

# DUAL STAKEHOLDERS

# EDUCATION

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Association of the Independent Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs of the City of Nis should play a key role in the implementation of the project of dual education and should stand as a significant factor in the economic development of the City of Nis- this has been stated at the reception for the representatives of the association at the Office of the Chairman of the Assembly of the City of Niš, Mr. Rade Rajković.

The Chairman of the Assembly of the City of Niš, Mr. Rajković explained that skills and knowledge of the high school students would be significantly enhanced through the active role of members of the association in developing dual education. These young people will acquire necessary practice by applicable work in the workshops and in the small companies, so as to be able to independently run their own business and be more competitive in the labor market.

On this occasion, certain problems, some members of the association are faced with, were also discussed. This primarily refers to the current problem of restoring order in setting up the garden in front of the catering facilities. Catering providers do not seek exemption from the city decisions, but they expect them to be adopted in consultations with them. As a solution to this problem and similar ones, it has been proposed to establish a work group made up of the representatives of the competent city institutions and of the association, as well as that decisions agreed upon should have a reasonable deadlines related to the beginning of their usage and should be applied equally to all.

In addition, the representatives of the Association of Independent Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs of the City of Nis informed the Chairman, Mr. Rajković about some of their ideas, such as the project of creating a Center of traditional crafts within the Fortress. This center would bring together a larger number of craftsmen, working as a business cooperative with the focus on traditional crafts, and it

should hold great tourist significance.

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# DOCUMENTARY ON HIPPIE VALLEY IN NIS SOON

Nis City Council Member Jelena Mitrovski met with the team that has been working on the preparation of the documentary dedicated to the “Hippie Valley” in Nis. The producer of the film is Mr. Oliver Paunovic, General Manager of the Nis City Marketing Center and the film director is Mr. Bobi Rajkovic.

“I have no doubt that the city needs the film” memory “of this street. I heard from my friends who are older than me about this street and their stories were always interesting. I hope that while preparing this documentary we will meet many more people who “grew up” in this street and thus witnessed some more carefree times as some would say@, as Paunovic said at the reception at Nis City Hall.

Nis was the only city in the former Yugoslavia which had a unique place where the young used to hang out in the evenings, the famous Hippie Valley, which was known about from Vardar to Triglav. Back in the seventies Vladimir Nazor Street was for everyone Hippie Valley. The tourists who visited Nis at those times were confused by the number of young people strolling every night or just hanging out.

The script for the film was written by famous Nis actor and playwright Miriljub Riki Nedovic while the moderators in the film and the contemporaries of Hippie Valley are Bane Miljkovic, former most famous DJ in the city and Dragan Arandjelovic Ara, who launched the campaign that special Board would be placed in Vladmira Nazora Street as a reminder that once it was the Hippie Valley.

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# **THE DAY OF 1999 NATO BOMBING DAY MARKED**

On the occasion of March 24<sup>th</sup>, the day when the NATO bombing started in 1999, the memorial service was held and the flower wreaths were laid for the victims of the aggression. The memorial service was held by Nis Eparchy priests. On the behalf of the City of Nis the wreaths were laid by the President of the Nis City Assembly Mr. Rade Rajkovic and Deputy Mayor Prof. Dr. Milos Bandjur.

In the memory of the victims of NATO bombing two monuments were erected. The memorial chapel in the park between the Fortress and the University building was built by the city government, while the monument across the street was built the Yugoslav Army.

During the three months of bombing, air-raid sirens sounded in Nis for 129 times. The city was under the air strikes for 52 days, 5 hours and 14 minutes. 56 citizens of Nis were killed, more than 200 were injured, 120 houses were demolished and more than 3 000 buildings damaged.

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## **NIS AS THE CENTER OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic attended in Niska Banja signing of the contract between the RS Ministry of Economy and the Company Integrated Micro-Electronics Inc. (IMI), for the construction of the factory in Nis. The contract on grants, which would facilitate the opening of the factory that would employ 1,250 workers, was signed by Minister of Economy of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Goran Knezevic and IMI CEO Mr. Gilles Bernard.

PM Aleksandar Vucic said, in a speech after signing, that Nis was becoming the center of Southeast Europe and that he was proud of it, adding that republic of Serbia Government largely contributed to that fact. He said to IMI representatives that he was looking forward to 1,250 employees.

Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatović thanked the Prime Minister for the efforts that Government made to make Nis again the economic center of this part of Serbia and expressed his belief that this was a step toward a better life for the citizens of this part of Serbia.

“We do not bring just the money. We bring new technology and new values. We have long-term plans. We plan to employ more than 1,200 people who will be the part of a community which has 17,000 workers” as the CEO of Integrated Micro-Electronics Inc. said at the signing ceremony.

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## **SRBIJA KARGO EMPLOYED 86 TRAIN DRIVERS**

After the completion of the competition and nine-month training, with the consent of the Government of Serbia, 86 train drivers were hired. There are 3 women among those 86 newly hired locomotive operators and 10 out of 86 are from Nis. They will be employed by the company “Kargo Srbija”, developed in the context of the reform of the railway sector, which was in charge of repairing the diesel locomotives at the locomotive depot in Nis. The RS Vice-president Mrs. Zorana Mihajlovic said that additional 40 train drivers would be employed the following year and that there would be vacancies at Railway Serbia for other professions as well.

