" was officially opened in Niš. Ceremonial opening was attended by His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Irinej.

Guests could enjoy numerous side programs, such as concerts, fashion shows and other.

Mayor of Niš Miloš Simonović said that Niš citizens were very happy to have such a shopping mall in the center of the City. "Niš gets a magnificent building in the center of the City where some fashion brands will open their shops for the first time in Serbia. What is especially important is the fact that this shopping mall will employ 500 people as well as that Niš City, once again, proved out to be a reliable partner in the realization of all the investments. One of the results will also be a donation of kids' playground which will soon be set up in the Fortress".

The owner of this shopping mall is "Fashion Company", one of the



New shopping mall "Forum"

biggest national companies that deals with fashion, retail and wholesale with more than 30 retail shops in Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia.

Working hours of FORUM Shopping Mall located in Obrenovićeveva 42 is from 10.00 to 22.00, every day, including weekends.

DYTECH PRESENTATION FOR FACULTY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Italian company Dytech in cooperation with the City of Niš delivered the presentation about the company at Faculty of Mechanics.

Mr. Mario Zanardi, the manager of Dytech development and engineering department and Mr. Fabio Ferraro, the manager of Dytech component research and development department, presented to the mechanical engineering students the vision of Dytech Company, their basic products, the specificities of their production line and novelties in application methods for mobile air conditioning systems.

Niš Faculty of Mechanical Engineering as one of the main initiators of educational, scientific, economic and social development

of Niš and the region is starting the cycle of presentation of national and international companies for the students. The objective of such presentations is to give future graduates an opportunity to have a direct contact with potential employers and to learn more about the companies from Niš, Serbia and abroad.

ANOTHER NEW FACTORY OPENED

French company Batiqoc together with its business partners Batiroc and Axe Metal opened the production facilities in the hall of the company MIN Special Vehicles.



Baticoc Company Factory in Niš

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović pressed the first button starting the production line at the official factory opening.

Batiqoc specializes in the production of roof constructions and it is the owner of the certificate for the production of this type construction material. 2 million Euros were invested during the first phase of the investment project and more is expected to be invested during the developing of the following stages. The company will employ 80 new workers. The company will place their products at EU and Russian markets and presently they are negotiating entering new markets in the Balkans and Africa. The material necessary for the production of roof construction will be purchased in Serbia.

On the occasion of official factory opening Mr. Loran Lardo, one of the owners of the company, said that good business environment in the City of Niš tailored to the needs of the investors was the reason why Batiqoc decided to come to Niš.

Mayor Simonović pointed out that the opening of new production facility in the complex of Mechanical Industry was a good sign that existing capacities could be used and he also expressed his hopes that this investment would be another positive investment venture in the year when Niš became the synonym for the best place in Serbia for direct foreign investments.

PROMOTION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN PROFESSIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The City of Niš and LEDIB programme are implementing the project **Promotion of Entrepreneurial Skills in Professional Secondary Schools.**

LEDIB Programme committed to finance the amount of 1.432.700 RSD, equivalent to 60.48% of the total funds from the Budget for Project implementation. The City of Niš committed to finance the amount of 936.000 RSD, equivalent to 39.52% of the total funds from the Budget for Project implementation.

The guidelines in the realization of this project are encouraging entrepreneurial spirit development and entrepreneurial environment in professional secondary schools and introducing new practical subjects into secondary school curricula as well as establishing cooperation between high schools and "business world".

General project goal is strengthening the capacities of professional secondary schools for better adjustment to the economic requirements and the labour market at the local level and following good practices examples in promotion and acceptance of entrepreneurial skills. It refers specifically to the promotion of interdisciplinary scientific approaches based on modern technologies competition and proactive inclusion of professional mentors in all development processes for professional programs in sectors of electro technique, information technology and entrepreneurship.

The project importance focuses on adjusting of educational profile of students in professional secondary schools to modern needs of society; education of teachers for introducing innovations in teaching program and enabling students for informational work and obtaining of entrepreneurial skills. 12 secondary professional schools received the computer equipment and licensed software for development of virtual enterprises (CESIM Internet Platform).

The contract on the donation of the computer equipment was signed



Computers and software for secondary schools

by Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and the directors of 12 secondary professional schools (Electro-Technical School Nikola Tesla, Electro-Technical School Mija Stanimirović, School of Mechanics Niš, Mechanical and Technical School 15.maj, Technical school 12.februar, Technical School of Construction Neimar, Nutrition and chemical school, School of fashion and beauty, Catering and Tourist School, Medical School, Trade School). On the same occasion, BIC Niš and Faculty of Economics received the licensed software for virtual enterprises.

