



Niš
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GASIFICATION OF NIŠ SETTLEMENT

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Jugorosgaz CEO Vladimir Koldin held the press conference on the extension of gas distribution network in the City of Niš.



The technical conditions have been created for connecting 8000 more homes in seven Niš City residential areas to gas distribution network. The infrastructural works begun at the end of last year. The City provided all the necessary documentation, usage permits and the location for the measure-regulatory devices. 1 million euros have been allocated for the gasification of five Niš city residential areas.

"The completion of the gasification proves that the City of Niš is ready to enter the realisation of big investments so that the citizens of Niš could have better life quality", said Mayor Simonović.

Jugorosgaz CEO Vladimir Koldin confirmed that more was done during the last year than during previous 10 years since the gasification of the city started. He also informed the public about the discussion with the Mayor about





Yugorosgaz CEO
Vladimir Koldin

further gasification of Southern Serbia. The mayor expressed his reassurance that all the dilemmas about the construction of the gas pipeline from Niš to Leskovac and Vranje had been resolved so the citizens in southern municipalities would have the equal opportunities to use one of the cleanest energy fuels.



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NIŠ INVESTEMENT FORUM 2009

Niš Investment Forum 2009 - NIF09 that will take place on 9th October 2009 under the title *Preparing the Future - Today's Challenge for Tomorrow's Profit is the continuation of the presentation of business and investment opportunities Nišava, Pirot and Toplica districts.*

The current world economic crisis takes its tribute in the slowing pace of investment in Serbia, which affects the economic trends in this area.

However, the main theme of this year Niš Investment Forum - Traffic and Tourism represents the opportunities and priorities that the Government of the Republic of Serbia has recognized as opportunity of development which was been confirmed with concrete support of international financial institutions.

NIF09 will bring together representatives of business community from the region, interested domestic and foreign investors, cities and municipalities, as well as representatives of relevant ministries, the Government of the Republic of Serbia, representatives of embassies and foreign chambers of commerce.

Organizers of NIF09 are the Niš Investment Forum and the City of Niš, which also financially

supports the realizing of this year's Conference.

"Niš Investment Forum is the right opportunity for local selfgovernments to show the pro-active approach to to speeded process of the economic development and to stay on the course towards new investments and business oportunities. We want to show that three districts in the South of Serbia has qualified professionals and successful companies worth investing in, and which contribute to the creation of the positive image of the Souther Serbia", said the Niš City Mayor Simonović.



<http://nif2009.nif.rs>

VISIT TO SWEDEN

In March 2009, Niš City signed with the Swedish Consultant company SEK and with the representative of Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Contract on provision of consultant services in devising the Bankable Feasibility studies for environmental and technical upgrading of Constantine the Great Airport, as well as, for wastewater treatment plant development program for PUC Naissus.



Also, City of Niš signed with the City of Vaxjo the Letter of Intent on the cooperation between two cities in March 2009.

This September, Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović, the member of Nis City Council Dušica Davidović, the representatives of Constantine the Great Airport management and PUC Naissus management visited Sweden upon the official request from Swedish Ministry of Interior. They spent 6 days in Vaxjo and Stockholm.

On the occasion of visit, the Mayor of Vaxjo informed Councilor Davidovic that the City of Vaxjo was determined to go ahead with the



cooperation with Niš. During spring Växjö was looking at different ways of implementing city to city cooperation and joint projects. Councilor Davidović was impressed by the social care system since the city allocates 50% of its budget for improving the life of the oldest citizens. Some of the future projects which could be realized jointly can be in the filed of social care for the oldest population.

During the visit to Stockholm, city delegation discussed with the ministry representatives the progress on development of the bankable feasibility studies for environmental and technical upgrading of Constantine the Great Airport, as well as, for wastewater treatment plant development program for PUC Naissus. Also the selected consultants Optensys for the development of the Niš City Energy Balance study - were presented to Niš City delegation as well as the



projects this consulting company has done so far.

The city delegation visited the facilities for waste waters treatment, airports and airlines in Sweden. They were presented the business operation system and state-of-art technologies in the areas of waste waters treatment and air traffic.

The meeting was organized at the Swedish Chamber of Commerce. Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and the president of Swedish Chamber of Commerce for Southeast Europe Arne Olsson discussed the possibilities of cooperation between the business community from Nis and Swedish companies.

Mayor Simonović and Councilor Davidović also had meeting s with Mr. Fredrik Astedt, International Policy Advisor at Swedish Association of Local Authorities and regions. They were presented the way this association was functioning and explored the possibilities of networking between Swedish and Serbian towns and municipalities.

