



Niš
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2 *FIRST VISIT TO NEW SERBIAN PATRIARCH*



4 *COOPERATION BETWEEN CITY OF NIŠ AND SWEDEN*



8 *TRIER DELEGATION IN NIŠ*

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In This Issue:

CITY OF NIŠ PAID HOMAGE TO ITS CITIZENS 1

FIRST VISIT TO NEW SERBIAN PATRIARCH 2

BEST ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR AWARDED 2

ANOTHER PROJECT OF SUPPORT TO BEGINNERS IN BUSINESS 3

ENERGY SAVING BULBS DONATED TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIŠ 3

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITY OF NIŠ AND SWEDEN ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES 4

ROUND TABLE ON DECENTRALISATION 5

AWARDS FOR BEST STUDENTS IN 2009 5

MAYOR VISITED UNIVERSITY 6

CONTEMPORARY SOLUTIONS TO ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS 6

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE CITY OF NIŠ – A LONG WAY AHEAD OR JUST A STEP TOWARDS 7

A HUNDRED YEARS OF OLYMPIC GAMES 7

TRIER DELEGATION IN NIŠ 8

CITY OF NIŠ PAID HOMAGE TO ITS CITIZENS

At the ceremonial session of Niš City Parliament the most important city awards were presented to the citizens who contributed the most to city affirmation and promotion and whose deeds and achievements made them exceptional during last year.

This year winners are: Mrs. Lidija Mihajlović, sport shooter, 14-year-old Iva Nikolić, rock band Galija and the secondary comprehensive school Svetozar Marković.

On this occasion Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović said that the city award was the way in which the city preserved and nurtured the important dates from historic past. The award - January 11 is designed to preserve from oblivion the liberation of Niš on January 11, 1878, from almost 500-year-old Turkish rule which itself marked a turning point in the development of Niš, which from a small Turkish provincial town grew into a modern European town, developing rapidly both politically and culturally. Also, the award marked the direction of the city towards future and the achievements of



Niš City Parliament ceremonial session

the goals which should improve our life and contribute to further city development. Respecting the tradition and past deeds of our ancestors, the city presented these awards with pride to the people who managed to give valuable contribution to personal affirmation and to the affirmation of the City of Niš. Mayor Simonović congratulated to all winners and made a pledge that the city would continue to provide all of its support to its citizens who set standards and



achieve best results in area of their activities.

Lidija Mihajlović and her achievements in sports shooting represented the City of Niš in the best possible way. Her latest success was the winning of the Crystal Globe at Sport Shooting World Cup in China.

Iva Nikolić has been awarded for her courage while saving her younger sisters Mina and Sanja from the burning building.

The rock band Galija celebrated 30th anniversary of professional career last year and all these years the band promoted the city from which it had originated.

The secondary comprehensive school Svetozar Marković owes to its pupils, who have been successful in numerous national competitions and competitions, the winning of the award this year.

FIRST VISIT TO NEW SERBIAN PATRIARCH

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Niš City Assembly president Mile Ilić visited His Holiness Patriarch of Serbian Orthodox Church Irinej.

On this occasion they congratulated him personally on the election for new patriarch. Mayor Simonović extended his wishes to Patriarch Irinej for a long and successful task of leading spiritually Serbian Orthodox people.

Niš City Assembly president Mile Ilić expressed his expectations related to the continuation of the good cooperation and to the support the city can receive in becoming the center of celebrating 1700th anniversary of Milan Edict signing in 2013.

Speaking about the time spent as the Bishop of the

Niš Eparchy, Patriarch Irinej said that he had always had good communication with the city authorities and that the figure of Niš Eparchy Bishop was always respected. "During last few years a lot has been done, more than in 150 years before", said Patriarch Irinej.

His Holiness expressed his beliefs that the City of Niš would be the central place of celebrating 17 centuries of Christianity recognition and reminded that the city had dedicated beautiful church to Constantine the Great. "This church will represent our spirit, our culture



**His Holiness Patriarch Irinej,
NCP President Mile Ilić,
Mayor Miloš Simonović**

and it will contribute to greater respect of the city and to the improvement of the city image having in mind our culture, history and state", said Patriarch Irinej.

BEST ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR AWARDED

Best entrepreneurs were awarded at celebration held in City Hall. Traditionally, every year, Chamber of Craftsmen of Serbia and Association of Entrepreneurs and Craftsmen, pronounce Entrepreneur of the Year.

These associations have been fostering the tradition of public declaring of those successful who, with their commitment, work, knowledge and personal reputation, contributed to creation of agreeable economic ambient, with intention to bring Serbia into the family of prominent, citizen-emancipated and economically developed countries of Europe. Background for continuation of awarding tradition is

marking of more than two centuries of craft-works and chamber associations.