Mayor Simonović said that the projects like these were more than necessary because young people needed the right direction and that it was important to develop sound entrepreneurial spirit in order to prepare those young people for their future.

LEDIB Programme director Carsten Lund expressed his hope that the final result of the project would be new enterprises in Niš in the future. Those potential new enterprises are the key factors in creating new jobs. Mr. Lund used this opportunity to invite all the educational institutions to establish cooperation with the Cluster of Start-Up companies formed by LEDIB in order to exchange the experiences regarding the developing entrepreneurial skills in secondary schools.

NIŠ CLUSTER OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES: Ni-CAT

19 companies dealing with the production of electronic and electro mechanic devices as well as with information and communication technologies formed cluster Ni-CAT.

Besides the local companies the cluster members are the institutions which are supporting those companies: University of Niš Faculty of Electronics and Mechanics, Regional Chamber of Commerce Niš, Business Incubator Niš and Regional Development Association South.

The objectives of associating into cluster are the operational support to cluster members in implementing development projects; promotion of Serbia and the City of Niš to international and local general public as important destination for doing business in the field of electronic and informational technology industry; promotion of research and scientific activities and development of new technological products and services as well as development of new markets and business operations for all cluster members.

The cluster has been formed with the support of Niš City through its Office for Local Economic Development implementing the Support to Enterprise Competitiveness and Export Promotion - SECEP Project financed by EU with the support RS Ministry of Economy and Regional Development.

Ni-Cat cluster is open for reception of new members and the cluster invites all local dynamic companies doing business in electronic and electro mechanic industry and information and communication technology industry to join the future cluster activities.

IFC COMPETITIVENESS PROJECT CLOSING CONFERENCE

As a closing ceremony for the IFC Serbia Sub-national Competitiveness Project and establishment of sustainable partners for continuation of sub-national regulatory reforms, IFC together with the RS Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia and the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia organized a joint Conference entitled **Regulatory Governance to Stimulate Investment and Growth**.

The Conference was organized to present the results of the regulatory reforms implemented by IFC and 10 Serbian local municipalities during the period 2007-2010; to emphasize the importance of the private-public dialogue and synergy between local and national level in achieving successful regulatory governance and to Discuss the sustainability and replicability of regulatory reform on the local level.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović presented the experience in the implementation of the regulatory reform at Niš City Administration. The implemented project contributed to development of better conditions for business operations through simplification of administrative procedures and improvement of services provided to entrepreneurs. More efficient and modern local administration achieved by the implementation of this project is of better service to the citizens and interested investors. Mayor Simonović pointed out that the greatest challenge was the administrative procedure at the Administration for Planning and Construction. City of Niš made good progress in shortening the time needed for the obtaining of the construction permits. Location permit can be issued in 5 days while the construction permit is issued in 7 days which is quite faster than the RS Law prescribes.

Niš City Regulatory Reform team adopted 701 recommendations for simplification of the total 318 administrative procedures (96% of total recorded procedures). The respective administration units adopted 47 legal acts which introduced the recommendations



IFC Closing Conference

into legal functioning of the city and city municipality administrations. The procedure simplification refers to elimination of the documents and changing the document form, decreasing taxes and fees, shortening deadlines, the standardization of the forms used to apply for different services provided by administration, introduction of e-forms. Also the registry of administrative procedures has been made and it represents the electronic database of all the data referring to administrative procedures performed at city administration departments. 332 administrative procedures under the jurisdiction of the city and city municipalities are recorded in the registry and each of these procedures has been explained. The procedures in the registry can be searched by city administration organisational units or by activities performed by those units. The data in the registry are regularly updated.

CITY CALL CENTER AND PERMIT ONE STOP SHOP SOON

The Project focused on the improvement of city services functioning and management capacities at Niš City administration is being implemented within Exchange 3 Programme supported financially by EU.

The total project value is 143 000 EUR. The City of Niš is implementing this project together with NGO Balkan Development Team and the City of Aarhus from Denmark.

Based on the City of Aarhus experiences and agreements reached with Niš City public utility companies, the common call center for all communal services and one stops shop for construction permit issuance will be established at Niš City Administration.