The management of the Constantine the Great airport visited three international airports - Bromma, Skavsta and Arlanda Airport and had the chance to become familiar with the organisation and functioning and with the model of doing business with low cost airline companies.

The Mayor Simonović and Councilor Davidović also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of National Association of Serbs in Sweden. It turned out that Serbs living in Sweden did not have good communication with the home land and the citizens of Serbia. It is important to reestablish this connection especially with young generations. The visit of the young people of Serbian origin residing in Stockholm to the City of Nis was agreed as a way of reconnecting to our common tradition.

Niš Airport delegation also had the meetings with the manufacturers of airport security and navigational equipment (SAAB, FMT, Combibox Systems). Those



Mayor Miloš Simonović and representatives of National Association of Serbs in Sweden

meetings were very important because Niš Airport would have to procure new equipment during the process of airport modernization.

Nis City Councilor Dušica Davidović presented to the Swedish International Development Agency - Sida the project Safe House. This is

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITY OF NIŠ AND CITY OF MILAN

Mayor Simonović has just returned from the three-day official visit to the City of Milan where he met with the Mayor of Milan, Mrs. Letizia Moratti and discussed the modalities of joint celebrations of 1700th anniversary of signing the Milan Edict.

Mayor Miloš Simonović announced the big campaign which is planned for 2013 and invited the city of Milan to join.

Mayor Simonović traveled to Italy as the member of Serbian delegation together with his colleagues from the City of Kragujevac. The delegation was lead by the Minister for

Environment and Spatial Planning, Mr. Oliver Dulić.

The delegation met with Mr. Manfredi Palmeri, Milan City Council president and with the representatives of the Lombardy region and discussed the continuation of the cooperation in the areas of environment protections and Italian investments in solid waste management. Study tour was organized to Milan waste water treatment facilities and facilities for communal solid waste treatment.

On this occasion Serbian delegation presented to Italian partners the environment protection strategy and the current needs in the fields of solid waste treatment.



the first step in establishing cooperation in the field of social care.

SOUTH KOREA AMBASSADOR VISITED NIŠ

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović hosted the reception at Niš City Hall for the Republic of Korea Ambassador Mr. Kim Jonghae. The Mayor and the Ambassador discussed the future cooperation.



"I heard a lot about Niš from my friends. I believe that the City of Niš and the cities from South Korea could cooperate in many areas, especially in the fields of culture and electronics", said the Ambassadors.

The Ambassador was also interested in the methods of resolving the problem of communal waste treatment since the big cities in Korea shared the same problem.

Miodrag Manić, the associate of the Mayor in charge of economy, education and science, presented on this occasion the economic and tourism potential of this area.

Ambassador Jonghae also had the meeting with the management of EI Holding.

NIŠ – MEMBER OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE BUSINESS NETWORK

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović, assistant to the Mayor Miodrag Manić, the member of Niš City Council Boban Mihajlović and the director of Niš Tourism Organisation Vladimir Jovanović together with the delegation of Niš business community representatives visited the City of Leeds upon the official invitation from the Leeds City Council Leader Richard Brett.



Niš City Mayor Mr. Miloš Simonović and Leeds City Mayor Mrs. Judith Elliot



Niš city official and business delegation met with Leeds City Mayor Mrs. Judith Elliot and with the Leader of Leeds City Council Mr. Richard Brett. During those meetings two delegations discussed the development of the cooperation in the fields of economy, sports, culture, art and education.

Mayor Simonović held the presentation on business opportunities in the City of Niš while Mr. Manić talked about market opportunities to the

representatives of Leeds business communities. Serbian business delegation had numerous matchmaking meetings at LS1 Business Club with potential British strategic partners.

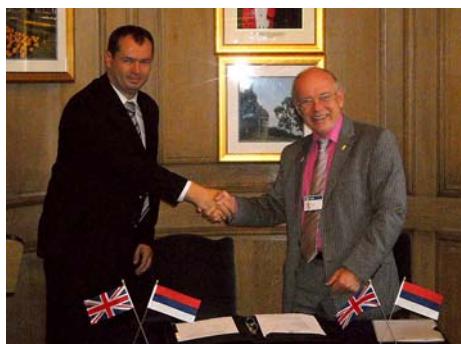
The most important result of this event was the signing of the CEBN Branch Agreement. The Central & Eastern Europe Business Network is a non profit making membership organisation which aims to offer manufacturers and other businesses a competitive edge in securing new opportunities between the UK & Central and Eastern Europe. Responsibilities of CEBN Serbia (Nis) Branch is to proactively develop and implement strategies to achieve CEBN objectives and expand the membership base in Serbia and even wider in the region of South East Europe, having in mind the

principal objectives of securing new business opportunities between Leeds City Region and UK in general and Serbia and Central and Eastern Europe. Business Incubator Center Nis will be a capable partner and hard-working member of CEBN and the advantages of its active involvement would be visible in broader dimensions through development of innovative business culture and improved business environment networking. We are looking forward to our joint work.

