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# 13,7 MILLION EUROS FROM IPA FUNDS FOR SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST SERBIA

The Head of EU Delegation to Serbia Ambassador Vincent Degert and Serbian Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration Božidar Djelić signed a financial agreement between the European Union and the Serbian Government on the National Programme for the Republic of Serbia concerning the first IPA component - assistance in the transition and institution building for 2010 at Niš City Hall.



The Head of EU Delegation to Serbia Ambassador Vincent Degert, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Božidar Djelić and Mayor of Niš Miloš Simonović

Twenty-six national projects earmarked for Serbia have been worth €174 million that the EU has approved under the agreement.



All projects will directly benefit the economic growth of Serbia, European integration process and everyday living of Serbian citizens. Among other things, the funds will be used for programmes of support to local infrastructure (31 mill Euros) and infrastructure development in higher education (25 mill Euros), as well as a support programme for South and Southwest Serbia (13.7 mill Euros).



IPA funds presentation

Later that day, Mayor Simonović and Ambassador Degert signed the Contract for awarding the grant for the implementation of the project Cheese Cluster South within REGIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2 (RSEDP2). The overall objective of RSEDP2 is to strengthen the capacities in Serbia for the design and implementation of a policy for balanced territorial socio-economic development aligned to EU accession requirements. The Programme Purpose is to improve the capacities of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and other regional and municipal stakeholders for regional development planning and implementation.

The implementing partners on the project Cheese Cluster South

are: the City of Niš, Municipality of Pirot and Municipality of Prokuplje and Regional Development Agency SOUTH. The total value of the project is 350.000,00 Euros. EU grant amounts to 310.000,00 which represent 88% of total project costs. The overall objective of the project is creation of the favourable business environment and development of the region by strengthening capacities to support the balanced regional development. The target group is the group of 12 dairies from Toplica, Nišava and Pirot districts, representatives of local administrations from Pirot, Niš and Prokuplje, Regional Development Association (RDA) as well as the complete population of this region.



Niš Dairy

The project foresees 5 bigger complexes of project activities: update of the existing findings on the capacities of the milk industry in the region of Toplica, Nišava and Pirot district with the recommendations for further development; raising of capacity of RDA South in establishment and management of cluster pooling system; cluster creation; certification of dairies in HACCP operation system; territorial marketing in the context of promotion of cheese cluster products.

## COOPERATION BETWEEN RDA SOUTH AND REPUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

**The president of RDA SOUTH Steering Committee and the Niš City Mayor's Assistant Predrag Cvetković and the director of the National Agency for Regional Development Ivica Ećždenci signed the Agreement on Cooperation.**



Agreement signing

This is the first agreement of this kind according to new Law on Regional Development. By signing this agreement the RDA SOUTH becomes the member of the national network whose main objective is promotion of small and medium size enterprises. Since one of the main RDA SOUTH activities is the development of SMEs, this newly established cooperation with National Agency for Regional Development will improve additionally creation of the institutional framework for the definition of the common interests in this area so that resources can be joined into common efforts for the creation of the projects of regional importance.

Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović said that RDA SOUTH was the first association in Serbia to be established according to the new Law on Regional Development. Mayor Simonović pointed out that true regionalization was not possible without the decentralization and without the recognition of the common regional interests and objectives.

Link: [www.ora-jug.rs](http://www.ora-jug.rs)

## REVIVAL PROGRAMME FOR BIG INDUSTRIAL CENTERS

Republic of Serbia Government adopted the Programme for the revival of the big industrial centers - Niš, Zaječar, Kraljevo and Novi Pazar as well as for the revival of devastated area where the development level is below 50% of the national average.

To this end, it was agreed to move the headquarters of the Development Fund to Niš and of the National Agency for Regional Development to Zaječar. The government adopted a Decree on terms and conditions for attracting direct investment, which will help increase interest among potential investors. The programme is designed to reduce regional differences through the revival of production, opening new factories and creating more jobs.

