INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development is launching an international competition for the presentation of innovative ideas and projects on the improvement of the status of the Roma and other vulnerable groups and human rights.

The competition is open to individuals and institutions from Europe, the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, and other countries that are members of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and UNESCO. The competition aims to promote innovative ideas and projects that contribute to improving the status of vulnerable groups and human rights.

The competition will take place in two stages. The first stage will involve the submission of innovative ideas and projects, while the second stage will involve the presentation of the selected ideas and projects at an international conference.

The competition will offer a total of €125,000 in prizes, with the winners being awarded €100,000, €25,000, and €5,000 for first, second, and third place, respectively.

The deadline for submissions is 31 December 2016. For more information, please visit the competition website at www.internationalinnovationcompetition.org.

COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION INITIATED

The distribution of COVID-19 vaccines has begun in the Republic of Serbia. The government has purchased a total of 1.2 million doses of the vaccine, with the first batch of 500,000 doses arriving last week.

The vaccines will be distributed to people over the age of 65, as well as those with underlying health conditions. The distribution will be organized through local health units and pharmacies, with appointments scheduled for the weeks following the arrival of the vaccines.

The government has emphasized the importance of the vaccine distribution, stating that it will help to curb the spread of the virus and protect the most vulnerable populations. The distribution will also help to achieve herd immunity, which is necessary for the safe reopening of schools and workplaces.

The government has also announced that it is working on purchasing additional batches of vaccines, with plans to distribute 2 million doses in total.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on economic activity in the Republic of Serbia. According to the latest data, the country experienced a 6.6% contraction in GDP in the first quarter of 2020.

The main sectors affected were tourism, hospitality, and retail, with many businesses forced to close or reduce their operations. The government has implemented various measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises, including tax relief and grants for businesses that have been affected by the pandemic.

The government has also announced plans to invest in infrastructure projects, with the aim of stimulating economic growth and creating jobs.

The country is currently in the midst of a vaccination campaign, with the aim of achieving herd immunity as soon as possible. The government has emphasized the importance of continuing to follow health and safety guidelines, including the use of masks and social distancing, to prevent the spread of the virus.