The citizens can report to call center all the problems related to communal services by phone, e-mail or mobile text message and they can also get all the necessary information about the services provided by all city administrations departments and city public utility companies.

"The citizens of Niš will have direct access to people in charge of resolving the problems the citizens are facing every day. One stop shop for construction permit issuance will be the place where the people can finish the whole procedure related obtaining necessary permits for the construction of their objects. This particular service will collect all the necessary documentations and approvals from different city communal companies for the investors", said Milan Randjelović, the Head of Local Economic Development Office.

The next step in the implementation of this project is the study visit to Denmark where the delegation of 9 representatives from Niš public communal service will have the chance to learn about the best practices of the same center in Aarhus.

ANOTHER DONATION FOR SAFE HOUSE

Société Générale Bank donated 250.000 dinars to the Safe House.



Société Générale donates to Safe House

The money is intended for the furnishing of the first Regional Safe House in the Southeast Serbia. Société Générale management pointed out that this donation was not initiated within corporate social responsibility operation of the bank. The money was collected by the female employees who gave their presents for International Women's Holiday. This is something the bank female employees do every year trying to help our primarily the women in need.

According Dušica Davidović, Niš City Council member, who received the check on the behalf of the city, the building intended for Safe House was adapted completely and it could accommodate up to 25 women with children not only from Niš City territory but also from surrounding municipalities. Mrs. Davidović said also that the City of Niš was the first city in Serbia where Parliament adopted the decision to establish the institution for providing shelter to women and children who were victims of the

domestic violence. The next steps would be to define the Statute for this institution and appoint the management and start working.

Safe House building, of total 388 square meters and 700 square meters of the yard, is owned by the City of Niš. The building has been completed renovated. The upper floors are intended for the accommodation of women and children while the ground floor premises are intended for the victims of violence with the difficulty in walking, for the group therapies and physical therapy.

Besides providing shelter and essential life security, Safe House staff will work on self-reliance and strengthening of the victim. The Team of experts will be in charge of this comprising social worker, psychologist and psychotherapeutics. The beneficiaries will be educated and professionally skilled with the aim to become materially self-reliant and independent.

NEW VEHICLE FOR RAISING LIFE QUALITY FOR SOCIALLY VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Niš City Municipality Palilula received new terrain vehicle as the part of EXCHANGE 3 Project for raising municipality capacities for improving the life quality for socially vulnerable groups of citizens.



New terrain vehicle for mobile teams

The new vehicle will facilitate the work of mobile teams and respective municipality departments in providing services in the field of psycho-social age and preventive medical help for socially vulnerable groups on the territory of Palilula municipality which covers 15 villages. Municipality of Palilula is implementing this project with Niš City Social Care Center and the Municipality of Custendil from Bulgaria. The EXCHANGE 3 Programme is financed by EU and it is being implemented by Serbian Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. The programme represents the continuation of the activities directed towards the introduction of EU model into public administration functioning and improvement of its efficiency.

PORTUGUESE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING DELEGATION

The delegation of Portuguese Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning led by the Minister Dulce Passaro came to official visit to Serbia.



Portuguese Minister of Environment and Spatial Dulce Passaro

The delegation had meetings with city authorities in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš. The MoU between the Portuguese and Serbian respective ministries is planned to be signed during this official visit and it will define the goals, areas and modalities of the future cooperation.

Nis City representatives led by Nis City Mayor Miloš Simonović presented to Minister Passaro and her associates the potentials and the activities undertaken by the city in the field of water supply, waste wares treatment, communal waste management and urban planning as well as present cooperation with the Portuguese company Pargue Expo.

The City of Niš, thanks to the Embassy of Portugal, in 2010 commenced cooperation with the Parque Expo, renowned Portuguese state-owned company that dealt

with city planning, revitalization of space and other various projects based on territory, valorization of territory, optimum solutions of space organization. The representatives of Parque Expo and the City of Niš prepared three project proposals for further cooperation: celebration of 17th century since Edict of Milan signing; the revitalization and urban planning for the development of land properties on the location of former military barracks in the city settlement of Pantalej; urban revitalization of the vacated space after the location of railway from the city center.

After the meeting Minister Passaro said that she was impressed by the efforts that Niš City had invested into environment protection and in urban planning activities in the function of local economic development.

CITY OF NIŠ AS THE PART OF SERBIAN DELEGATION IN CoE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

20th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg.



