



Government of the
Republic of Serbia

January 2012

11th NEWS ON SOCIAL INCLUSION LETTER AND POVERTY REDUCTION



Solidarity is one of the fundamental EU principles and represents an overall goal of all European societies. A more inclusive Europe is vital for the realization of EU objectives: sustainable economic growth, new and better jobs and higher social cohesion. EU leaders established the social inclusion process in order to contribute more efficiently to poverty eradication. The Government of Serbia takes active part in the social inclusion process to improve the quality of life its citizens. The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has been established to assist the Government and line ministries to develop and implement social inclusion and poverty reduction policies in a coordinated and effective manner.

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MILICA DELEVIĆ, DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE

European Integration as a Chance to Improve the Position of Poor and Socially Excluded Persons

This year will be remembered as an important year in Serbia's EU integration process. We are expecting the Stabilisation and Association Agreement to come into force, we have been granted the candidate status for EU membership and we are preparing for the membership negotiations. The new status entails many obligations and tasks that we, as a society in general, are required to fulfil in order to break new ground towards the EU. At the same time, the next few years into the European integration process will be a chance to further improve the quality of living of all Serbian citizens, especially of the poorest and the most socially excluded ones. What sort of changes and processes await us in the field of employment and social protection?

The European Union's most important social policy goals include the achievement of universal and equitable access to basic social services, promotion of the social protection system, raising the educational attainment of the labour force, achievement of high employment rates with special care for the marginalised groups in the labour market, ensuring safe and sustainable income, as well as decent working conditions for both men and women. In the efforts to ensure social inclusion of all social strata, the EU has endeavoured to deploy new economic and social solutions with a view to finding a way out of the economic and financial crisis. With that respect, the Europe 2020 Strategy has provided for various innovative measures aimed at achieving social cohesion.

The social security systems in certain EU member states are reflective of their specific traditions, social progresses and cultural heritage and they are regulated by national legislation. Although social inclusion and poverty reduction efforts are most commonly in the competence of individual member states, the European Union's role is that of the coordinator, identifying the best practices and promoting exchange of experiences, establishing the general rules at the EU level and ensuring financing through funds.

The coordination between social protection and the social inclusion policy at the EU level was introduced at the Lisbon Summit in 2000. The Open Method of Coordination (coordination based on the process of mutual exchange of experiences and learning) in the social policy field is aimed at:

- * Making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion;
- * Ensuring adequate and sustainable pensions;
- * Proving access to high-quality, sustainable healthcare and long-term care.

The EU has provided a framework for fighting poverty, within which the member states develop their own principles and strategies. The framework takes into consideration the multidimensional nature of poverty, placing special emphasis on: reducing poverty of children and families; facilitating access to the labour market, education and training; fighting discrimination (especially gender and age based); combating financial exclusion and excessive indebtedness; taking action against poor housing conditions and promoting social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

The objectives of active inclusion strategies (adopted by member states based on the Commission's recommendation) are to introduce as many people as possible into the labour market, as well as to provide access to social assistance to persons who are unable to work, based on the principles of creating an inclusive labour market, open for everyone capable of working, providing adequate financial support to those who cannot work in order to ensure that they have decent lives and access to high-quality services, such as social welfare, employment and training services, childcare and family care, healthcare services and others (access to services for economic and social inclusion of vulnerable groups).

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News from the EU

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Unemployment Rate in Serbia 23.7%

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, unemployment rate in Serbia in the end of November 2011 was 23.7%. Unemployment rate in the Eurozone in January was 10.7%, whereas overall EU unemployment rate was 10.1%.

In November, there were 691,841 unemployed persons above 15 years of age, 2,224,508 employed persons and 3,377,510 inactive persons in Serbia.

Unemployment rate of men was 22.8%, whereas that of women was 24.9%.

Employment rate, i.e. the share of employed persons in the total population above age 15, was 35.3% in November 2011. The rate of informal employment – the share of informal workers in the total number of employed persons was 17.8%.

Contact: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
tel: +381 11 24 12 922, www.stat.gov.rs

Blog on Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has started the Blog on Social Inclusion at: www.inkluzija.gov.rs/blog.

