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ARENA ČAIR READY FOR BIGGEST SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sports Arena Čair is ready for biggest sports championships since it has now completely new interior, wider capacity, new air-conditioning system, stairways, and reconstructed dressing rooms, medical block and telescopic stands.



Sports Arena Čair

It is fully equipped to host the biggest sports events. The reconstruction works started in spring. Only the old construction framework has been kept and in less than six months the brand new sports facility was built. It satisfies high standards of sports federations referring to provision

of the unhampered communication between the organizers, spectators, sportsmen and media.

"It was not an easy decision to enter such a big project. A lot of people were skeptical about the expected outcome. However, we managed to keep the dynamics of works execution



and to bring this big job to an end. We managed to turn an old sports hall which nobody has invested for past thirty years into real sports hall beauty with highest standards and greatest comforts for the spectators", said Nis City Mayor Miloš Simonović.

European Handball Federation Delegation visited the reconstructed Sports Arena Čair and on this occasion they approved carried out works. They inspected the complete object against the standards and recommendations provided by EHF. Mr. Jan Tuik, Chairman of EHF Competitions Commission, said that the citizens of Nis could be proud

of the new hall. The credits should be given to city management, to project design bureaus and architects, the contractors and all involved who worked hard on the reconstruction. He added that he was convinced that EHF Men's European Handball Championship 2012 at Nis Sports Hall would be a great success and Čair Arena would provide a positive and great experience for the fans and players of Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic and FYR Macedonia.

The representatives of INFRONT EHF Men's European Handball Championship 2012, the official EHF

marketing agency which handled marketing of the worldwide media rights for EHF, were also a part of the delegation which inspected the hall. Martin Ross from INFRONT said that the broadcast from Nis Sports Hall during EHF Men's European Handball Championship 2012 would be done in HD standard into more than 120 countries in the world.

ČAIR STADIUM RECONSTRUCTION

The construction of columns and the very structure of East, South and North Čair Stadium Stands started.

The framework for the stands on all three sides will be placed so that other construction works can be continued.

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

925 million dinars have been allocated for the stadium reconstruction. The new stadium will have the capacity of 18 151 spectators, with additional 120 seats for VIPs and 50 seats for media.

Niš Stadium Čair was built in 1963. No investment has been made for last 30 years. This reconstruction according to FIFA standards will bring completely new look.



Construction of New Stadium

NIŠ READY FOR BIG INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic met with RS Minister of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning Oliver Dulić at Nis City Hall. Minister Dulić and Mayor Simonović discussed the joint projects.

Both the Minister and the Mayor agreed that the City of Nis had made a great step forward in the preparation of the city planning documents and city master plan. Also, city administration has speeded up considerably the procedure for issuance of construction and location permits which increased the number of direct investments.

Minister Dulic pointed out that the reconstruction of Čair Stadium was the good example that city management was ready to commit itself to big infrastructure projects and to carry it out according to agreed dynamics and international standards.



RS Minister of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning Oliver Dulić

FEASIBILITY STUDY ON LEASING CONSTRUCTION LAND FREE OF CHARGE TO EYEMAXX COMPANY

Niš City Council adopted the Conclusion which launched an initiative to develop Feasibility Study of Leasing Construction Land to Eyemaxx Management GmbH from Austria or to its Serbian branch.

In 2008, Niš City Airport Constantine the Great and EYEMAXX Management GmbH signed the contract on co-financing and construction of logistic, commercial and cargo centre in Niš. During 2009 and 2010 the City of Niš undertook several activities to resolve the property ownership issue regarding the land slot intended for the construction for the cargo center. The implantation of the project was delayed due to global economic crisis. This summer Eyemaxx Company confirmed

its intent to continue with the project realisation.

Feasibility Study will be prepared by Niš City Office for Local Economic Development, Niš City Administration for Real Estate and Inspection and Administration for Finance, Revenues and Public Procurement. The study will present the justification for leasing the construction land at the price below market price. The final decision will be made by Niš City Parliament members.

ANOTHER NEW VILLAGE KINDERGARTEN

The villagers of Gornji Matejevac got a new kindergarten.

The final construction works were visited by Niš City Mayor Milos Simonovic, their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander II and Crown Princess Katherine, His Grace Bishop of Niš Jovan, Niš City Municipality President Slavisa Dinic, Niš City Council Member Dusica Davidovic, Dr Elaine Laycock, Serbian benefactor and Dr Julia Palmer, great philanthropist. The construction of the kindergarten was financed by City of Niš and Dr Elaine Laycock Foundation.