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# **NIS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DAY**

Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic and Rs Minister of Youth and Sports Vanja Udovicic attended the ceremony on the occasion University of Nis Students' Day. Their message to the students on this day was to continue to learn and achieve good results because the young were the most valuable segment of society and the only guarantee of good future.

Since 2014, the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia has awarded 8601 to the high school pupils and students to study at home and abroad. More than 20 different agreements have been signed with companies and institutions in the country, and 950 scholars have participated in training programs and workshops organized by the Fund. In the last two years the number of scholarship for studies in Serbia was increased from 1 000 to 1 250, as well as the amount of scholarships.

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## **THE CITY OF NIS IS TURNING INTO A SIGNIFICANT ENTREPRENEURIAL PARTNER IN THE BALKANS**

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

The International Conference on crafts and small and medium-sized enterprises, upon the initiative of Koblenz Chamber of Crafts in Germany, was held in the capital of Bulgaria - Sofia, two days ago. The Chamber has been active for 20 years, and it has been helping similar organizations from Western Balkan countries for more than a decade so as to enable the independent entrepreneurs

and craftsmen transfer experience and knowledge, thus adopting new methods of work and functioning, which have been successfully applied in Germany for many years.

Through the project activities of the Chamber, over time, the Craftsmen associations of the Balkan countries have been established and integrated in the cooperation, whereas a leading role in this joining has the Balkan Bureau for the development of small enterprises, headquartered in Sofia. The main objective of this cooperation is to raise the economy of the Balkan countries to a higher level, through training, exhibitions, fairs, interviews with the politicians, lobbying in the state institutions, thus contributing to an important process of strengthening the entrepreneurial atmosphere in the region.

The main messages at the meeting are the facts that the idea of regional cooperation in the Balkans becomes increasingly realistic and attractive, as well as that craft and private entrepreneurship make one of the leading industries, with a significant share in the total GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of each country, but they also make the framework of political cooperation, which is getting increasingly aspiring.

Serbia's role in strengthening regional cooperation was commended at the conference, especially its insistence on completing the construction of the Corridor and the highway to Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

The representatives, both of economy and politics, of almost all the countries of the Western Balkans, took part in the discussion at the conference. Our country and the city were represented by the Chairman of the Assembly of the City of Niš, Mr. Rade Rajković.

The Chairman of the Assembly of the City of Niš, Mr. Rajkovic, addressing the colleagues from Montenegro, Bulgaria, Albania and Macedonia, stressed out the importance of creating the conditions that would enable young people to start working, immediately after finishing school or college, with the necessary practice during the school period included.

He also stressed out the importance of re-introduction of the so-called dual education, as well as the need for Serbia to finally get the Law on Crafts. At the same time, he supported the activities of the commerce and associations that are part of the Balkan cooperation in the field of crafts and small businesses, and stressed out the importance of exchanging experiences and expertise at the regional level, which has already contributed to tangible benefits in each of the countries of the Western Balkans.

The Chairman of the Assembly of the City of Niš commended the work and commitment of The Association of the Independent Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs of the City of Nis, headed by the director, Mrs. Tatjana Momcilovic. This Association has been an active partner within the aforementioned project cooperation in the region for several years, the aim of which is to provide additional impetus to the economic development of our city.

In the photo: The Chairman of the Assembly of the City of Niš in an interview with the executive directors of the Koblenz Chamber (Manfred Rubeo) and the Balkan Bureau in Sofia (Emil Vasilev).

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## **FOREST DAY**

On the occasion of Forest Day, and in order to address the situation and the importance of the protection of forests of oaks, which once dominated this region, the Serbian Institute for Nature Conservation in cooperation with the City of Nis and PUC Medijana, organized the promotion of the book on the protection of oaks. After the promotion of the book, in the immediate park area in front of the City Hall, Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatović and Mr. Aleksandar Dragisic, the director of the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, planted the oak tree

with the message about the importance of preserving our authentic tree species and each tree to ensure healthy living conditions and living standards of the population. Trees and forests enable reduction of energy costs, by lowering the temperature of 2 to 8 degrees, and thus reducing the need for air conditioning cooling equipment using up to 30%, if the planted strategically in urban areas.

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## **DIGITAL INFO SCREEN SET UP**

The digital info screen announcing the arrival of the city public transport bus routes was set up at the main bus stop on the Square of King Milan. Soon all the frequent bus stops in the city will get these devices that facilitate the use of city bus routes and accurately inform citizens about the movement of the particular bus. Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic talked to the citizens after the screen had been installed to check out their opinions if there were the positive effects.

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## **WORLD DAY OF ORAL HYGIENE MARKED**

The elementary school Vuk Karadzic marked the World Day of Oral Hygiene and Teeth Protection. Today the dentists presented to the children the proper way of brushing the teeth. The school children prepared the special program with the theme dedicated to oral hygiene. Nis City Council Member Bojan Krstic attended the event on the behalf of Nis City. The campaign will last all week in all primary schools in Nis. The organizers of the campaign are the Association of dentists

under the auspices of the City of Nis and Red Cross Organization City Office.