The Unit's new interactive page should enable the exchange of opinions on topics pertaining to social inclusion and improvement of living conditions of citizens. The intention of the blog is to gather persons of various backgrounds who wish to state their opinions on social inclusion, give a new, different perspective on the community they live in and share examples of good practices that make everyday living in Serbia more comfortable.

The blog is also a place to encourage discussions on social inclusion and facilitate understanding of what social inclusion intrinsically is. The contributing authors will cover such topics as: inclusive education, activism and volunteering, socially responsible business, accessibility and design for all, youth, gender equality, rural development, social inclusion through culture, social inclusion at the local level, access to justice, access to services, employment of persons with disabilities and others.

Activities of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

Local Self-Governments' Role in Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit published a brochure "The Role of Local Self-Governments – A Summary of the First National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction".

The brochure gives an overview of the most important elements of the National Report: the competences, measures and programmes at the national and local levels in all areas of social inclusion and poverty reduction efforts.

The brochure is intended for local self-governments, representatives of sector institutions at the local level, non-governmental organisations etc.

The brochure relies on the facts, findings and recommendations contained in the First National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2008–2010.

Peer Review – Measures, Activities and Services for the Roma Population

The third event under the peer review initiative in the field of social inclusion and poverty reduction at the local level was held in Zlatibor in late February, addressing the implementation of measures, activities and services for the Roma population at the local level.

The event was attended by 11 selected towns and municipalities out of the 28 that applied following the

invitation to participate in the exchange of good practices in promoting the position of the Roma population.

The initiative for exchange of experiences and good practices was launched by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit in cooperation with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

The Ninth Review of Potential Domestic and Foreign Opportunities for NGO Funding

The ninth edition of the Review of Potential Domestic and Foreign Funding Opportunities intended for projects implemented by NGOs, local self-governments, SME and entrepreneurs has been published.

The review was prepared by the Civic Initiatives, in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the European Integration Office of the Serbian Government and TACSO Serbia Office.

The review is available in electronic version at www.inkluzija.gov.rs.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit
Tel: +381 11 311 46 05, www.inkluzija.gov.rs

Service Packages for Administrative Efficiency

The consortium led by GIZ International Services has announced a call for applications for implementation of municipal service packages in the field of administrative efficiency.

The call was announced within the project "Municipal Support Programme IPA 2007 - Good Governance, Planning and Service Delivery", implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. The project is funded by the EU. The deadline for applications expired on 24 February.

Contact: Municipal Support Programme IPA 2007, tel: +381 11 328 41 60
<http://www.msp-ipa2007.org/sr>

One Third of Public Administration Bodies Offline

An analysis by the Digital Agenda Administration has revealed that 39 out of 114 public administration bodies – ministries and their associated bodies, independent organisations, Government agencies, offices of the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers and administrative counties, do not have official websites.

Most of the existing websites meet the fundamental requirements regarding the graphical solutions and design (93%); however, 12 websites are not in the gov.rs domain.

The websites of most of the bodies lack information on public procurement and competitions, internal organisation documents and archives.

Contact: Digital Agenda Administration, tel: +381 11 202 00 57
www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

MILICA DELEVIĆ, DIRECTOR

OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION OFFICE

European Integration as a Chance to Improve the Position of Poor and Socially Excluded Persons

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Article 101 of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, which is to become effective during 2012, stipulates the obligation of Serbia to cooperate with the European Union, i.e. its member states, in facilitating the reform of the employment policy, in the context of strengthened economic reform and integration. Cooperation will also seek to support the adaptation of the Serbian social security system to the new economic and social requirements, and it will involve

the adjustment of the legislation in Serbia concerning working conditions and equal opportunities for women and men, for people with disabilities and for people belonging to minority and other vulnerable groups, as well as the improvement of the level of protection of the health and safety of workers, taking as a reference the level of protection existing in the Community.

Cooperation will take due account of priority areas related to the Community acquis in this field.

Legislation Insufficiently Gender-Sensitive

An analysis of legislative and strategic solutions from the perspective of women's rights, conducted in the fields related to childcare, social services, subsistence, employment, social housing and access to justice, has revealed that Serbian legislation is still insufficiently gender-sensitive.