The awards were presented at the celebration intended by Association of Entrepreneurs of Serbia, guests from Bulgaria and Macedonia and numerous entrepreneurs and guests.

Deputy Mayor Nadja Marković emphasized that

cooperation with Chamber of Craftsmen and Association of entrepreneurs and craftsmen was an example of good practice in the City. She said that the City of Niš had provided about 90 million dinars for loans, while about 26 million of dinars were allocated for support to employment, as well as that the City of Niš would continue with such practice in the future.

ANOTHER PROJECT OF SUPPORT TO BEGINNERS IN BUSINESS

Contracts on donation between beneficiaries of project "Reduction of Poverty through Support to Start-up Business" and NGO "ENECA" were signed up.

After a completed process of client selection, the project initiated with financial aid of DIN "Tobacco Factory" within Philip Morris International Company, enters a new phase in which 53 selected business activities will be created or extended. Out of that number 11 are concentrated on agricultural activities, 13 on crafts and 29 on services to industry, and all of them will be donated equipment or materials with average value of 180.000 dinars.

Member of City Council Boban Mihajlović emphasized that signing up of these contracts represented an example of good cooperation of the City with NGO

sector and socially responsible companies.

"In 2009 the City of Niš put in great efforts so that people with good business ideas could get necessary conditions and start-up means in order to realize those ideas, and such practice will continue this year", said Mihajlović. Cooperation with NGO "ENECA" is not the only example of such good practice, because several projects have been also realized in cooperation with LEDIB Program.

NGO "ENECA" will provide business and expert trainings for beneficiaries of this project, while beginners in the area of entrepreneurship will be offered



Start-up business contract signed with NGO Eneca

adequate aid. Beneficiaries of this project must reimburse the given funds in the amount of 20% of the donation value, register their business activity, attend business and skill trainings organized by ENECA and perform 15 hours of socially beneficial work.

ENERGY SAVING BULBS DONATED TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIŠ

Six primary and secondary schools in Niš received vouchers for energy saving bulbs which have been provided by the project Art of Giving.

One of the most famous gospel choir in America and world today - Harlem Gospel Choir from New York performed in Niš on December 3 2009. The funds collected by selling tickets for this concert were spent on raising consciousness about energy efficiency in our city.

The energy saving bulbs were provided in cooperation with public company for power supply ED Jugoistok.

The City of Nis supports all the initiative which can enrich the city cultural life and which are helped out by corporate responsibility. The involvement of the business community in the

humanitarian projects maintain the cooperation between the business and cultural city sector so that they can unite forces in building new image for the city which understands that economic development should be followed by the spiritual development and that cultural revitalization plays important part in the quality of local community life.

The project Art of Giving started in April 2006 with the support of Phillip Morris branch in Nis. The other initiatives undertaken by this project enabled the procurement of the equipment for maternity ward at Nis Clinical



Project Art of Giving final presentation

Center, buying toys for public park at Fortress, buying recreational devices for 12 primary schools in the city, buying the transport vehicle for the people with disabilities, helping out Stefan Stajic who suffered third degree burns, and helping out the couples without the children in treating their sterility problems.

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITY OF NIŠ AND SWEDEN ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The second meeting of the Steering Committee of the Expert Teams working 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 was held in Niš City Hall.

Project status and main activities, presentation of consultant's work and milestones since previous Steering Committee were on the agenda.

Mr. Carl Edberg, the representative of Swedish Ministry of External Affairs, which is co-financing these projects together with the City of Niš, confirmed that the consultancy company for Energy Balance Study, which was to be directly financed by Swedish government, had been chosen and that the first meeting would be held in March with the city technical team and the representatives of Niš City Energy Efficiency Council.



Members of environmental and technical upgrading of Constantine the Great Airport project Steering Committee at the second session



Regular meeting of expert teams working on development of the bankable feasibility studies



Swedish consultants presenting project status 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 was held in Niš City Hall

Mayor Simonović said that he was pleased with the project progress and reiterated the importance of the feasibility studies for the achieving greater level of competitiveness for the city and its public enterprises in securing financial resources and investments.

ROUND TABLE ON DECENTRALISATION

The round table dedicated to the topic **Possibilities and Decentralisation Models on Local Level in Niš as the part of the project ASK CITIZENS implemented by Center for the Development of Civil Society Protecta and financially supported by Institute for Sustainable Communities - ISC** was held at Niš City Hall.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović, the representatives of the city municipalities, Niš City Council members and the heads of Niš City administrations participated in the work of this round table.

