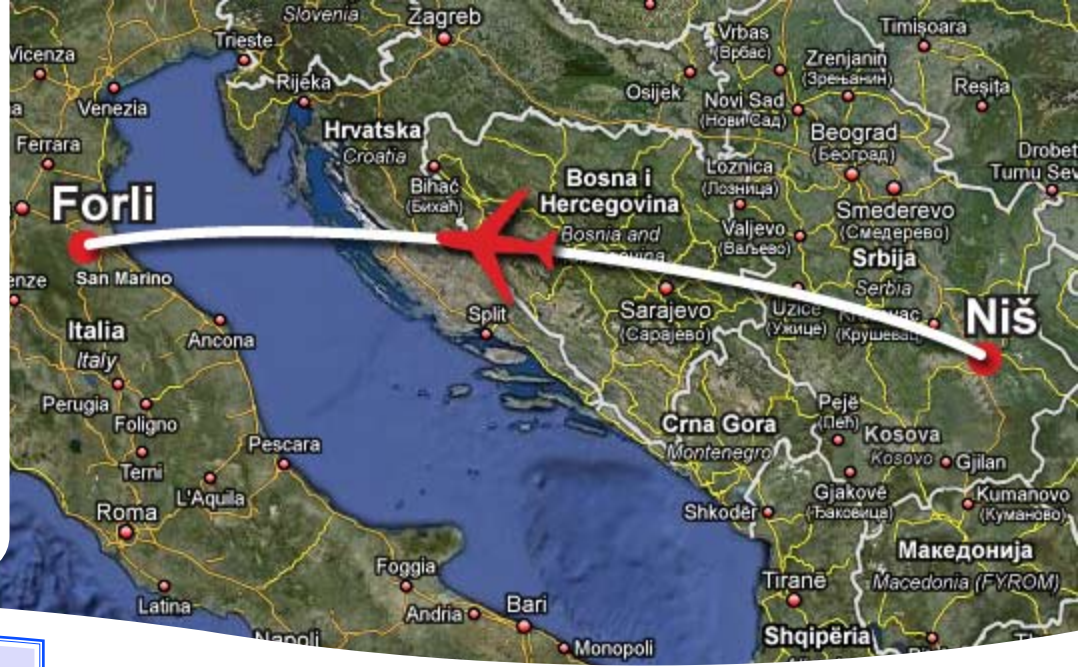




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# WIND JET FLIES TO SERBIA



**Press Release**

From December 26th, direct flights Forlì-Niš



In line with the development plan of its Forlì base, on December 26th Wind Jet will launch the new weekly connection to Serbia with its flight Forlì-Niš.

Niš is the second most important city of Serbia and it is considered as one of the gateways between the east and the west. Nis airport is Konstantin Veliki Aerodrom and it is named after the Roman Emperor Constantine I who was born here in 274.

For the winter 2010 season, flights will be operated every Friday and, for the summer 2010 season, flights will be operated twice a week, every Monday and Friday. The first two flights will be exceptionally operated on December 26th and 31st.

Wind Jet is the very first Italian airline flying to Niš.

Supported by a strong desire of Nis city and Nis airport, this flight will be departing from Forlì



at 10.10 a.m. and will be arriving in Niš at 11.20 a.m.. The return flight is scheduled at 12.20 p.m. with arrival in Forlì at 1.40 p.m. The airline will be also offering convenient connections from Catania to Forlì and the connections with Palermo will be soon operational. All flights will be operated on Airbus 319 aircrafts.

Flights are already available for sale on the airline website [www.volawindjet.it](http://www.volawindjet.it), through the call-centre 89.2020 and from travel agencies.



## SERBIAN NATIONAL AIRLINE COMPANY JAT INTERESTED IN NIŠ AIRPORT

**Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and JAT Airlines general manager Srdjan Radovanović discussed the cooperation possibilities between the City of Niš and JAT Airlines Company with special attention being paid to the re-establishing JAT Airlines flights from Nis Airport.**

“We discussed the reasons for the cancellation of the flight Niš-Zurich and about the possibilities of introducing other flights to other destinations. The negotiations on the actual destinations, analyses and master-plan will be done by Public Enterprise Airport Nis. The analyses and plan will be forwarded to the JAT Airline in order to define common interests and in 10 days we will verify whether there is a financial justification to have flights from Nis to European destinations”, said Mayor Simonović.

The City of Niš is most interested in flights to Switzerland, Germany and France.