Out of 44 reviewed sources, only 26 regulations have directly recognised the female gender, while the victims of violence have been acknowledged in only 13.

The research has resulted from the cooperation between the Autonomous Women's Centre and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, as part of the project "Toward Social Cohesion – Influencing Social Inclusion Policy for Multiple Vulnerable Groups of Women Who Are Affected by Violence", supported by the EU.

Under the same project, the Autonomous Women's Centre has also conducted a research into the problems encountered by women who are victims of domestic or intimate partner violence, as well as into the connection between exposure to violence and risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The research findings have shown that these women are typically multiply vulnerable, experiencing problems that include violence, unemployment, long-term and unpleasant court proceedings, inadequate health-care, housing and subsistence insecurity, unavailability of childcare services and issues related to schooling of children.

Contact: Autonomous Women's Centre, tel: +381 11 26 87 190
www.womenngo.org.rs

State Aid in Serbia Sizable Compared to European Union

According to the report on the granted state aid, published in the Ministry of Finance website, the total amount granted in Serbia in 2010 was 754 million EUR, which was 9% less than in 2009 and 2% less compared to 2008. The share of state aid in Serbia's 2010 GDP was 2.64%, whereas in 2009 it was 2.86%.

As the report explains, Serbia's state aid in absolute amount was not as sizeable as in the EU, but its share in the GDP remained large.

Contact: Ministry of Finance, tel: +381 11 361 40 07, www.mfin.gov.rs

One Third of Serbian Laws Not Enforced

At the promotion of the magazine Challenges of European Integration, it was noted that almost one third of the laws passed by the Serbian Parliament in the previous three and a half years were not enforced, since the line ministries had failed to adopt the relevant bylaws inside the specified timeframe. Towards the end of March, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) will issue recommendations for improvement of the legislative process, as well as concrete solutions for practical implementation of those recommendations.

Source: www.euractiv.rs

VAN ROMPUY: Serbia Candidacy a Remarkable Achievement

The European Council has made an exceptionally significant decision by granting Serbia the candidate status for EU membership, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy said after the European Council session. He said that it was a remarkable achievement and a result of the efforts demonstrated by both sides in the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština.

"I hope it will encourage Serbia to undertake further efforts in order to meet the politi-

cal and economic criteria for EU membership. It is also my hope that Belgrade will continue to support regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations in the Western Balkans", Van Rompuy said.

The President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, expressed his satisfaction with the decision taken by the European Council to grant Serbia the EU candidacy status.

Source: www.consilium.europa.eu

Serbia to Chair OSCE

Serbia will take over the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2015. Serbia will thus be at the helm of this organization for the first time in its history, following the model of successive chairmanship of two countries.

Successive chairmanship is a new model for OSCE, wherefore Serbia and Switzerland have formulated the principles of cooperation which, inter alia, imply a joint biannual work plan.

Contact: Serbian Government, www.srbija.gov.rs

Social Polarisation in EU Increases

Overall, the risk of poverty at the EU level did not increase significantly in 2010 compared to 2008, when almost one in four Europeans were affected, according to the European Commission's EU Employment and Social Situation – Quarterly Review.

However, the situation did become worse compared to 2009, when one in six Europeans were at the risk of poverty.

In Serbia, 18% of the population were at the risk of poverty in 2008 and 2009.

In some EU member states which, in global terms, were not seriously hit by crisis in 2010, certain population groups suffered harder effects of the crisis, whereas others were spared.

The situation became markedly worse for the groups that were vulnerable before, as well, so that the crisis merely widened the gap between the rich and the poor.

Contact: European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Union Unemployment Rate at a Record High

The unemployment rate in the EU reached its record high level of 10.1% in January.

The unemployed population continued to grow in January, reaching 24.3 million, with continual growth of around 200,000 unemployed persons per month over the past six months. Youth unemployment rate exceeds 20% in about two thirds of the countries. In Spain in Greece it is close to 50 percent, whereas in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands it is lower than 10%.

Source: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>

EU Seeks Automatic Raising of Retirement Age

The EU plans to adopt regulations which will automatically adjust the retirement age upward as life expectancy increases in the member states.