Serbian delegation in CoE congress of local and regional authorities

Dušica Dvidović, Niš City Council member as the part of official Serbian delegation to the Congress participated in the work of the congress. At the top of the agenda of the 20th Session of the Congress were debates on human rights issues at local level, in particular the situation of Roma in Europe.

Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, called for strengthening of co-operation between local and regional authorities in Europe and the Congress itself and recommended determining strategic direction for regional and local authorities in Europe. He added that Europe's stability can be maintained only through strong local and regional structures. In this context, the Commissioner called for a genuine implementation of multi-level governance.

Serbian delegation met with Commissioner Han to discuss the possibilities of including Western Balkan states into new instrument of territorial cooperation - European Grouping for Territorial cooperation (EGTC). This instrument is designed to facilitate and promote cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation.

SPEAK EUROPEAN IN NIŠ

City of Niš has been preparing itself to respond to all tasks which will be awaiting the city once Serbian application for EU membership is accepted.



Speak European - practical training for public officers

One of many activities undertaken by the city is the participation in the project Speak European - Professional Development for Accession implemented by Serbian Office for EU integrations and financed by European Union. The project offers a combination of practical training courses and work-based experience in countries of the European Union, for more than 200 people, over the next two years. The training and development activities are aimed at civil and public servants at all levels of Government, and at professionals who can help to enhance the level of public awareness about the benefits and obligations of EU membership.

The principal aims of the project are facilitation of the process of accession, by strengthening the necessary expertise and awareness of civil and public servants at central and local levels of administration, in the fields directly relevant to the legal, procedural, financial and technical aspects of European integration and stimulation of better understanding of the European Union through training courses targeted at professionals whose work is concerned with awareness-raising, education and public opinion throughout Serbia.

After the completion of the

selection process three employees of Niš City Administration received the grants for the professional training at EU institutions. Niš City Council Secretary General Marina Janković and Marija Andjelković from Niš City Administration for Planning and Construction will be attending the courses about the EU legal and institution framework and about the EU policies at the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht, Holland, and the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Bojana Vujanac from Niš City Mayor's Office for Local Economic Development will undergo three-month training at one of the Great Britain institution involved directly into EU membership processes. This group of selected public officers is referred to as Community Multipliers since their role will be to disseminate information on the nature, values and benefits of EU membership among their colleagues and more widely across the general population.

Project implementation is led by the British Council in a consortium with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), Maastricht, and the College of Europe (CoE), Bruges, in collaboration with the Communications and Training Section of the European Integration Office of the Serbian Government.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF HONORARY HUNGARIAN CONSULATE IN NIŠ

On the occasion of celebrating Honorary Hungarian Consulate in Niš second anniversary, Hungarian Ambassador to Serbia H.E. Mr. Oszkar Nikowitz visited the City of Niš and met with the Mayor Simonović.



Hungarian Ambassador to Serbia H.E. Mr. Oszkar Nikowitz

Ambassador Nikowitz used the opportunity to express the wish by City of Debrecen to initiate the twinning project with our city since both Niš and Debrecen were the cities with important university centers and rich cultural life.

The ambassador Nikowitz joined Niš City Vice-Mayor Mrs. Nadja Marković for the opening of the exhibition dedicated to the famous Hungarian composer Franc Liszt at Niš City European Corner. Thus the City of Niš joined the world in celebrating 200 years since the birth of this renowned composer, the most technically advanced pianist of his age and perhaps the greatest pianist of all time.

DAYS OF AARHUS IN NIŠ

City of Aarhus International Office in Niš organized an exhibition entitled "Days of Aarhus in Niš", in the European Corner.

The exhibition was prepared by the officers from the City of Aarhus, who were currently working in Niš within the program Support of Aarhus City to the Agency for Local Democracy for Central and Southern Serbia and the City of Niš.

The following institutions and organisation from Aarhus had the chance to present themselves at the exhibition: Danish Embassy in Belgrade, Archeological Museum of Aarhus, Old Aarhus Museum, University of Aarhus, Museum of Contemporary Art, Official Tourist Organization of Aarhus and Denmark, Region of Aarhus - Brussels Office, Danish Parliament - EU Office, International High School for EU Affairs, LEDIB Program and Danish furniture company - Ergomade - located in Niš.