Srdjan Radovanovic, JAT Airlines general manager, said that the consent was reached on the importance of the developing air traffic in this part of Serbia.

“We are aware of the fact that not many people flew during these last years, especially the people from South of Serbia. We expect the situation to change. Both JAT Airlines and the City of Niš will invest all our efforts to create more traffic from Nis Airport. I am quite positive that there will be flights to more than one destination from Niš”, said Radovanović.

Mayor Simonović added that the cooperation between the city and JAT could be possible if both sides see financial benefit. The City of Niš will insist on signing the separate contract with JAT Airlines.



Niš City Mayor - JAT flies again from the airport Constantine Great

“The City of Niš will do everything within its powers to prevent the past to repeat itself. No flight from Nis will be cancelled due to small number of passengers or due to the different commercial politics”, said Mayor Simonović.



JAT airplane on airport Constantine Great

## EUROPE FOR ALL

**Republic of Serbia Vice-president Božidar Djelić and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović presented the project Europe for All.**

This project is initiated by the office of the Vice-president for European Integrations together with the organisation European movement in Serbia. 50 selected citizens of Serbia will cross the borders of EU on the first day of visa liberalization regime coming into force without visas in their passports. They will spend

six days in Europe getting to know Rome, Berlin, Paris and Brussels.

There are three basic criteria which should be satisfied for a person to be selected. The citizen should be an adult, older than 18 years of age. He or she has never travelled to Europe before. He or

she did something extraordinary for their community. The call for application submission is opened until November 25, 2009. Potential



RS Government Vice-president Božidar Djelić at the presentation of the project EUROPE FOR ALL in Niš



future passengers to Europe cannot submit their applications personally.

They should be nominated by somebody else. The jury will make short list of 100 potential candidates who satisfy the stated criteria. The names of 50 winners will be

selected randomly on the national TV broadcast.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović pointed out that the visa liberalization would be the good news for the end of this year and it would bring Serbia back into community of European countries which exchanged their experiences freely and which

were not afraid of the competition. Introducing the regular flights from Niš Airport Constantine the Great would be another advantage to make the movement of people especially from this part of Serbia easier.

## EMPERORS OF CARNUNTUM CHANGED THE WORLD

**The representatives of Niš City took part at the International symposium Art Carnuntum that was held in Carnuntum - Petronell archeological park, 40 km from Vienna in Austria, upon the invitation of Carnuntum art director Piero Bordin.**

1700 years ago, in November, 308 A.D., at the Conference at Carnuntum the decision was made to establish new Tetrarchy - Rule of Four and the power over the Roman Empire was redistributed.

This year symposium was the first step in establishing the international cooperation network of Emperors of Carnuntum historical cities and places. For the first time, the light is thrown onto the

dimensions of the new order and the results of the historic events that took place at Carnuntum.

Niš has its role in this network since one of the Carnuntum Emperors was the Constantine the Great. The project envisages organizing the common artistic events for the forthcoming 1700th anniversary of Christianity recognition within the international



Archeological park Carnuntum

art project "Emperors of Carnuntum Who Changed the World 308-313/2008-2013". This project was founded with support of the Department for Culture and Science of Lower Austria Government.

The symposium was also attended by the representatives of Trier, Arles, Zaječar, Thessaloniki, Izmir, Istanbul, Rome and Milan.

# THE CITY OF NIŠ AT 10th BALCINET SUMMIT OF MAYORS

The City of Niš participated at 10th International Summit of Mayors of major Balkan cities which was organised in Thessaloniki, Greece, in the period from November 25 to November 28, 2009 hosted by the Mayor of Thessaloniki Mr. Mr. Papageorgopoulos Vassilios.



[www.balcinet.org](http://www.balcinet.org)

BALCINET, the Network of major Balkan Cities, was founded in Thessaloniki in December 2001 aiming at the development of inter-Balkan inter-municipal co-operation. The topics of the 10th summit were economic recession, digital municipal services for the citizen and crime and drugs referring to daily life threats, the state responsibilities and



10th Balcinet Summit Of Mayors

the municipal antidotes.

The basic objective of the BALCINET network is strengthening the cooperation between Balkan cities and developing economic and cultural bonds between local self-governments from this part of Europe. This kind of cooperation enables the peaceful co-existence between states and nations on



Mayors of major Balkan Cities

the Balkan Peninsula as well as the progress of the big cities which are facing with common problems and challenges.