This change should allow the states to strike a balance between the years at work and the years in retirement, by adjusting the retirement age to life expectancy.

According to the European Commission calculations, pension expenditures could be reduced by roughly one half by relating the retirement age to life expectancy. EC has also advocated a drastic limitation of the options for early retirement. These proposals of the European Commission will be published in the White Paper on Adequate, Safe and Sustainable Pensions.

Source: European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Citizens' Initiative Launches in April 2012

The new regulation regarding the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in the European Union, the first transnational instrument of direct democracy, will enter into force as of 1 April 2012.

The ECI is one of the major institutional innovations introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon. The initiative enables one million citizens, who are nationals of at least seven EU member states, to petition the European Commission to submit, within the framework of its powers, any appropriate proposal on matters where the citizens consider that a legal instrument is required.

The Treaty of Lisbon has introduced, for the first time, an instrument for participatory direct democracy at the transnational level. The fundamental goal of the European Citizens' Initiative is to engage EU citizens and help mobilize the civil society at the EU level. The idea is to allow the EU citizens to exert more influence over the EU policies while, at the same time, maintaining the balance between the Union's institutions.

Source: <http://evrofederalist.wordpress.com>

HUNGARY – SERBIA CBC PROGRAMME

Third Call for Proposals

The National Agency for the Development of the Republic of Hungary and the Office for European Integrations of the Government of the Republic of Serbia have published the third public Call for Proposals within the IPA programme of cross-border cooperation between Hungary and Serbia.

The projects to be financed should focus on strengthening economic and social cohesion, environmental protection, common research and development activities, establishment of cross-border thematic roads of cultur-

al heritage, and the establishment of business connections.

The project should include at least one organization from Hungary and Serbia.

The Call disposes of 15,101,376 EUR from IPA funds. The projects shall in Hungary be financed through the IPA and the funds of the Republic of Hungary, and in Serbia from the Instrument for Pre-Accession funds.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is May 30, 2012.

For all additional information visit <http://www.hu-srb-ipa.com/srb>

Get Online Week Marked Across Europe

Get Online Week, a Europe-wide campaign organised between 26 and 30 March, was also marked in Serbia, with the idea of promoting ICT literacy. GOW brought together 25,000 telecentres, public services, libraries, non-governmental organisations, IT companies and schools from all around Europe.

Supported by the European Commission and the Digital Agenda for Europe, the campaign was officially launched on 8 March in Brussels. This year's goal of the campaign was to enable 200,000 Europeans who had never previously used a computer or internet to learn about these technologies and start using them.

The national coordinator of this campaign for Serbia is the International Aid Network (IAN), in particular its Education Department – IAN Telecenter, which has been promoting and raising the digital literacy level in Serbia for more than 10 years.

Contact: IAN – International Aid Network, www.ian.org.rs

The European e-Inclusion Awards

Since Serbia has become a candidate for EU membership, organisations and individuals based in Serbia have become eligible to participate in the competition for an e-Inclusion Award.

The e-Inclusion Awards were established by the European Commission in 2008, in order to raise the awareness and celebrate examples of good practice in using ICT, with a view to achieving social and digital inclusion.

The awards are given to individuals and organisations from the public, business and civil society sectors in two categories.

The "I am Part of IT" award is intended for individuals who have been empowered by becoming e-included, whereas the "Be Part of IT – Digital Inclusion Champions" award is given to those who champion e-inclusion by undertaking and supporting relevant projects.

Deadline for submission of entries is 4 May. Twelve finalists in each category will be invited to present their projects at the conference in Brussels on 21-22 June, where the winners will be announced.

Source: www.e-inclusionawards.eu

BOS: Educational Programmes on EU Policies

On 16 March, the Belgrade Open School implemented "The EU Rural Development Policy" educational programme and announced a tender for organisation of "The EU Energy Policy" programme, which will be implemented in April.

The programmes are intended for employees in the public administration, public companies, development agencies and other institutions implementing the energy and energy efficiency policies.