Addressing children and their parents, HRH Crown Prince Alexander said: "Dear children, you get this wonderful kindergarten opened today, and I wish you to happily use it. I would like to thank His Grace Bishop Jovan and Mr. Simonovic, Mayor of Niš for their support, as well as our good friend Dr. Laycock, for everything she has done helping our people in Niš region and in Serbia in general for many years". In her

speech Princess Katherine emphasized: "I would like to thank our dear friend Dr. Laycock, who should get most credits for opening this institution today. Dr. Laycock is a longtime friend and great benefactor of our country and our people, especially the children".

After opening the kindergartens in the village of Toponica, Niš has become recognizable for its intention to make education services available to every child, no matter where he or she lives whether it is the city or village. Constructing village kindergartens represents a significant improvement in equalization of living conditions in the city and in the village area, which is one of the priorities for Niš City management as Mayor Simonovic pointed out on this occasion. This new kindergarten in Gornji Matejevac will accommodate 90 children.

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN AGROBUSINESS

Niš City Administration for Agriculture and Rural development and USAID Agribusiness Project signed the MoU for providing the support to development of women agribusiness entrepreneurship.

In 2010, the USAID Agribusiness Project launched its Women Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness Project to enable equal participation of women in agribusiness and, ultimately, increase Serbia's competitiveness in agriculture. Through this project, close to 300 women have learned the basic concepts of entrepreneurship. 150.000 USA dollars have been allocated for the education and trainings and additional 150.000 USA dollars are intended for financing the best business plans.



**Dr Elaine Laycock,
great Serbian benefactor**



New kindergarten in Gornji Matejevac

CONTRACT FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic and Niš Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture Dean Dragan Arandjelovic signed the Contract for participation and financing of I phase in the implementation of the Nis Science and Technology Park Project.

Nis Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture will prepare project documentation including the very facility conceptual design, interior and exterior design, main building plan and technical control documentation. City of Nis and University of Nis will define project task, secure the location permit, construction permit and prepare the tendering procedure for the selection of the contractor.

"The signing of this Contract satisfies the prerequisites for the construction of the Science and Technology park, which can begin in Spring next year and this park will attract high - tech companies", said Mayor Simonovic.

Dean Arandjelovic thanked the City of Nis for placing the professional trust in this institution and he promised additional efforts to finish the job before the deadline.

Professor Miodrag Manic, Assistant to the Mayor in the fields of international investments and international economic relations, explained that the technology park would be built in accordance with national platform for technological development of Serbia which envisaged the construction of four technology parks in immediate vicinity of University and industrial zones. Science and Technology Parks are established with the objective to gather different companies, SMEs, university experts and to secure working conditions, assistance with administrative work, enable linking with other scientific and research institutions and thus contribute to the creation of new ideas and products eventually contributing



Signing the Contract for Science and Technology Park

to development of the economic potentials of this part of Serbia. Science and Technology Park will be independent institution financed by Ministry of Education and Science out of funds secured from European Investment Bank.

According to Niš University pro-rector Slobodan Antic the construction of Science and Technology Park creates good conditions for the development of University and economic development of the region. Thus the conditions will be created for the best University students to stay and work in the city. It would also stimulate our experts working for the biggest companies in the world to return to our city.

AMBASSADOR OF SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN NIŠ

Nis City Mayor Miloš Simonović met with the Ambassador of Slovak Republic in Serbia H.E. Jan Varšo on the occasion of Ambassador's first official visit to the City of Niš.



Ambassador Varšo in Nis

Mayor Simonović presented potentials for economic development of this region to Ambassador Varšo. The two officials also discussed good results achieved through the cultural cooperation between Nis City and Slovak Republic. This has been confirmed by appointing the citizen of Nis Ms. Stela Jovanovic as Honorary Consul of Slovak Republic in Serbia. Both Mayor Simonović and Ambassador Varšo concluded that there were plenty of opportunities for extending the cooperation and for implementing joint projects.

CITY OF NIS PRESENTED AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On September 20 and 21, the event entitled Serbian Days was held in European Parliament and Committee of the Regions.



Nis City in Brussels

EU Parliament members had a chance to become familiar with Serbian art, culture, tradition and economy. This event was organized by the Office of the Serbian Vice President for EU Integrations, RS Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RS Ministry of Culture, Media and Information Society and City of Nis.