On this occasion Mayor Simonović pointed out that the topic was of great interest for the City of Niš, especially related to transfer of the jurisdictions from the city to city municipalities and then to community centers. "Decentralization is often used as an excuse for bad results and failures of the authorities and that is why it

is important to discuss these issues on forums and round tables", said Mayor Simonović. He reminded that City Statute from 2008 gave wider jurisdiction to city municipalities and now was the time to check whether they were up to the job which had been entrusted. "Wider decentralization on the level of city municipalities requires some new legal solutions since the valid Law did not take into consideration adequately the Statutes of the city municipalities. We should all devote ourselves to these issues", said Mayor Simonović.

The main objective of the project ASK CITIZENS is to increase the participation of the citizens in the process of decision making through advocating the change of Statute for Municipality of Kikinda, Donji Milanovac, Leskovac and Pirot. Also it advocates greater independence for Niš City Municipalities through the Law on Territorial Organization of Serbia and local statutes.

AWARDS FOR BEST STUDENTS IN 2009

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović presented the awards to the best students attending 13 faculties at the University of Niš.

The City of Niš awards traditionally its best students every year on the occasion of celebrating liberation from Turks anniversary. Each of 13 selected students was presented with the diploma and 50.000,00 dinars. Mayor Simonović congratulated the best students on their achievements last year and he wished them success in their further studies.

Mayor Simonović said that the basic task of local self-government was to provide better quality of life and education for young people in the city as well as the opportunities for the application of their acquired knowledge. The fact that the city awarded its best students was the clear message to young people that the city appreciated the education and that

it recognized the young and the educated as its driving forces and greatest potentials.

The winners for this year best student awards at their respective faculties are:

- Ana Momčilović, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture
- Ivana Jovanović, Faculty of Economics
- Miloš Petković, Faculty of Electronic Engineering
- Milan Cvetković, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
- Stevan Vujić, Faculty of Medical Sciences
- Marko Dimitrijević, Faculty of Law Studies
- Marija Denić, Faculty of Mathematical and Natural Sciences
- Aleksandra Ilić, Faculty of Pedagogy
- Lidija Kostić, Faculty of Occupational Safety
- Mila Kulić, Faculty of Art
- Mladen Živković, Faculty of Sport and Physical Education
- Milan Jovanović, Faculty of Philosophy
- Ivan Savić, Faculty of Technology.



Awards for best students

MAYOR VISITED UNIVERSITY

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Niš City Assembly president Mile Ilić visited the Dean of Niš University Miroljub Grozdanović on the occasion of Saint Sava's Day.

The City and University authorities agreed to intensify the joint work on the opening of three new faculties in Niš: Faculty of Theology, Faculty of Agriculture, and Faculty of Political Sciences. The lack of space for the Faculty of Art and Faculty of Physical Education was discussed as well.

Mayor Simonović pointed out that the development of Niš University was of extreme importance for the overall development of the city.

"The University should become more actively involved in the activities of the city. The city authorities are resolute to focus more on resolving long-term problems that University of Niš.

He added that the consensus should be reached about finding the solution for long-term problems of some of the University Faculties concerning the lack of space and difficulties in obtaining the accreditations.



Reception on University

The Dean Grozdanović reiterated that the University of Niš intended to take pro-active part in the development of the region with the help of local self-government.

CONTEMPORARY SOLUTIONS TO ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović met with the participants of the Seminar Contemporary Ecology Problems in the EU member country municipalities and EU member candidate country municipalities and the methods of finding the solution.

The seminar was organized by the City of Niš, Niš Regional Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurs' Association of Niš Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The participants of this seminar were the mayors of the municipalities in Germany and Bulgaria which were way ahead of Serbia in the application of the contemporary ecological solution and who tried to transfer their experiences to the colleagues from Niš, the representatives of the assension funds, and business community. The objective of the seminar was to involve the City of Niš and Niš Regional Chamber of Commerce to become the leaders in the region for all new technologies in the area of environment protection. The hosts to the seminar on the behalf of Niš City were Sonja

Popović, the president of Niš City Council for Environment Protection and Mladen Stojiljković and Goran Vučković, the members of Niš City Energy Efficiency Council.

Mayor Simonović expressed his pleasure with the fact that the seminar would cover the important issues for environment protection.

"Last year our country did a lot in order to systematically regulate the field of the environment protection. In September 2009, a set of laws was adopted and they represented the precondition for the correct implementation of European standards. The City of Niš also did several activities during last year trying to find the solutions to waste management and waste waters treatment", said Mayor Simonović.

Mayor Simonović informed



Reception at Niš City Hall

the present guest at the reception at City Hall that the City of Niš had very close cooperation with the representatives of the German institutions in Serbia and that the city delegation visited Germany upon the invitation of the German Ministry for Environment Protection. This seminar, besides being the good opportunity for the transfer of know-how and best practices, was also an excellent chance for the discussion on possible future cooperation and common projects.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE CITY OF NIŠ – A LONG WAY AHEAD OR JUST A STEP TOWARDS

Niš City Administration for Communal Services, Energy and Traffic organised the round table on the issue of the energy efficiency in the construction entitled - Energy Efficiency in the City of Niš - A Long Way Ahead or Just a Step Towards.