The programmes are realised as part of the project "Strengthening Capacities of the Serbian Administration for EU Accession", implemented by BOS and the European Integration Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Contact: Belgrade Open School, tel: +381 11 30 61 372, www.bos.rs

Providing an Accessible Environment for All

Activists of organisations from five towns have been mobilising the public in their respective communities, striving to provide an accessible environment for all citizens through a project named "No Barriers".

The project is implemented by the Inclusive Society Development Centre and the Accessibility Audit Association in Serbia and the project activities will be realised in Majdanpek, Novi Pazar, Užice, Pirot and Veliko Gradište.

The project is financially supported by the Norwegian Embassy.

Contact: Inclusive Society Development Centre, tel: +381 69 120 72 65
www.crid.org.rs

Report on Employment of Disabled Persons

The Centre for Society Orientation and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights have announced the first annual report on the employment of persons with disabilities. The report titled "Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia" for the year 2011 comprises five sections.

It includes local organisations' reports on the exercise of employment rights by persons with disabilities, the role of the National Employment Service, the functioning of social services, as well as the media coverage of the topics related to employment of disabled persons.

Contact: Centre for Society Orientation – COD, tel: +381 11 21 20 176, www.cod.rs

Calls for Project Proposals Developing Social Protection Services

The Family Care and Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy announced an open call, targeting citizens' associations, for project proposals aiming to develop the social protection services at the local community level.

The call for proposals will give priority to the introduction of new, or advancement of already existing social protection services and to the development of innovative social protection services intended for children and youth, children with developmental disabilities, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Eligibility requirements include that applicant association must be partner with a centre for social work, the national social protection institution, or with the local self-government unit. The maximum amount of funds awarded per project is RSD 1.5 million. The deadline for submission of proposals expired on 23 March 2012.

Contact: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Tel: +381 11 311 29 16, www.minrzs.gov.rs

Call for Proposals of Sites for Access Ramps

The Municipality of New Belgrade has invited citizens to propose buildings and institutions around which access ramps will be built to facilitate access for persons with disabilities. Last year, 15 access ramps were built on the sites proposed by citizens.

Contact: Municipality of New Belgrade
www.novibeograd.rs

Disabled Athletes Win Medals in Malmö Open

In Malmö Open, the greatest sports event for PWD after the Paralympic Games, Serbian disabled athletes from the PWD Association Everything is Possible won five medals in swimming and table tennis events, among 3,000 competitors from more than 30 countries. Athletes from this association represented Serbia for the fourth consecutive time in this competition, supported by the Belgrade Secretariat for Sport and Youth and the Sports and Recreation Association of Persons with Disabilities.

Contact: City of Belgrade, Secretariat for Sport and Youth, tel: +381 11 71 57 440, www.beograd.rs

Emergency Services for All

The City Social Work Center and the Association of Interpreters for Persons with Hearing Impairments of Serbia have signed a protocol on training for introducing the SMS system in emergency services for persons with hearing impairments, to enable them to contact emergency services without intermediaries. The service is realized within the project "Accessibility of Emergency Services for All".

There are 4,500 persons with hearing impairments living in Belgrade and/or 35,000 in Serbia.
Source: www.beograd.rs

ZVEZDARA MUNICIPALITY: Projects Enhancing Life Quality for PWD

The Municipality of Zvezdara has endorsed three new projects aiming to enhance life quality for persons with disabilities, namely: establishment of the family support centre, creation of mobile teams for support at home and supported housing.

The projects will cover about 600 individuals and their family members, while the total funds earmarked for the three projects amount to approx. 300,000 EUR.
Contact: Municipality of Zvezdara
www.zvezdara.com

We Are Better Together Campaign

Within the project of "Social Inclusion of Children with Developmental Disabilities", a public campaign has been launched under the slogan "We Are Better Together" and with the message "Various Wishes, Same Needs". The purpose of the project is to improve public knowledge and understanding of the principles of social inclusion and rights of children with developmental disabilities.

The "Social Inclusion" project is implemented in 41 municipalities, the project beneficiary is the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the funding is provided by the EU Delegation to Serbia.