Niš City Official delegation also met with the representatives of the Leeds Bradford International Airport and low cost airline JET 2. They discussed the possibility of establishing flights between Niš and some towns in England as well as utilizing Nis cargo center by English companies.

The director of Niš Tourism Organisation Vladimir Jovanović met with the Gillian Cruddas, Chief Executive of Visit York, tourism development team and they discussed the project of joint celebration of 1700th anniversary of Milan Edict signing.

During their visit, Niš City delegation had meetings with Peter Smith, Project Manager for the 2012 Olympic Games at John Charles



THIRD LEDIB NATIONAL PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE

The third meeting of the LEDIB National Programme Steering Committee was held in Niš on September 30, 2009.



The National Programme Steering Committee (NPC) is the body which guides the implementation of the LEDIB Programme at national and strategic level in accordance with the LEDIB Programme Document. LEDIB programme consists of two components: the enabling business environment component which supports local authorities in developing an enabling business environment for SME development. The support promotes public - private dialogue and business organisations advocating for the needs of SMEs; the second component, SME development, supports SMEs through support to cluster development, support to development of Business Development Services and support to finance for SMEs.

The seven NPC members come from Republic of Serbia ministries, RS Agency for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and LEDIB.

NPC members visited LEDIB

field office in order to be personally introduced to the implementation of programme in Nišava district. They had an opportunity to meet local stakeholders and partners with whom LEDIB program was jointly implementing the activities.

The representative of the Danish Ministry of Interior, Mr. Jorgen Andersen said that the Ministry was very satisfied with the programme implementation and with the cooperation between the institution on the local and national level. He particularly emphasised the support provided by the local governments of Nišava District to the implementation of all LEDIB components.

All NPC members were pleased with the achieved results and expressed their hope that the further implementation of the project would be as successful.

LEDIB program is at the beginning of the Second phase of the program implementation and in the process of defining the Strategic plans and future activities of the Program.

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Center for Sport, where our Olympic team for the Olympic Games 2012 would be preparing.

On their way back to Niš, the civic and business delegation had meetings at Serbian Embassy in London and on this occasion they informed the deputy head of the mission Mr. Branimir Filipovic about the cooperation with Leeds City Council.

The following day the seminar organized by Serbian-British Chamber of Commerce was held at Republic of Serbia embassy in London. Niš City civic and business delegation met with Peter Sanfey, a lead economist within the Office of the Chief Economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London responsible for the economic analysis of selected EBRD investment projects in SEE.

RECEPTION FOR GERMAN AMBASSADOR WOLFRAM MAAS

His Excellency German ambassador Wolfram Maas, visited Niš on the occasion of the celebration of 40th anniversary of the Otorinolaringology Clinic at the Clinic Center Niš.

The ambassador Maas, during the informal conversation with the city representatives at the reception at Niš City hall, said that he was pleased with the work of Niš local government. He emphasized several projects that were being implemented with the support of German Embassy. The overall objective of these projects is to improve every day life of Niš citizens, starting with

NIŠ CITY SAFETY STRATEGY

City of Niš will be the first city in Serbia which will have City Safety Strategy and it will enable city to become the member of the Safe European Cities which have already developed and implemented their own strategies.

This strategic document deals with the identification of the greatest threats and risks to security of citizens and property, harmonization of safety standards at the level of Republic of Serbia, defining a communication plan between the City, city municipalities and central government as well as defining strategic directions, specific objectives and concrete action plans.

The deadline for the completion of the Strategy is June 2010 and funds will be provided by USAID Preparedness, Planning and Economic Security Programme. The funds for the implementation of the strategy will be allocated within next year city budget.

City of Niš, as the second largest city in Serbia, with the five municipalities (Crveni krst, Medijana, Palilula, Pantelej and Niška Banja) has been participating in the USAID Preparedness, Planning and Economic Security Programme for

more than a year. These municipalities are working to improve the system of emergency management in their communities through a program of training activities, technical support and information exchange, cooperation and networking, such as the Fair of Good Practices in Kruševac and Kragujevac, Scientific Conference on Emergency Management organized by the Faculty of Occupational Safety, University of Niš. Objective of the USAID Preparedness, Planning and Economic Security Programme is to support developing sustainable and systematic access to emergency management on the local level and to assist municipalities to apply international standards in planning and response. Municipalities which apply these standards will be certified as ready for emergency response. Currently 60 municipalities are included in the program activities.