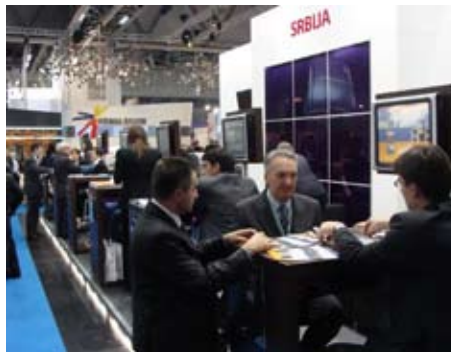
The government adopted a Decree on terms and conditions for attracting direct investment, which will help increase interest among potential investors. The government's incentives for creating new jobs in Niš, Zaječar, Kraljevo and Novi Pazar will be doubled in comparison to present ones, i.e., from 4.000,00 to 10.000,00 Euros per new job post. In order to obtain this subsidy, the investor should invest at least 500.000,00 Euros and employ 50 new workers.

## NIŠ CITY AT VIENNA REAL ESTATE FAIR

The City of Niš presented its investment potentials at the Investment and Real Estate Fair REAL VIENNA organized from May 18 to May 20, 2010.

The participation of Niš City at the Fair was supported by SIEPA. The fair was intended for commercial property and investments in Central and Eastern Europe and this is the first European real estate show which focuses exclusively on these regions. Exactly 242 exhibitors from 24 countries (companies, cities, and regions) displayed their investment opportunities, projects and services in one of the most modern exhibition centers in Europe, the Messe Wien to the visitors from 42 countries.

The Vienna Fair was an opportunity for direct contacts with potential investors, for networking and participation in the forums focused on the tourism and leisure developments in Central and Eastern Europe, on the requirements of the Real Estate Industry and use of renewable energy. Niš City delegation was held by Niš City



Vienna Fair

Council member Boban Mihajlović. The delegation established numerous contacts with Austrian enterprises and retailers, investors and all the best qualified associates and specialists with a particular interest in expanding their sales and distribution networks in Central and Eastern Europe. The visit by Austrian delegation of businessmen to the City of Niš can be expected soon.

## NIŠ IS GETTING READY FOR 2013

His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Irinej, Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović and Niš City Assembly President Mile Ilić visited the ongoing works on the facade of the Church dedicated to the Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen in the Saint Sava's park.



Patriarch Irinej and Niš City officials visiting ongoing works on the Church "Emperor Constantine and Empress Helen"

The facade works are expected to be finished by the end of the following year.

'The City will have this temple ready for the celebration of 17 century of Milan Edict signing. The City entered into big infrastructure renewal projects and preservation projects of the cultural heritage treasures on the city territory, all with the aim to have the city prepared for this important jubilee', said Mayor Simonović.

Serbian Patriarch Irinej said that the representatives of all confessions would be invited to the 2013 celebration and he hoped that it would be an opportunity for establishing new relations between Orthodox and Catholic Churches.

# DIGITAL X-RAY EQUIPMENT DONATION FOR NIŠ DENTISTRY CLINIC

German non-governmental organization Help regional representative for South and East Europe Timo Stegelmann and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović presented the digital x-ray equipment with corresponding software to Niš Dentistry Clinic.



Dentistry Clinic

The donated equipment in the value of 662.000,00 RSD was procured as the part of the project Support to Local Sustainable Development in South Serbia. The programme focuses on the educational and economic support to local development in South Serbia with the main aim to increase the employability. So far, out of this project, 94 SMEs on the territory of Niš City have been supported (40 agricultural, 18 craftsman shop and 36 service provision enterprises) with the grants of 2.000,00 Euros. The procurement of equipment for ten new clients is undergoing out of project credit-grant component.

Besides economic support, the programme tries to contribute to the normal functioning of the local institutions and organisations

in the communities where Help is implementing the programme and thus assist the local self-governments in the efforts to facilitate local sustainable development. HELP office in Nis also implemented various small scales projects such as the purchase of orthopedic appliances and sports rehabilitation equipment for the Cerebral and Children Paralysis City Association Nis, the purchase of neuro-biofeedback device Pro-Comp Infinity with software and physiological sensors and accompanying components for Daily Hospital for Children and Adolescents at the Clinic for Mental Health Protection and Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry at Clinical Center Nis and the equipment procurement for the Special School with Children Home Bubanj, Nis.

## ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND IDPs

International Organisation for Migration, NGO ENEKA and the City of Niš signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the programme "Assistance to Refugees and IDPs in Serbia".



Memorandum signing

In December 2009, the Delegation of the European Union in the Republic of Serbia and HELP Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. signed the contract in regard to the implementation of this programme.