The round table was attended by the Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović, the representatives of the Republic of Serbia Agency for Energy Efficiency, Regional Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Engineering chambers, Niš Eparchy, as well as the representatives of numerous project design bureaus and construction companies from Niš.

On this occasion, Niš City Mayor Simonović expressed his expectations from the Niš City Council for Energy Efficiency for pro-active participation in the rational usage of energy resources. "There are a lot of things which should be

changed and a lot of work to be done in order to increase energy efficiency in our city. The money thus saved can be invested in better things and we should focus more on renewable energy. These are the objectives that we have set ahead of us and I expect all of us to work together in order to achieve these objectives", said Mayor Simonović.

The coordinator of the Niš City Energy Efficiency Council, Goran Vučković, pointed out that the issue of energy efficiency was very important not only for our city but for all humanity, and the contribution to the decrease of general global warming could be



Energy efficiency in construction works presentation

done by every individual. The usage of good thermo isolation in the construction works is the example of energy efficiency contribution. Using public transport and bikes instead of cars can save 15 to 20% of energy.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF OLYMPIC GAMES

The president of the Olympic Committee of Serbia Vlade Divac and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović opened the exhibition entitled Century of Games - Hundred Years of Olympic Games in Serbia" at the Gallery Serbia.

This is the first exhibition out of twelve which will be organised all around Serbia as the celebration of 100th anniversary of Olympic movement in Serbia. The exhibition follows chronologically the development of sports and Olympic spirit in our country presenting to wider public the huge archives of the Serbian Museum of Sports and Olympics.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović expressed his gratitude to the Museum of Sports and Olympics for enabling this privilege to the City of Niš to be the first in Serbia to see this exhibition and to start the anniversary celebration.

Mayor Simonović added that the City of Niš set as its priority to raise the infrastructural capacities for sports development in the city and to invest all the efforts into promotion of sports. Presenting Lidija Mihajlovic, the champion in sports shooting, with the most important city award was the way to show how much the city cared about its Olympic sportsmen.

On this occasion Vlade Divac, the president of the Serbian Olympic Committee, expressed his joy to be in the City of Nis at the opening of such an exhibition. "This year is the year of celebrating 100 years of the Olympic spirit in our



Hundred Years of Olympic Games in Serbia Exhibition

country, i.e., of introducing Olympic games into Serbia. The organisation of different cultural and sports manifestations all around Serbia will mark this important anniversary during whole this year", said Divac.

TRIER DELEGATION IN NIŠ

In the framework of cooperation with the City of Trier, a delegation from that German City, consisting from Ulrich Holkenbrink, the Deputy Mayor of Trier in charge of projects in the area of culture and Eckart Koehne, the director of National Museum in Trier, author of Exhibition about Constantine, visited the City of Niš.

The main aim of the visit was establishment of international network of cooperation of cities and historical places related to Roman emperors, where Niš belonged as well.

During a three-day stay in Niš, the delegation from Trier talked to the Mayor of Niš, Miloš Simonović, the member of City Council, Miodrag Radović and OLED associate, Mrs. Stela Jovanović, about possibilities of cooperation for realization of joint projects related to marking 1700 years of Milan Edict signing.



Trier city delegation at reception at Niš City Hall



Eckart Koehne, the director of National Museum in Trier and Ulrich Holkenbrink Deputy Mayor of Trier in charge of projects in the area of culture

This visit is a continuation of already established cooperation with Trier. Mayor of Niš Miloš Simonović said that he was very satisfied that, shortly after last meeting between delegations of two cities, Niš and Trier, started discussions about further cooperation aimed at preparations for marking 17 centuries from Milan Edict.

During the work meeting, the representatives of the delegations from two cities, presented their

own cultural heritage and talked about networking of cities that were related by historical facts with Roman emperors.

On that occasion they exchanged experience from the area of research, protection, valorization and promotion of cultural heritage of Constantine cities.

At the beginning of November last year, the representatives of the City of Niš took part at the Symposium in Archeological park Carnuntum-Petronel in Austria. Symposium represented first step in establishment of international cooperation among cities and historical sites related to Roman emperors, where Niš belonged too, as well as in organization of joint music events for marking 17 centuries of Milan Edict signing.

City of Trier, the oldest city in Germany, was a residence of Constantine the Great in the period from year 306 till 316. Trier was then one of 4 major cities of Roman

Empire, besides Sirmium (Sremska Mitrovica), Rome and Nikomedia (Turkey).

The most valuable items from archeological collections from German Museums, Louvre in Paris, British Museum in London, Museum of Rome and Serbian museums were exhibited at the Trier exhibition dedicated to the Constantine the Great.



Trier city project presentation