STUDY AND WORK LEGALLY IN EU COUNTRIES

The presentation on labour migration policy and practice, organised by IOM was held at Nis City Parliament Hall.

The presentation is an integral part of the project Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising towards Promoting Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans. The project's objective is to foster local capacity to develop policy and provide

migrants and would-be migrants with efficient information, advice and referral to appropriate services, thus preventing irregular migration and optimising their possibilities for legal migration.

Information, advice and referral services to migrants and



the provision of better quality water, cooperation in educational field and self-employment projects implemented by German humanitarian organization HELP.

The city representatives expressed their gratitude to the Ambassador Maas for all the efforts invested in cooperation so far and their expectations that Germany would continue to be important strategic partner.

Also, on this occasion Seminar entitled Days of German Medicine was organized. The delegation of the eminent German doctors spoke about the current trends in this field of medicine. This seminar was an excellent opportunity to learn more about EU standards in practicing medicine in this field. Peter Zener, world well known specialist in otorinolaryngology, emphasized that his Serbian colleagues are on high professional level and that they are as good as their German colleagues. He was very pleased that European Union decided to support the four clinic centers in Serbia through European bank loan.

potential migrants would be provided through the established regional network of Migrant Service Centres (MSCs). The MSCs will receive visitors daily and will

provide them with individualized assistance and group counselling sessions where appropriate on the reality and risks of irregular migration and possibilities / procedures for decent work opportunities in the country and/or for legal emigration. Country fact sheets will be produced and continuously updated on the opportunities for legal migration to EU Member States.

The MSCs will also provide referral services to relevant local institutions for individual skills development in view of improving employment potential both at home and abroad. The MSCs will be embedded within identified local structures, such as local and regional Employment Offices and relevant Ministries. Local officials within these local structures will

work in tandem with IOM staff receiving on-the-job training within the daily activity of the MSCs throughout the project implementation. This will allow for IOM full phase-out and hand-over of the tasks to relevant institutions by the end of the project duration.

In addition to providing direct services to migrants and potential migrants, the project will also focus on building capacity of local authorities to develop policy and good practice as sending and receiving countries in the context of current and projected foreign labour needs.

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The speakers at the presentation were: Milena Milivojević, IOM project coordinator, Monika Petrović, Migration Service Center assistant, Sofia Stridh, first secretary and migration attaché at the Embassy of Sweden in Belgrade and Dušica Davidović, Niš City Council member.

The City of Niš and IOM have already cooperated in implementation of the project of social housing for IDPs and socially vulnerable families. The implementation of that first project led to the adoption of Local Action Plan for Improvement of Housing Conditions for Refugees and IDPs.

CITY OF NIŠ, EXAMPLE OF E-GOVERNMENT GOOD PRACTICE

Serbian Standing Conference of Town and Municipalities, University of Niš Faculty of Electronics and USAID awarded special prize to the City of Niš for good practice in introducing new technologies into administration functioning.

The prize was awarded at the first conference organized on the topic of best communication and information technologies practice in Serbian towns and municipalities. The conference was held under the patronage of RS Ministry of Telecommunications.

The presentation of the project - On the Way to E-Government - was held at the conference. Boban Mihajlovic, the member of Niš City Council said that the city has already formed electronic services for citizens. Those services were introduced to improve the quality of the services

that the city administrations provided to the citizens and to enhance the transparency of administration functioning.

The City of Niš opened the service for the review and submission of the tax applications via internet at the web site www.lpa.ni.rs. It means that all tax payers can submit their tax application for all taxes which are under jurisdiction of local self government. At the home page of the official web site for the application review and submission to tax administration there is tax application form for the property of



application review and submission to tax administration there is tax application form for the property of individual and legal entities as well as the form for local communal taxes. The forms can be downloaded from the web site. The home page also contains the instructions for opening the user account for all the citizens which will use this internet application. With the aim of better informing the citizens, the home page of the tax application review and submission web site, contains the instructions with basic data about