Contact: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Tel: +381 11 38 60 672, www.minrzs.gov.rs

City Practices Promoting Social Inclusion

The EUROCITIES network – Cities for Active Inclusion has published a collection of innovative strategies and projects undertaken with a view to promoting social inclusion in Birmingham, Bologna, Brno, Copenhagen, Cracow, Lille Métropole-Roubaix, Rotterdam, Sofia and Stockholm.

Examples of practices illustrate how new social trends and challenges continually urge local authorities to adapt themselves and develop new ways of implementing active inclusion policies.
Source: www.inkluzija.gov.rs

Accepting Children with Disabilities

NGO Family Care has embarked on a project titled "Support to Children with Special Needs in the Process of Inclusion at the Regional and Local Level in Serbia", with the aim of supporting children and helping them accept their peers who are different than them. The project is financed by the Embassy of Finland and implemented in partnership with the preschool institutions Savski Venac and Zemun, the Municipality of Stari Grad and 11 towns in Serbia.
Contact: Family Care, www.pomocporodici.org.rs

SOS Helpline for Parents of Disabled Children

Parents of children with developmental disabilities can ask for assistance and advice from the Belgrade Secretariat for Social and Children's Welfare, through a designated telephone helpline +381 11 24 40 676.

Contact: Secretariat for Social and Children's Welfare, www.beograd.rs

A Music Video in Sign Language

Activists of the "VelikiMali" inclusion initiative made a music video in sign language for a song by the band "Obojeni program", named "Hoping for Something Good to Happen".

The video was created within the project "Smart Hands – Inclusion: A Right, Not a Problem", supported by the City of Pančevo and aimed at removing barriers to communication with persons with disabilities.
Contact: www.velikimali.org

PHOTO NEWS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE "BRIDGES": Aronia is to "Blame"



The association of parents of children with disabilities soon grew into the Sustainable Development Initiative "Bridges".

The project dealing with the construction of an eco-village in Lomnica after being awarded by Erste Foundation for social integration among 1,800 projects from all over Europe, continue (with two other projects from Serbia) to conduct the idea of improving the living conditions in their environment.

Following the construction, the eco-village will be open to all.
Contact: Sustainable Development Initiative "Bridges", tel: 063 419 452
www.odrzivirazvoj.org.rs



Students of the second year of Master Studies at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Belgrade during a practical workshop

Recycling Plant – Jobs for Scrap Collectors

The Cooperative for collection of secondary raw materials in the Orlovo settlement, Zvezdara provided jobs for 20 Roma. The recycling plant ensures livelihood for more than 130 families of scrap collectors that the scrap is bought off from.

The plant was opened in February 2011. The aim of the project is to ensure livelihood in a safe way, creating long-term employment for scrap collectors.

The Zvezdara model will be replicated also in Rakovica, Makiš and Surčin. Three more recycling plants will be opened in Serbia with the EU funds and

the funds of the Swedish International Development Agency.

The project is implemented by the World Health Organisation, the International Organisa-

tion for Migrations and UNOPS.

To date, EU invested EUR 50 million in inclusion, education and health of Roma in Serbia.

Source: www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/

New Website on Roma Inclusion

The Office for Roma Inclusion of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina launched a webpage dedicated to Roma inclusion. The priority of the Vojvodina Government is a parallel resolution of education, employment, health, housing and infrastructural issues. To date, some 50 companies that are owned or that employ Roma were opened. In cooperation with the EU, 10 more companies and 16 subsidies will soon enable members of the Roma community to ensure livelihood.

Contact: Office for Roma Inclusion of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Phone: 021 488 17 23
www.inkluzijaroma.vojvodina.gov.rs

Access to EU funds for Roma

Within the framework of the project "Access to European Union Funds for Roma", a press conference was held in Novi Sad on 14 March. A round table was also held to mark the beginning of the second phase of the project aimed at presenting the results of the first phase and the future activities to the representatives of the media, local government and CSOs.

The meeting presented results of the first training held in Belgrade late February that covered EU policies in the context of Roma issues, and discussed the EU IPA funds available, project management and strategic planning, projects of Roma employment implemented in the province since the beginning of the Roma Decade, the activities and the projects related to Roma inclusion in health care, as well as the role of mentors and mentoring teams established on the project.