Parallel to BALCINET annual summit, the international fair POLIS for the presentation of the local self-governments was held.

## CITY OF NIŠ AT LONDON INTERNATIONAL TOURISM FAIR

**Niš Touristic Organisation participated at World Travel Market 2009. This is the second largest tourism potential fair in the world.**

This year 187 countries participated at the Fair with 5.615 exhibitors. More than 26.500,00 business visitors came to the Fair.

Serbian Touristic Organisation presented the touristic potentials in Serbia with special sections focused on Belgrade TO, Vojvodina TO, Niš To and Čačak TO.

At the press conference held at the Fair, the Serbian TO representatives talked about introduction of low cost flights to Serbia, new concept of Green Serbia,

City Break Programmes, winter and summer season tourism offers.

The consultant company MPRNetwork from London informed the world media about the plans of the Niš City to introduce the flights from the Niš Airport and to position itself as the regional leader in the tourism and transport.

The director of Serbian Touristic Organisation, Mrs. Gordana Plamenac pointed out the City Of Niš and whole Serbia was preparing for the celebration of 2013 marking



Vladimir Jovanović, director of Niš Touristic Organisation

the 1700th anniversary of Milan Edict signing and that future tourism events will be good opportunities for the promotion of this celebration.

The director of Nis Touristic Organisation Mr. Vladimir Jovanović took the opportunity of World Travel Market 2009 to negotiate with the leading national touristic agencies the promotion of Niš City and the inclusion of the city in regular touristic regional offers.

# CITY OF NIŠ AT THE 4th INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF INVESTMENTS AND REAL ESTATE

**The City of Niš presented its development potentials at the 4th International Fair of Investments and Real Estate - Investexpo which was held between November 10 and November 13, 2009.**

The main fair objective is the promotion of the activities related to the improvement of the economic development of the local self-government. 40 municipalities participated at the Fair.

During the Investexpo, development projects were presented by cities and municipalities, regional economic chambers, institutions that stimulated promotion of investments plans. The projects presentation were supported by direct contacts between the representatives of local self-governments and authorized provincial secretariats and funds and institutions representatives whose work was in direct connection with the promotion of investments in Serbia. The presented projects were mainly about industrial zones, working zones, ports, construction and reconstruction of main and regional roads, construction of sports-recreation centers, and construction of infrastructure and tourist capacities.

The City of Niš together with real estate agency Colliers Internationals presented the city investment locations already prepared for leasing: Lozni Kalem, Skopljanska and Donje Medjurovo. The premises of El Holding Corporations were presented as convenient for brown field investments. Niš City Office for Local Economic Development presented its work and projects as well. Also, Eyemaxx and Panel Inženjering Company were given the chance to share the stand with the City representatives.



**Igor Pavličić - Mayor of Novi Sad, Boban Mihajlović - Niš City Council Member, Bojan Pajtić - President of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and Goran Vasić - Director of Novi Sad Fair**

The participation of Niš City at this Fair was the another confirmation of the intent of the Niš City authorities to invest in the promotion of the local community development and in creating conditions for opening new jobs by attracting new investments as it was said by Boban Mihajlović, Niš City Council member.

This fair was an excellent opportunity for the discussions on

potential cooperation with Novi Sad Fair Complex trying to intensify the fair organizations in Niš using the best practices and the lessons learned from Novi Sad.

Vojvodina Chamber of Commerce and Novi Sad Fair Complex awarded the prize GOOD DESIGN to the City of Niš for the design solutions and creative approach in the city presentation at the fair.



**Goran Vasić - Director of Novi Sad Fair, Boban Mihajlović - Niš City Council Member, Nikola Stojšić - President of Vojvodina Chamber of Commerce and Ilija Stanković - Vojvodina Chamber of Commerce**

# PRESENTATION OF THE OFFICE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Niš City Office for Local Economic Development presented the office operational plan and the plan for the cooperation with local business community.



Milan Randjelović, Head of OLED

The presentation was attended by city management representatives, public utility company representatives and the representatives of the local business community.

The Office for Local Economic Development was established within the implementation of USAID MEGA programme and the establishment of the office was supported by financially and technically by LEDIB programme which is financed by Kingdom of Denmark Ministry of Interior. The office is organised as a special unit within the Mayor's office whose primary tasks are

advancement of local economic development, the attraction of new investments, providing support to local business community, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the creation of the conditions for life quality improvements, for economic development of Niš City through initiating, managing, supervising and implementing the projects within the scope of local economic development.