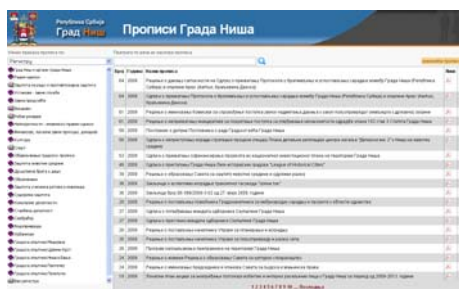




www.lpa.ni.rs

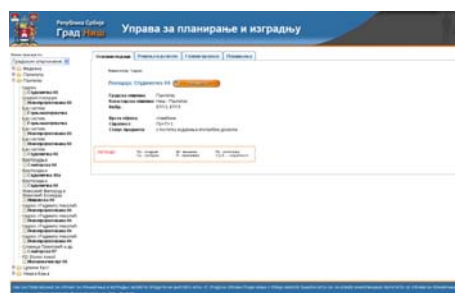
application review and submission to tax administration there is tax application form for the property of individual and legal entities as well as the form for local communal taxes. The forms can be downloaded from the web site. The home page also contains the instructions for opening the user account for all the citizens which will use this internet application. With the aim of better informing the citizens, the home page of the tax application review and submission web site, contains the instructions with basic data about the easiest ways of registering tax on property and the short description of the reasons why tax on property become local income.

The City of Niš also established electronic service for searching and downloading all the regulations adopted at the local level. At website, www.eservis.ni.rs/propisi, all presently valid regulations adopted by local self government could be found. The respective city administration is updating the contents of these files and their classification. Local regulations are classified according to the topics which refer to all social



www.eservis.ni.rs/propisi

areas. Besides the overview of the regulations, new e-service enables the reviewing the contents of the Niš City Official Gazette Issues since 1959. This e-service enables easy and fast search and finding of the needed documents. This service can be accessed via Niš City official website page E-services. This new e-service is just one in a sequence of new web services which will help citizens to find easily necessary documents related to city regulations and cut costs.



www.eservis.ni.rs/izgradnja

The City of Niš opened the electronic web service with review of the locations where construction of residential and office premises is planned. Anyone who is interested can go to web address www.eservis.ni.rs/izgradnja and at any given time check the situation of the investments into the City of Nis, i.e., the review of the construction of the residential and office premises. The data about the investment finances, potential investors, location and premises and facilities can be obtained from this web service. This web service provides the transparency in the functioning of the local administration and the control over the illegal construction in Niš City. The advancement in the application of e-government contributes to economy competitiveness and enhances the efficiency of local administration.

NEW PROJECTS FOR STRENGTHENING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Niš office for local economic development in cooperation with NGO ENECA with the support from the donation of Philip Morris will implement the project ENTITLED "Decreasing Poverty by the Support of Start-Up Businesses". The basic project objective is strengthening the entrepreneurship in Nis and decreasing the rate of unemployment. The project is intended for the people with sustainable business ideas for starting or developing their own business activities which could provide regular income. The donation will be in the equipment or in production materials. The project envisages support for 50 enterprises and individual donation per enterprise is 180.000,00 dinars.

Another project component is the organization of the professional trainings. All the necessary information regarding the trainings could be obtained at following telephones: +381-18/4294-492, 4294-494. The implementation of this project represents the continuation of the successful cooperation with the NGO ENECA. NGO ENECA with the support of NGO HELP and in the cooperation with the City of Nis implemented the project of providing initial support to 90 unemployed people in starting their own businesses. The City of Nis continues to work actively in searching and finding new donors who are ready to support this kind of project projects.

III AGRICULTURAL FAIR NIŠ 2009

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović opened officially III Agricultural Fair Niš – 2009.



This is the third time in a row that the fair is held in the spa of Niška Banja. The opening ceremony was also attended by Mr. Željko Radošević, state secretary of RS Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. He pointed out that this was the best organised fair in this part of Serbia.

The organisation of this fair is yet another proof that the City of Niš and City Administration for Agriculture set as its priority the promotion of agriculture as great

development potential of this part of Serbia.

The state-of-art machinery and agricultural equipment by most relevant producers and distributors were exhibited at the fair.

The greatest attention of the visitors drew the stands where local farmers exhibited their products.

The whole atmosphere was heightened up by the ethno music and the performances of the folklore groups.

The flower growers appeared for the first time at the fair. Also, the counselling on the topic of improving the agricultural production was held at the hotel Radon hall.

During the second day of the fair, traditional cattle exhibition was organised in categories of goats, sheep and cow.

Last fair day, the equestrian skills of the teams from two local equestrian clubs Nonijus and Čegar were demonstrated.



STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES

City of Niš Office for Local Economic Development developed the Draft of the Strategy for the Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for the period 2009-2013.

This strategy represents the final phase of LEDIB project which supports local economic development in the municipalities of Nišava district.