Besides main exhibition, the citizens of Niš had the opportunity to see the screening of the Danish documentaries in the evenings as well as to enjoy a colorful kid's day when children and their parents took part in numerous activities. Little Mermaid was a real attraction for more than 100 kids who entered the European Corner for the first time. Children could learn about Denmark, City of Aarhus and Hans Christian Andersen- a famous fairy tales writer whose birthday was marked on that day, as well as to enjoy storytelling, quizzes and various workshops. Each kid was given a present and a coloring book.

Days of Aarhus in Niš events were organised with the support of the City of Niš, Agency of Local Democracy - LDA and Legal Administration School from Niš.

On the occasion of the exhibition opening, H.E. Mette Kjuel Nielsen, Ambassador of Denmark in Serbia, visited the City of Niš and had a meeting with Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and his associates. The Ambassador said that the Embassy would continue with efforts to enable good communication between Niš and Denmark as well as with transferring of best practices between two countries. Kingdom of Denmark is known as one of the biggest donors in Niš Region, through the LEDIB Program.



H.E. Mette Kjuel Nielsen, Ambassador of Denmark in Serbia, Boban Mihajlovic, Niš City Councillor, Jesper Bork, Aarhus City representative



Danes in Niš



About Denmark and Aarhus



Little Mermaid at the workshop for children

FRENCH DAYS IN NIŠ FROM 18TH TO 31ST OF MARCH

French Institute in Niš, in cooperation with the City of Niš and local institutions, organized manifestation French Days, for eighth time.



French Days in Niš

This year events held within this manifestation brought the spirit of one of the most prominent European cultures closer to Niš citizens. Charming French culture was presented through a prism of photography, cinematography and music. The introduction to French Days was a lecture held by French Ambassador Francois Xavier Deniau. As well, the Ambassador opened two exhibitions- "Water" by Yan Arthus Bertrand and "Biodiversity of the wild world genesis" in Synagogue. Both exhibitions had been prepared in cooperation with "National Museum".

One of the standout events was the concert of Bassékou Kouyaté from Mali in the "National Theater". Kouyaté is recognizable all over the world for the mix of traditional and African music and modern sound.

The finals for the best Francophone song were traditionally held in the big hall of Symphony orchestra on 26th of March. The end of manifestation was marked by Days of France movies in Niš Culture Center.

More info from EU Corner find at Niš City Office for European Affairs website: www.kep.ni.rs

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE FORUM IN NIŠ

International forum of Russian language and literature was held at Niš City Hall on the occasion of celebrating 300 years since Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov was born.



Competition about the life and work of Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov

The Forum was organised by Russian Agency for International Projects in the Fields of Culture, Education and Sports from Moscow in cooperation with Life of Cities Festival Board.

The objective of this project is to bring closer young Serbian and Russian generations and to give them chance to become familiar with each other's tradition and culture. The forum was held in the form of the Q&A competition about the life and work of Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov, a Russian polymath, scientist and writer, who made important contributions to literature, education, and science. Teams were made from secondary school pupils and students. The students successful in national competitions in Russian language and literature were part of Russian team. Serbian team was comprised of student studying Russian language in secondary schools and at University of Nis.

This project is realised with the support of Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation Embassy in Serbia, Serbia Embassy in Moscow, Federal Agency for CIS Affairs, compatriots living abroad, and international humanitarian cooperation, City of Novi Sad and City of Nis. The project is sponsored by Aeroflot and Lukoil.



Competition about the life and work of Mikhail Vasilyevich Lomonosov

LIGHTS OUT FOR EARTH HOUR

At 8:30 PM on Saturday March 26, 2011, City of Niš joined the world for Earth Hour by switching off the lights at the city center and at all city public buildings for an hour.

Green NGOs from Niš - Space, Green Key, Zoo Planet and Niš City Green Network promoted the Earth Hour Initiative and organised the Sing for Planet Programme which gathered the choirs, bands and volunteers from the city at the square in front of Niš National Theatre on Saturday evening.



Lights Out for Earth Hour

The campaign Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia when 2.2 million individuals and more than 2,000 businesses turned their lights off for one hour to take a stand against climate change. Only a year later and Earth Hour had become a global sustainability movement with more than 50 million people across 35 countries/territories participating. Global landmarks such as the Sydney Harbor Bridge, CN Tower in Toronto, Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and Colosseum in Rome, all stood in darkness, as symbols of hope for a cause that grows more urgent by the hour.