The objective of this presentation was to establish long term and strong contacts and links between all the relevant stakeholders in business community since the coordinated joint work contributed the most to better quality and faster economic development of the city.

The presentation was dedicated to the achieved results and further work plans. The representatives of MEGA and LEDIB programme also spoke about cooperation with the Office for Local Economic Development.



OLED presentation at City Hall

## CITY OF NIŠ – THE MOST OPENED CITY TO THE CITIZENS

The City of Niš is the most opened city for the communication with its citizens and it is the most available city related to the access to the information of public importance as it was concluded by the research which European Movement in Serbia conducted.

The project entitled "I have the right to know" has been implemented in 18 towns and municipalities in Serbia. The project shows that the institutions in Niš are most open to the citizens and that the work of the local administration is transparent. The president of the association European Movement in Niš, Ms. Mila Vujuć, confirmed that most city institutions published regularly on their official web sites the news about their activities and they responded to the inquires coming from the citizens. Those web sites are updated on the daily basis. The objective of this project implemented by the European Movement was to strengthen the participation of the citizens in the work of public institutions and to become familiar with the ways of local self-government functioning. The City of Niš and its administrations were very open about their work and the number of employees. The conclusions from the project will be incorporated in the proposals for the new laws which refer to the improvement of the functioning of the public institutions and local self-government.

## CREDIT LINES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES AND ENTREPRENEURS

**The City of Nis will invest 90 million dinars, generated from the privatization of Tobacco Industry, into the development of small and medium sized enterprises.**

Together with the Bank Intesa, the City of Nis will secure the credit lines for SMEs functioning in the City of Nis. Those credit lines can be used for the financing of the project relating new programmes, technical and technological modernization, investments into operating capital for the encouragement of the production and complete resource utilization, the purchase and modernization of the equipment increase of the equipment and entering new market or for the re-orientation to new export programmes.

The press conference was held at Niš City Hall in relation to the initiation of this project. The regional manager of the Bank Intesa,

Mrs. Violeta Marjanović pointed out that the entrepreneurs would be able to get loans in the amount ranging from 2.000,00 to 20.000,00 Euros with repayment period of 36 months. The grace period would be one year and this period is included into repayment period. The loan is repaid in equal monthly annuities with annual interest rate of 5%.

The member of Nis City Council Mr. Boban Mihajlović, expressed his belief that by engaging 90 million dinars for the support to SMEs, all the companies with good quality programmes and good business plans would be given the chance to work better and open new jobs.



**Mrs. Violeta Marjanović, regional manager of the Bank Intesa and Mr. Boban Mihajlović, City Councilor**

Councilor Mihajlović reminded the present at the press conference that the City of Niš supported the employment of the workers who are being employed for the first time with 26 million dinars which resulted in 150 young people finding jobs in more than a hundred companies.

## CERTIFICATES TO THE LEDIB PROGRAMME TRAINEES

**LEDIB Programme in Serbia manager Mr. Karsten Lund and LEDIB training coordinator Mrs. Indira Verem presented Certificates to the LEDIB programme trainees.**

The trainings were attended by the representatives of the local self-governments from the District of Nišava. The trainings were focused on the following topics: local economic development tools and techniques, strategic planning, external development funds absorption and capacity building, attraction of foreign direct investments, SME development. The objectives of the trainings were to raise the awareness of the LED

office staff on the importance of the definition and managing LED tools and techniques; to train LED officers to implement strategic planning, to identify funding opportunities and prepare project funding applications by PCM methodology; to use pro-active approach in attracting foreign direct investments; to provide support to development of SMEs and to establish new business environment.



## CITY OF NIŠ – THE CITY WITH FAVOURABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

**Niš City Vice-Mayor Mrs. Nadja Marković, signed, on the behalf of the City of Niš, the Agreement on entering the process of certification for favourable environment.**

This certificate will enable the businessmen and potential investors to obtain the information and services they need more promptly and more accurately.

The programme is implemented by National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED), in cooperation with RS Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Vojvodina Province Secretariat for local self-government and inter-municipality cooperation, Agency for foreign investments and export promotion and USAID Programme for the support to economic development of the municipalities in Serbia - MEGA.