The objective of the programme is to contribute to the creation of durable solutions in order to address the IDP/Refugee challenge in Serbia in line with the National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and IDPs and other relevant strategic documents. To this end, the programme will facilitate the access of a certain number of vulnerable refugees, IDPs and domicile poor to housing solutions and income generation support.

MoU envisages the provision of financial and technical support to 45 refugees or IDPs in the period from May 2010 to March 2011. The total value of the provided assistance is 67.500,00 Euros.

The potential beneficiaries should propose economically feasible business idea in order to receive the assistance in equipment or production material in the amount of 1.500,00 Euros.

The supported clients will be obliged attend business trainings organized by HELP and perform certain hours of community service for the local community.

# FIRST ECOLOGY FAIR IN NIŠ

**The first three-day International Fair of Ecology, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources dedicated to the rational usage of the natural resources and environment protection was opened in Niš.**

The fact that the fair was dedicated to the latest achievements in the above mentioned areas attracted a lot of interest from the eminent companies from the country and abroad and from many local self governments from Serbia. These issues represent the priorities for the local self-governments which were given the opportunity to be directly introduced to the wide range of the best quality products presented at the fair and to open possibilities for good business cooperation. The fair enabled interested professional public to see latest technologies and contemporary standards in these areas.



Ecology Fair

The City of Niš has undertaken the role of the leader in the areas of the environment protection and energy efficiency which has been proved by the recognition from the RS Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning which set the City of Niš as the good practice example in waste management treatment for other local self-governments in Serbia. On the occasion of the official opening of the fair, RS Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment Oliver Dulić said that

Serbia intended to develop recycling industry and thus open more than 10 000 new jobs. Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović said on this occasion that the fair of this kind showed that the South of Serbia was ready to be included in resolving the environment protection issues according to the European standards.

Besides the presentation at the fair stands, the donor conference for Niš City projects in the areas of environment protection and energy efficiency and for the projects prepared by the NGOs from Niš City Green Network - ZeleNiš was also held. ZeleNiš is informal network of the civil society institutions and organisations involved in the preservation and promotion of the environment protection and sustainable development. The City of Niš is the first city in Serbia which opened widely the doors of cooperation in the areas of environment protection. Niš City Region for Waste Management had its own presentation at the Fair. The City of Niš has initiated numerous activities in the domain of waste treatment in order to resolve that problem. By presenting Regional Action Plan for Waste Treatment, Niš City Region for Waste Management presented the vision of the city for solution of this problem to potential partners from country and abroad. The last day of the fair was marked by joint session of the Serbian Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities Board for Environment Protection and Niš City Network ZeleNiš as the preparation for marking World Day of Environment Protection.

## RECYCLING STARTS IN NIŠ

**The City of Niš will be the first city in Serbia where the package waste will be recycled systematically.**



Recycling starts in Niš

RS Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment Oliver Dulić and Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović placed the first bottle on the sorting conveyor belt located at the city center and thus sent it symbolically for recycling. This was the beginning of the campaign - Your Packaging for Recycling.

'It is our objective to open 10 000 new jobs in the recycling industry. We plan to recycle 30% of all packaging in Serbia. Having the systematic recycling introduced in the City of Niš, we are going to start to implement the contract signed between the Sekopak and the City of Niš', said Minister Dulić.

'This is big day for the City of Niš. We have initiated many projects in the area of environment protection. We have formed the recycling cluster. Besides introducing waste sorting and recycling as the methods of waste management, we expect that this new industry branch will open new jobs', said Mayor Simonović.

21 restaurants and cafes and 59 enterprises enrolled for sorting and recycling system to be introduced at the spot of waste creation.

## DAY OF EUROPE IN NIŠ

**Day of Europe, May 9, the day when the European continent started uniting, was marked in Niš as well.**

The round table focused on the topic of Serbian Integration into EU - Opportunities and Challenges for Serbian Youth and Students was held at the University of Niš. The round table panelists were Miloš Simonović, Niš City Mayor, Miroљub Grozdanović, Niš University Rector, H.E. Vincent Degert, Head of EU Delegation in Serbia, Miloš Nešić the president of the students' parliament. On the occasion the reception was organised at Nis City Hal where the photographs which students took on their trip to Europe with the project Let's Travel to Europe implemented by European Movement in Serbia were exhibited.