The project "Access to EU funds for Roma" within the program of Open Society Foundation from Budapest is jointly implemented by Group 484, European Movement in Serbia and the Roma Centre for Democracy Development. Contact: European Movement in Serbia
Phone: 011 3640 174, www.emins.org

NES: Public Calls for Roma Employment

The National Employment Service published two public calls for employment of Roma: for employers – for granting subsidies for new employment of the unemployed Roma in 2012; and for the unemployed Roma for granting subsidies for self-employment in 2012.

Contact: National Employment Service,
Phone: 034 50 55 00, 011 29 29 800,
www.nsz.gov.rs

Scholarships for the Best Roma Pupils and Students in Valjevo

The Town of Valjevo earmarked RSD 650,000 of the budget funds for scholarships to be granted to the best Roma pupils and students. Of 29 candidates, 22 fulfilled the criteria and so four students will be receiving monthly scholarships amounting to RSD 5,000 and 18 secondary school pupils monthly scholarships amounting to RSD 2,500.

This is the first time that the program of granting scholarships to pupils and students is implemented as part of a Local Action Plan for Education of Roma in Valjevo. The town has earmarked RSD 950,000 this year.
Contact: Town of Valjevo, www.valjevo.rs

Hotline for Women Victims of Violence

The Autonomous Women Centre has changed the hotline number. The number 011 266 2222 is open each work day 10 to 20h.

The hotline service and the individual consultations employ specially educated consultants with long experience in working with women survivors of trauma of male violence.

The support to women rendered through consultations aims to empower women to break away from violence. The consultants are guided by the main principles that all the experiences are confidential, that the statement of victims is trusted and that the abuser is responsible for violence.
Contact: Autonomous Women Centre, Phone: 011 266 2222
www.womenngo.org.rs

UNICEF Publishes Survey on the Status of Children and Women in Serbia

UNICEF published a study with the findings of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in Serbia (MICS4). The Survey was conducted in cooperation with the Republican Statistical Office and is part of the fourth global phase of survey.

MICS presents the latest information on the situation of children and women and data on key indicators enabling the states to monitor progress in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other international obligations.

Contact: UNICEF, Office in Serbia, Phone: 011 36 02 100
www.unicef.org/serbia

Council of Europe Campaign "1 to 5"

Incest Trauma Centre officially heads the Council of Europe campaign "1 to 5" for Serbia. The campaign, to last until 2014, aims to combat sexual abuse of children. The aims of the campaign are raising awareness of the public about sexual violence against children and advocacy in the areas of legislation and education.

The title of the campaign "1 to 5" symbolizes the official data of the Council of Europe that one out of five children in Europe has experienced sexual abuse.
Contact: www.incestraucentar.org.rs

EUR 2.6 Million for Inclusion of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Rasim Ljajić, Minister of Labour and Social Policy and Vincent Degert, Ambassador of EU Delegation in Serbia presented the representatives of 25 municipalities EUR 2.6 million in grants towards projects of social inclusion of refugees and IDPs, part of the EU funded programme.

The grants range EUR 41,000 to 133,000 and 21 project refers to home care and assistance to persons with disabilities.

Source: www.srbija.gov.rs

New Housing Units for the Vulnerable, Refugee and IDP Families in Belgrade, Kraljevo and Negotin

In April, 20 refugee and IDP families from the collective centres on the territory of Belgrade will move into the first Social Housing in Supportive Environment building erected on the territory of Belgrade – municipality of Mali Mokri Lug. The construction works were funded by US Bureau for Populations, Refugees and Migrations, and co-funded by UNHCR. The construction land and infrastructure were donated by the City of Belgrade.

The Belgrade Mayor, Commissioner for Refugees, Social Welfare Centre and UNHCR signed an agreement on construction of two more 20-unit buildings on the same location. The construction will be funded by EU, co-funded by the City of Belgrade and UNHCR in cooperation with the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees. The value of construction works and equipment is some RSD 90 million. The project is implemented by NGO Vizija, UNHCR implementing partner.

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A foundation stone for the second 20-units Social Housing in Supportive Environment building was laid in Kraljevo mid-March. The construction is funded from EU IPA 2009.