In order to earn the certificate, the municipality must be efficient in providing services to the citizens by simplifying the procedure and by improving the quality of provided services. Local self-government should become partner to entrepreneurs, especially to local enterprises and it should try to respond to their needs, plans and strategies.

The host of this event was Mr. Goran Ješić, the president of Indjija Municipality, which is one of three municipalities in Serbia which has been awarded the NALED certificate. 14 other municipalities signed the Agreement on entering the process of certification.



MoU signing with 18 municipalities

The ceremonial signing was attended by RS Minister of Economy and Regional Development, Mladjan Dinkić, NALED Executive Board president Vladimir Čupić, the charge de affaires of USA Embassy in Belgrade Mrs. Jennifer Brush.

## CITY OF NIŠ CONTINUES COOPERATION WITH NGO HELP

**Niš City Vice-Mayor Nadja Marković signed the Memorandum of Understanding with German non-governmental organization HELP on the implementation of the sustainable development projects during 2010.**

The project implies providing socio-economic assistance to the vulnerable categories of the citizens - youth, unemployed, single parents and people with disabilities.

The main project objectives are: to decrease the poverty and social tensions by providing sustainable and long-term assistance to the target groups and to support development on the local, regional and national level through the activation of the entrepreneurial potentials of the above mentioned

groups and their socio-economic independence.

The cooperation is aimed to create new jobs through the development of start-up businesses and entrepreneurship. The project will support 80 clients with the establishment of their business operations. The support will include the donation of equipment and materials worth on average up to 2.000,00 Euros, the organization of the professional and expert trainings and professional counseling in



Help organisation representative and Niš City Vice-Mayor Nadja Marković

accordance with the clients' needs.

The project will support the formation of agricultural cooperatives on the Niš City territory. Four cooperatives will be supported through the procurement of the equipment worth 15.000,00 Euros, securing the professional counseling and trainings.

# ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND HIGH MILITARY DELEGATION VISITED NIŠ

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović met with the Ambassador of Italian Republic in Serbia H.E. Mr. Armando Varricchio and with the Chief of the General Staff of the Italian Army, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Valotto at Nis City Hall yesterday.



Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović talking to Italian Ambassador in Serbia H.E. Mr. Armando Varricchio and representatives of Italian and Serbian High Military Delegations

The meeting was organised upon the completion of the training for 20 members of Serbian Army and RS Ministry of Defense for working with state-of-art equipment which was donated by Italy. The donated equipment was 600.000,00 worth.

On this occasion Mayor Simonović expressed his gratitude for the donation and pointed out the importance of the education and experience exchange between two countries with the objective of establishing the Center for Responding to Natural Disasters.

"The City of Nis is opened for cooperation and it will provide support to the state institutions in connection to strategic positioning of the City", said Mayor Simonović.

The Ambassador Varricchio said that Italy had the system of civil defense which is applied in EU

countries and that area could be one of the potential areas of cooperation between Italy and Serbia.

The commander of Serbian Army Ground Forces and the Chief of the General Staff of the Italian Army, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Valotto agreed that the cooperation between two armies had been successful so far and that it would be continued during the following year in the fields of training of special units and civil protection department.

The Head of Department for Emergency Situation Mr. Milan Popadic said that the City of Niš would be the first urban environment where new equipment would be used for the detection and destruction of unexploded mines which were left over from the previous wars.

## REGIONAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LAW ON EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND CIVIL PROTECTION DRAFT

**Regional discussion on the Law on Emergency Situations and Civil Protection was held in Niš City Hall.**

It was the second in the series of four round tables which would be held throughout Serbia.

The new law draft introduces more rational approach to the organization of the services within several ministries. According to Mr. Predrag Marić, assistant to the RS Minister of Interior and the head of the Department for Emergency Situations, the participation of the local self-governments in the creation of the Law is very important since these situations are resolved at local level.

Niš City Council Member Žarko Ranković said that several meetings dedicated to this topic were held together with the partners from USAID PPES Programme and Serbian Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. The conclusions from these meetings were incorporated in the draft of the law and those conclusions pointed out to the resolution of the dilemmas with which the local self –governments were faced regarding jurisdictions over responding to emergency situations.

The City of Niš will be the first city in Serbia with Developed Safety Strategy and thus it will become the part of European network of cities which adopted and implemented this document. The Center for humanitarian response to disasters from the aspects of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery is planned to be established in Niš, at the Niš Airport and it should serve as the logistics base for the rescue operations in Serbia and wider region.