Welcoming the present guests Nis City Mayor said the process of EU accession and future membership represented the strategic goal not only of Serbia government but of all Serbia citizens. "Work on European integrations is big and demanding job which require persistence, patience and long-term commitment and the road to EU is long and it requires all encompassing reform of the society. It



**Conference at the University  
"Serbia in EU - Opportunities and  
Challenges for Serbian Youth"**

is up to Serbia to become the country the Europe cannot do without. There is work for everybody along this road. Everybody will be given chance to give their contributions. Only the full integration of the Balkans, with Serbia in its center, can make EU the territory of true safety, stability and prosperity not only for the old members but for the new ones as well. The period which is ahead of us is of the key importance for Serbia because we will have the chance to prove full commitment to this process and thus secure better future for Serbia."

## SEMINAR ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AARHUS CONVENTION IN SERBIA

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Mission to Serbia, and the City of Niš, Advisory Body for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development organised the seminar on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Serbia.**

The Aarhus Convention, ratified by the Serbian Parliament in May 2009, should ensure greater public involvement in environmental issues and therefore contribute to the reinforcement of the environmental agenda of the country. The Seminar elaborated on the significance of this Treaty, Serbia's commitments stemming from the Aarhus Convention,

its benefits to the society, means for its implementation and relevance of the PRTR Protocol. There are three main pillars of the Aarhus Convention which include (1) access to information, (2) public participation in decision-making processes and (3) access to justice in environmental matters as well as the principles of the PRTR Protocol.

Prof Stephen Stack from

## SUPPORT TO NIŠVILLE JAZZ FESTIVAL

**RS Minister of Culture Nebojša Bradić and Nišville Jazz Festival director Ivan Blagojević signed the Protocol on co-financing the Nišville Jazz Festival in the period from 2010 to 2012.**



**Nišville Jazz Festival 2010**

Signing of this protocol represents the national recognition of this festival of international importance. Niš City Mayor Miloš Simonović expressed his pleasure that the respective Republic Ministry recognized the importance of this festival. RS Minister of Culture Nebojša Bradić said on this occasion that the signing of this Protocol guaranteed steady support to festival for the following three years. Nišville Jazz Festival director Ivan Blagojević announced very ambitious programme this year.

Central European University Budapest and Prof Slavko Bogdanović from Faculty of Law at Business Academy in Novi Sad spoke about the implementation of the Convention.

# NIŠ CITY OFFICIAL WEB SITE – ONE OF THE BEST SERBIA

The City of Niš is one of the five cities in Serbia with the best internet presentation in the country.



Niš official web site: [www.ni.rs](http://www.ni.rs)

eKapija - business and investment web portal did the research of the official web sites for the local self-governments in Serbia with the respect of how informative they were for local and foreign investors and to what it extent they facilitated the business operations. The research task was to establish how well the contemporary IT technologies were used for the presentations of the municipalities as investment destinations.

The research covered 163 official municipalities' web sites. 15 municipalities and 5 cities were selected.

The selection criteria were the following: the web site layout, the accessibility of the information, multi language version, the city officials' presentations, the inter-active features, the frequency of the update, the presentation of the investment potentials, the list of strategic of plans and projects, the construction land locations, the list of the investors who already made their investments, publishing of public calls, auctions and tender procedures.

According to the above stated criteria the best official web sites belong to the cities of Belgrade, Valjevo, Zrenjanin, Niš, Novi Sad and Subotica.

## SUCCESS OF SERBIAN TEAMS AT 2010 EUROPEAN RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIP

City of Niš was the host of the European Rafting Championship 2010 organised by Serbian Rafting Federation under the patronage of the Niš City.



Rafting on the Nišava River

The competitions were held on May 1 and May 2. 30 teams from Europe were competing in four disciplines on the Nišava River from the village of Ostrovica to Monastery Sveta Petka slope.

The winner of the male teams' competitions was the Serbian team Vira. The second place was taken by Slovak team and the third by Bulgarian team. The winner of the women teams' competitions was Serbian team Alfa team. The second place was taken by Liman team while the third place was won by Bulgarian team.

Last year World Rafting Cup was great success and the city decided to support the European championship this year as well in the spirit of promoting sports manifestations in the city and healthy living. According to the opinions of the experts, the River Nišava satisfies all the necessary conditions for the organisation of the rafting competitions and the different terrain configuration enables different rafting races. Another convenience is the dam which can let out the water if necessary which guarantees that competition can be held even though the weather conditions are not favorable.