Milan Randelović, Head of OLED

The approach to the development of this strategy was systematic and it was done in partnership with LEDIB programme. The objective of the strategy was to find the best ways to utilise the city potentials. The problems should be

clearly identified and dealt with and turned into business opportunities. Strategy gives guidance to linking of city authorities with civil and private sector in the best possible way in order to create favorable conditions for existing SMEs, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and for national and foreign investors.

"This strategy aims to find the ways and to define the priorities and strategic goals for the City of Niš to reach in the future. We expect from the citizens of Niš, from local business community to assist in the development of this Strategy and to make it work through the realisation of the actual projects to the benefit of all", said Mayor Simonović.

We are inviting the citizens of Niš to become involved actively and to send their suggestions to e-mail address: kler@ni.rs.

LET'S CLEAN THE CITY

The City of Niš has undertaken extensive measures to solve the problem of communal waste.

Niš City development Strategy states as its priority this issue. The city initiated the establishing of the Region for Communal Waste Treatment and reached consensus with municipalities in the region regarding the common approach to waste management. The funds have been secured to reconstruct and shut down the landfill Bubanj.

The City initiated the campaign LET'S CLEAN THE CITY. There are about 106 wild landfills in the city. The research showed that those wild landfills can be found not only on the city outskirts but in the city center as well. The villages are in the worst situation because there is no organised system of waste collection.

FIRST H1N1 FLU ACTION PLAN IN SERBIA

The City of Niš is the first city in Serbia to prepare the action plan in case of new flu epidemics.



The team for developing the action plan for the occasion of wide spread of H1N1 flu made the plan for the organization and functioning of the city institutions, city enterprises in case of epidemics. All the institutions and enterprise had to make contingency plan in case that 30% of the employees fall ill.

They forwarded the planned needs for nano masks and the relevant equipment for the protection from the new flu so that it could be timely provided. The team will be working on modifications and additions to the action plan in accordance with newly risen specific situations.

The experts in this field have already started to educate the staff of Pčelica, the city institution in charge of children daily care. The training are planned to be held in primary and secondary schools as well and in city public enterprises so that all the employees could be well prepared for the possible epidemics.



BULGARIA – SERBIA IPA CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME

Ministry of Regional Development and
Public Works of the Republic of Bulgaria
(Managing Authority)

in cooperation with

Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia
(National Authority)

are seeking for project proposals for the promotion of cross border cooperation between Bulgaria and Serbia with financial assistance from Bulgaria – Serbia IPA Cross-border Programme. Under present Call for Proposal an indicative amount of EUR 6.153.381 is available for the project proposals from both partnering countries. Project proposals would have to target one of the following priority areas:

1. Development of small scale infrastructure
2. Enhancing capacity for joint planning, problem solving and development.

The ultimate objective will be to enhance the capability of the local and regional authorities to develop and implement joint projects within the border region in the following Bulgarian NUTS III level territorial units: Vidin, Montana, Sofia, Sofia – City, Pernik and Kyustendil and Serbian districts – Borski, Zaječarski, Nišavski, Pirotski, Jablanički, Pčinjski.

The full Applicants Guide and Application Package are available for download on the following web page addresses:
www.ipacbc-bgrs.eu, www.mrrb.government.bg and www.evropa.gov.rs.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 30th November, 2009, 16:00 local time in the address indicated in the Guidance for Applicants for the present Call for proposal. Information sessions on this call for proposals. Information sessions on this call for proposals will be held in Bulgaria and Serbia. The dates and locations of these sessions will be announced on the web sites www.ipacbc-bgrs.eu, www.mrrb.government.bg and www.evropa.gov.rs.

Contact for additional information: JTS in Sofia: + 359 2 9405 680, JTS Antenae office in Niš: + 381 18 521 677, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia: + 381 11 3642 789.



BULGARIA – SERBIA IPA
CROSS-BORDER
PROGRAMME

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The City initiated the campaign LET'S CLEAN THE CITY. There are about 106 wild landfills in the city. The research showed that those wild landfills can be found not only on the city outskirts but in the city center as well. The villages are in the worst situation because there is no organised system of waste collection.



The City tried to expand its service of waste collection for 10% more. So far, 25% of these wild landfills have been cleared and 35 acres have been turned into useful ground. More than 5,5 thousands of tons of waste have been cleared from the city streets, green surfaces, river banks and village meadows.

The City of Niš focused on developing of city parks and picnic areas. It is the intention of the city to enable its citizens to have place where to relax, enjoy and recreate. Niš City Mayor stressed that the city was going to support this kind of action in future and the activism of the citizens and it would try to respond to requests coming from them.

He invited his fellow citizens to join efforts in preserving what we had so that future generations could live in healthier environment.