# SOCIAL INCLUSION – SUPPORT TO MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

**Together with the City of Niš, City Municipalities Palilula and Crveni Krst and Roma community in Niš, UNHCR is starting the implementation of the project “Social Inclusion - Support to Marginalised Communities” on the Niš City territory.**

The objective of this project is to register as many as possible members of Roma community as well as refugees and IDPs.

After the completion of the first phase of the regional project - Social Inclusion and Right Accession for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Western Balkans - which lasted from February 2008 to July 2009, European Commission and UNHCR are continuing the second phase of the project which will last for following 18 months. The executive partner to UNHCR is the organization PRAXIS. Praxis is a national non-governmental organization, which aims to protect, improve and promote human rights of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees upon readmission agreements from Western Europe and members of minorities (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian).

European Commission and UNHCR allocated 352.000,00 EUR for the implementation of the project second phase. This second phase will involve seven municipalities within Belgrade City (Municipalities of Palilula, Čukarica, Zemun, Mladenovac, Gocka, Surčin and Lazarevac) and 11 other municipalities from Serbia (Kikinda, Bor, Boljevac, Žitoradja, Novi Bečej, Pančevo, Leskovac, Surdulica, Smederevska Palanka, Palilula and Crveni Krst in Niš). The activities within this second phase will be focused on raising awareness about the importance of the civil



registration and possession of the relevant ID documents.

Praxis will be also providing free of charge legal counsel to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities so that they could obtain necessary registry documents which would enable them to exercise their basic human rights and consequently to decrease the number of legally invisible people in Serbia.

During the first phase of the project the mobile PRAXIS team visited 76 Roma community settlements in 20 municipalities in Serbia. More than 2500 applications for the issuing of the personal ID cards were submitted on the behalf of 1200 clients. The municipal registry offices issued more than 2300 certificates for more than 1100 clients until September this year.

According to the RS Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 500.000 Roma people reside in Serbia today. 23 000 Roma people have been internally displaced from Kosovo. Great number of them cannot exercise their basic human right (to health care, education and work) due to the lack of the personal ID documents. This project should improve the situation.

## BETTER QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICE AT LOCAL LEVEL

**Regional meeting between the representatives of RS Ministry of Health, local self governments, institutes for public health and Municipal Health Care Centers in 48 cities and municipalities in the South of Serbia was held at Niš City Hall.**



Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović

The RS Ministry of Health presented its project - Providing Improved Services at Local Level. This project is financed by World Bank loan, total value of 12.5 million Euros, and it will be implemented in the period from September 2009 to December 2012. The project comprises four components – financing of the primary health care system and health care management, increasing the access to the health care services for vulnerable groups of citizens, improving the quality of the provided services and improving the IT sector within the health care system.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović said that this project would enable the application of the new standards with the objective of improving the quality of provided services. He reminded that the City of Niš invested 100 million dinars in the primary health care system on the territory of Niš City. Five new outpatient departments with attached pharmacies have been opened.

# TURKISH AND SERBIAN NATIONAL TEAMS AT NIŠ CITY HALL

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović organised the reception at Niš City Hall for the national water polo teams of Serbia and Turkey on the occasion of World Water Polo match in Niš.



Turkish and Serbina National Water Polo teams with Niš City Mayor

Mayor Simonović expressed his pleasure since the City of Niš was honored to be the host of such important sports event and also expressed hope that the cooperation between the City of Niš and Serbian Water Polo Association would as successful as it had been so far. The Mayor said that Niš City would always be at the service to top level sportsmen.

Mr. Djrodje Perišić, the president of the Serbian Water Polo Association International Commission also addressed the present audience expressing his pleasure and reassurance regarding

the efforts that the City of Niš invested in the organization of that event. He said that Niš was very important for the development of water polo in Serbia.

“We are entering new cycle of competitions. We are glad that we are in Niš again and that we are going to play here after 6 years”, said Dejan Udovičić, head coach of Serbian national team.

By supporting this kind of sports event, the City of Niš proves that it is the city who values the development of sports as its priority.



Miloš Simonović, Niš City Mayor, Vanja Udovičić, Serbian National team captain and Dejan Udovičić, Serbian National team head coach



Djrodje Perišić, Serbian Water Polo Federation International Commission president



Čair Swimming Pool



Serbian national water polo team started new season at the reconstructed pool at Čair



Reception at Niš City Hall



Serbina National Water Polo team