City of Nis together with City of Belgrade and Vojvodina had a chance to present its development potentials at EU Parliament. On this occasion Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic announced the plans for turning the Niš City Representative Office in Brussels into regional one.

"City of Niš tries to use every opportunity to present its development potentials and the potentials of whole South East Serbia region. There is not a better place to do so than at the hub of European Union - here in Brussels. It is necessary to increase the visibility for the whole

region. If we are not here where the important decisions are being made and where you can have a direct access to certain funds, then we can miss a lot of opportunities. You cannot expect others to do something for you. You have to do something for yourself. City of Nis and the whole region of South East Serbia are open to new investments. We are ready to react promptly and efficiently", said Mayor Simonovic.

On this occasion the RS Vice president for EU integration Bozidar Djelic visited Nis City Representative Office in Brussels. In an interview to EUobserver Vice President Djelic said that opening of such office represented the good move done by a local self government that would enable joining forces from local and national level to achieve objectives set not only by City of Nis but also by whole South of Serbia and that represented one of the greatest challenges in Serbia today.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITIES OF THESSALONIKI AND NIS

Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic visited Thessaloniki as the part of the Serbian delegation which participated at the Business Forum Serbia in Thessaloniki 2011: Prospects for Bilateral Economic Cooperation.



Mayor Boutaris and Mayor Simonovic

On this occasion Mayor Simonovic met with the Mayor of Thessaloniki Mr. Yannis Boutaris to discuss the possibilities of establishing direct cooperation between two respective cities.

Two mayors discussed the possibilities of realizing the projects and initiatives which could be beneficiary to both communities. They agreed that the partnership between cities should be seen as a long-term working relationship between respective departments of local self-government, business communities and citizens themselves, sharing resources and adapting to each other's priorities, strengths and weaknesses to achieve a common good. Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic said that the Greeks and the Serbs were linked by ancient and inextricable bonds. These strong religious, historic and friendly relations between our two nations give us the sense of unity and constitute the most important foundation to improve any form of cooperation in the field of politics, economy, culture, sports or education. The potential for cooperation between the North of Greece and South of Serbia has not been used enough.

CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National Agency for Regional Development organised Conference on Regional Development for the region of South and East Serbia at Nis City Hall.

The conference gathered the eminent experts from this area of expertise and the representatives from regional development agencies, municipalities and cities from this part of Serbia.

Mrs. Dragijana Radonjic Petrovic, State Secretary for Regional Development, at RS Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, presented the Serbian legislation framework with the respect to regional development and functioning of the regional development agencies (RDA). Mr. Ivica Ezdenci, the director of the Serbian National Agency for Regional Development, presented the work of the agency and the possibilities for better networking between RDAs in Serbia.

Nis City Mayor Deputy Mrs. Nadja Markovic, as the host of the conference, informed the conference participants about the achievements that City of Nis has made in the area of local economic development and about the established cooperation between the City of Nis and municipalities in the region.

The organisers invited the colleagues from Slovenia, Mrs. Ljiljana Madjar, the director of Ljubljana RDA and Mr. Jurij Kobal, Project OIKOS manager, to share their experience with regionalization process done in Slovenia and some recommendations regarding possible directions into which RDAs in Serbia could develop. Vladan Jeremic, the director of RARIS, spoke about their own experience as RDA functioning in Eastern Serbia - Timok Krajina, about their lessons learned and difficulties overcome.

The special guest speaker at the conference was Jay Mitra, the director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship Research at the



Conference onm Regional Development

University of Essex, and Head of the School of Entrepreneurship and Business, at the University of Essex, Southend, UK. Professor Mitra spoke about smart cities as the hub and boosters of the regional development and experiences of the municipalities that have signed up to the smart city agenda.

Mr. Novak Gajic, from Serbian Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, presented the work of the organisation especially the aspect of cooperation and networking which often resulted in the recommendations that SKGO forwarded to national government in regard to modification of the laws concerning the very towns and municipalities.

The presentations made by Mr. Milan Randjelovic, Nis City Office for Local Economic Development and Mr. Marko Filipovic, the executive director of RDA SOUTH, about their respective offices closed the official conference programme.

RECEPTION FOR 77th PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS

Nis City Deputy Mayor Nadja Marković hosted the reception for the participants of 77th PEN International Congress which was organised for the first time in Serbia and which coincided with traditional Literary Colony in Sićevo.



77th PEN Congress Participants in Niš

Hundreds of writers, editors, translators and publishers from across the globe gathered at PEN International's 77th Congress in Belgrade, to celebrate 90 years of promoting literature and campaigning for freedom of expression.