CAR FREE DAY

In Town, Without My Car! is an established event whereby on the 22nd of September each year, town centre streets across Europe close to traffic, and open up solely for people to enjoy walking, cycling, street theatre, live music, dancing, public art and children's play areas.



European Mobility Week 2009 lasted from September 16 to September 22.



This year Niš City marked the Car Free Day - September 22, at the plateau on the bank of the Nišava River with sports competitions and entertainment programmes. The organizers of this manifestation were the City of Niš, City Council for Environment Protection, City Administration for communal services, energy and traffic, City Administration for education, culture and sports, Public Company Parking Service, Sports Center Čair with the support of many nongovernmental organizations and traffic police.

The main idea behind this campaign is to encourage the use of alternative forms of transport and travel and to raise awareness within the community of what is at stake with regards to long term mobility in towns and the risks connected with pollution.

Car Free Day was dedicated to cycling and the basic objectives of this action was to encourage citizens to behave in accordance with sustainable development, decreasing the effects of the global warming, level of noise and traffic congestions.

The City of Nis joined the international campaign for the first time in 2001.



SHELTER FOR STREET CHILDREN

Home for the children without parental guidance Duško Radović will expand its services to become the shelter for the children living in the streets.

Homeless children, the children with functional disorder and children who are the victim of human trafficking can find shelter. They can spend 6 months at longest in shelter using the shelter services.

According to UNICEF data, 65 children are homeless in Niš. The actual number is bigger since the children from surrounding municipalities are loitering the streets of Niš.

"The children you can find living in the streets are often children with parents. It is the parents who force them to beg in the streets and thus earn some money. Running away from their parents those children end up in the streets. The shelter is a good way to prevent that", said Dušica Davidović, the member of Niš City Council.

National Investment Plan Fund allocated 40.000,00 EUR. The City of Niš will help with the furnishing of the premises. The project will be supported by the Niš City Municipality Pantelej where the shelter is located. The project is also supported by Serbian Ministry for Labour and Social Policies.

MAYOR SUPPORTS YOUTH IDEAS

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović attended the session of Youth Council on which occasion four projects with the objective of improving youth life quality were presented.

The City of Nis will support following projects:

Youth Activism through Volunteering – which will be implemented by Citizens' Association Volunteer Center Nis. The main objective of the project is to involve young people actively in resolving problems of the local community and to promote volunteering in institutions of secondary and university education.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) – which will be implemented by the Group for Better Understanding of ADHD in Children called Svitanje. The objective of the project is to raise consciousness about the problems that children with ADHD are facing and to show that it is not

a disease but the state of being different and that different approach is needed.

SummerART festival Niška Banja 09 – which will be implemented by Niška Banja Center for Culture. The project envisages a number of exhibitions and presentations, educational workshops, lectures on the topics of artistic creativity and environment protection.

Peer Education – which will be implemented by Movement Young Serbia. The objective of the project is to decrease the rate of the addiction diseases among young people, to prevent the contacts with psychotic substances, to raise awareness about the importance of the prevention.



Mayor Simonović pointed out that the communication between young people was extremely important as well as being informed about the projects which were being implemented on the local level. He sent the message to all youth associations and organizations to initiate programs for the improvement of life quality for young people. He also confirmed that all youth initiatives will be reviewed through legal and institutional framework. Mayor Simonović reiterated his commitment to work with young people on common ideas, initiatives and projects.

E-MAIL FOR YOUTH INITIATIVES

Niš City Council for Youth invites the citizens of Niš, primarily young people, to submit their initiatives and suggestion to the Council at e-mail: savetzamlade@gu.ni.rs

This e-mail address enables faster approach to the Council for Youth for all the citizens with the initiatives for improvement of life quality of young people. The Council for Youth is in charge of resolving the issues of the importance for young people in this city, of supporting the activities related to the youth and of encouraging the cooperation between young people and the city administration.

The submitted initiatives and suggestions are going to be considered by the Council in accordance with its jurisdictions. The Council will assist in the realisation of the initiatives and thus enable the young people to have direct participation in the creation of youth policies, in the development of the Local Strategy for Youth and in the implementation of the strategy itself.



**Join Niš City Council for Youth
On Facebook**



The suggestion could be also submitted at the following address: **Youth Council, Niš City Assembly, 24, Nikole Pašića Street, 18000 Niš.**

MILITARY MEDICAL EXERCISE MEDCEUR 2009 – INTRO TO REGIONAL RESPONSE -TO CRISIS-CENTER

MEDCEUR is an international military-medical exercise, which has been held for several years now in the organization of the United States European Command (EUCOM) in the Central and Eastern European countries.