The president of Slovenian PEN Center Marjan Strojan thanked on the behalf of all congress participants on the warm welcome they received in Niš.

"This PEN congress has been envisaged as a kind of invasion of literature onto the cities all over Serbia. There is no better city in Serbia than Niš to complete our congress. It is the city of education, the city of culture and the city of writers. It has been honoring the writers with several unique awards for literary contribution and it has a great reading public, the citizens who deserve to have the best writers from all over the world here in their cities", said Vida Ognjenović, the president of Serbian PEN Center.

SERBIAN AND RUSSIAN FIREFIGHTERS TEAM UP FOR JOINT EXERCISE

As the part of continuation activities in the project of establishing Regional Humanitarian Center for Disaster and Emergency Management, which should be located in Niš, another firefighting demonstration exercise was held on Lake of Oblačina.

The members of Serbian Ministry of Interior Sector for Emergency Management and Russian EMERCOM took part in this exercise. RS Minister of Interior Ivica Dacic, Ambassador of Russian Federation in Serbia Aleksandar Konuzin, Niš City Mayor Milos Simonovic and Nis City Council Member Zarko Rankovic watched the demonstration exercise.

"Nis is the best location for this center. I truly believe that establishing such institution as this one will be is not only of national importance but also of regional as well", said Minister Dacic.

Russian Ambassador Konuzin was pleased with what he saw during the exercise and he conveyed the readiness of his country to continue with providing support in establishing of this center.



Firefighting demonstration exercise

CAR FREE DAY IN NIŠ

City of Nis has joined European Mobility Week Campaign which is an awareness raising campaign aiming at sensibilizing citizens to the use of public transport, cycling, walking and at encouraging European cities to promote these modes of transport and to invest in the new necessary infrastructures.

From 16 to 22 September 2011 the Mobility Week is the opportunity for European cities and towns to participate to the most widespread event on sustainable mobility. City of Niš also marked European Car Free Day - September 22nd, by organizing many sports activities for pre-school children, primary and secondary school students on the square at the city center. The main city traffic route was closed for several hours and it became the playing ground for sport activities and pedestrian walking zone.

"Although we devote to this

initiative just one day, the whole event sends the message inviting people to use the alternative means of transport on other days as well. Car Free Days aim to be fun, free events encouraging people to get out of their cars and run, walk, cycle or take public transit. The central vision of Car Free Day is urban mobility that is not dependent on the private automobile", said Miodrag Radovic, Nis City Member Council. He added that City of Niš undertook actual activities to promote alternative transport by placing cycling routes as a part of newly constructed boulevards.



Car Free Day

NIS CITY YOUTH DAY

City of Niš celebrates its own Youth Day on September 1.

On this occasion, Nis City Youth Council ceremonial session was held attended by RS Minister of Youth and Sport Snezana Samardzic Markovic and Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic. Nis City Youth Council presented its projects focused on raising the life quality for the young people in Nis.

"City of Nis established Youth Council two and a half years ago trying to find institutional tool for promoting ideas proposed by young people living in our city. The policies that we, as local self government, are practicing in our every day work are directed towards creating better conditions and securing the future for the youth in our city. Also, we are making efforts the improve the quality of life now. This is not an easy task but I am positive that we are making steps forward", said Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic.

As the part of the activities marking Nis City Youth Day, Institution Fair was held at the main city square. The idea was to gather in one place all the city institutions which expressed the interest in presenting their work to the young city population and thus to try to bring them closer to young people. This was a good chance for the visitors of this fair to become acquainted with initiatives, programmes and projects for the young of each of presented institutions as well as with their general activities.



Nis City celebrates Youth Day

AWARD FROM INTERNATIONAL CYCLING RACE TOUR DE SERBIA

The representatives of the sporting organisation International Cycling Race Tour de Serbia presented special cup to Nis City honoring successful cooperation and contribution to the organisation of this competition.

Also, the protocol on promoting the bicycle as the "green vehicle" was signed on the same occasion as well as the agreement on providing the support in the organisation of cycling race next year.

Of course, to safely make this transition to bicycling, bicycling infrastructure improvement is needed.

Nis City Mayor Milos Simonovic reminded that two newly constructed city boulevards have bike lanes. It is intention of the city to introduce bike lanes into all main city traffic routes and to psot signage that make it clearer to drivers that the road is for sharing with bicycles.



Special Cup for City of Nis