This is the first time that the Republic of Serbia has been nominated the host of this exercise and the exercise was held in Niš in from September 2 to 13. MEDCEUR is a humanitarian exercise where military medical teams save the lives of those who suffer in natural disasters. The goal of the exercise is to train the military medical staff of the participating countries in order to be able to jointly act on addressing the consequences of natural disasters and providing relief to those in need, thus placing accent on the interoperability in international interventions in the cases of humanitarian and natural disasters.

The members of the Ministry of the Interior, Republic of Serbia, as well as the Department for emergency situations, veterinary department, fire department, the

Red Cross of Serbia, Nis military hospital were also involved in MEDCEUR 09 together with Republic of Serbia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Regional Civic Protection Center, Nis Cit Civil Protection Center and Nis City government. Minister of Defense Dragan Sutanovac attended the practical part of the military medical exercise MEDCEUR 2009. The exercise was also observed by the Charge d Affaires of US Embassy Jennifer Brush, Chiefs of Defense of Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro, LTG Miloje Miletic, General Josip Lucic and Vice Admiral Dragan Samardzic respectively, along with Major General Robert Baillie of EUCOM, Assistant Minister of the Interior



Miodrag Maric and state secretaries in other state ministries, foreign military representatives accredited in Serbia, NATO MLO reps, and the representatives of the Red Cross of Serbia and the International Red Cross.

After touring the exercise, the Minister said that this was the greatest military medical exercise ever to have been held in Serbia, with the representatives of 15 armies deployed, and a large number of Serbian ministries. "The very presence of 300 members of foreign armies, a large number of guests and defense chiefs of Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro proves that this exercise has sparked great interest and this today is not only a regional, but a European event. I take this opportunity to express great satisfaction and pleasure with what we saw today, and I thank all the members of the Police Force, of the Ministry of Agriculture and the local self-government of the City of Nis as they all provided help in organizing such an exercise."

Jennifer Brush, Charge d Affaires of US Embassy thanked the Ministry of Defense for their generous offer to host the members of 14 armies of PfP and to the citizens of Nis for their hospitality and kindness. She pointed out that professionalism and leadership demonstrated by MoD showed what an important

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role Serbia has in the processes of strengthening peace in Europe and the region as well. "As for Serbia's future, we are committed to your success, this exercise serves as an example of partnership which will help Serbia and the whole region to take their rightful place in Europe", as Brush said.

City of Niš Mayor, Miloš Simonović said that this exercise was just an introduction to the establishment of the regional center in Niš for responding in crisis situation.

ART COLONY IN SIĆEVO OPENED

45th traditional art colony was opened in the village of Sićevo near Niš.

This year colony was organized by Niš Contemporary Art Gallery and it is supported by the City of Niš and Ministry of Culture. 13 painters and sculptors from Denmark, Canada and Serbia will work on their art in the colourful village of Sićevo until September 10. All artists, except Vasilije Perevalov, are for the first time engaged in the work of the art colony which is the oldest one in the Balkans.

This art colony was founded by Serbian painter Nadežda Petrović in 1905. It was re-established in 1964. Every artist who ever took part in the work of these colonies left to the City of Niš at least one of master pieces. Niš Contemporary Art Gallery is the home of 1094 pieces of art work done by foreign and domestic painters and sculptors.

NISOMNIA AT NIŠ FORTRESS

8th music festival Nisomnia, gathering 20 bands from the country and abroad, was being held at Niš Fortress from September 3 to September 6, 2009.

This is the first time that the festival was held at so called trenches of Fortress. The music bands and DJs performed at 2 parallel stages.

At the same time, the trenches were the venue for the festival E-Fortress. E-Fortress is the festival whose objective is to promote entrepreneurship, open software, internet, technological innovations and multimedia art. The participants of this unique festival could attend workshops focused on the usage of internet and its links to all spheres of contemporary life. Art, film and music workshops were organized within this festival as well as business online seminar. The festival programme was created in the way so that it could connect the process of learning and entertainment.

One festival day was dedicated to E-Media. E-Media Day was the day dedicated to the presentations of all the important media houses that were active on the Internet through its web portal.

The important part of E-Fortress was the international film festival FreeNetWorld which aimed to support and promote the creativity of film and authors from all over the world, primarily through the Internet which was believed to be the basic kind of communication in the future. FNW believes that the film speaks the universal language. Therefore they wanted to present a wider spectrum of films in competitive and noncompetitive programs.

The aim of this festival was to present the important and innovative films of high artistic value from the whole world.