Contact: UNHCR Serbia, Phone 011 30 82 100
www.unhcr.org

A 13-unit Social Housing in Supportive Environment building was opened in Negotin on 20 March 2012. 39 IDPs that have been living in the collective centre Ineks Krajina in Negotin since 1999 will move into the new units along with three socially vulnerable domicile families. They will be supported towards self-sustainability. The construction was funded from EU IPA 2009, with the support of Habitat for Humanity and the municipality of Negotin, and in cooperation with the Serbian Commissioner for Refugees. The project was implemented by a local NGO Housing Center. The value of construction works and equipment is EUR 240,000.

Contact: Housing Center, Phone: 011 2767 258
www.housingcenter.org.rs

Initiative "Let's All Help"

The Foundation "Ana and Vlade Divac", Public Service Radio TV Serbia and UNHCR signed a Memorandum on Cooperation on 6 March for implementation of the humanitarian action "Let's All Help", aimed at raising construction materials and pecuniary donations for construction of apartments for refugees and IDPs.

Donations in cash may be made over the next six months by sending a text message (in the value of RSD 100 in all networks) to the number 2112.

Contact: Foundation "Ana and Vlade Divac",
Phone: 011 3910 955, www.fondacijadivac.org

Five Serbian Municipalities among the Top 10 Investment Destinations

Financial Times has placed five Serbian local governments among the top ten investment destinations in the competition of 253 European cities and 110 regions, according to the criteria of cost effectiveness and strategies for attracting foreign investments at the level of regions and cities below 250,000 inhabitants. All the five local governments hold the Certificate on Favourable Business Climate: Indija,

Sremska Mitrovica, Vranje, Zaječar and Subotica.

Certification of municipalities with favourable business climate is a NALED-headed programme. This year, the programme will also be implemented in Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Source: National Alliance for Local Economic Development – NALED, phone: 011 33 47 634, www.naled-serbia.org

Request for Co-funding of Employment Plans Submitted by 136 Local Governments

The National Employment Service received requests from 136 local governments for co-funding of 2012 local employment action plans. The total value is RSD 787 million.

With the additional funding secured by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the programme will allow employment of more than 4,800 persons.

The municipalities have earmarked most of the funds for subsidies to employers for new job creation – RSD 327 million, public works implementation – RSD 259 million, self-employment subsidies – RSD 191 million and training of the unemployed – RSD 9 million.

Contact: National Employment Service phone: 011 29 29 800, www.nsz.gov.rs

Jobs for 6,000 Unemployed Persons on Public Works

The National Employment Service published a call for public works to engage approximately 6,000 unemployed persons.

The public works are to employ the most vulnerable categories of persons on the registries of this Service.

Contact: National Employment Service Phone: 011 29 29 800, www.nsz.gov.rs

Training for Women in Agribusiness

USAID Agribusiness Project and the Provincial Secretariat for Labor, Employment and Gender Equality has launched the programme “Training of Women in Agribusiness”.

The programme is directed at all the women who wish to start agribusiness projects on the territory of the city of Novi Sad. The deadline for applications was 13 March.

The participants were selected in the second part of March. Following the training and selection of the best business plans, the Provincial Secretariat will select the projects to be supported.

Contact: USAID Agribusiness project, Phone: 011 243 66 11, www.agrobiznis.net

Regional Training for Alternative Economy Development

The third regional training for social entrepreneurship development was held within the framework of the project “Development of Social Entrepreneurship in Serbia” implemented by the European Movement in Serbia with the support of the EU Delegation.

The structure of the training is such that the experts in the area of social economy present all the aspects of social entrepreneurship in practice.

The project aims to advance social and economic development, promote innovation and alternative economy through capacity building of employment services and social service providers at the local level.

Contact: European Movement in Serbia Phone: 011 364 01 74, www.emins.org

Financial and Advisory Support to Social Enterprises

Group 484 launched the “Programme of Financial Support to Social Enterprises”.

Ten companies will receive grants and loans from the UniCredit Bank and Group 484 ranging from EUR 5,000 – 20,000 through the project “Financial and Advisory Support to Sustainable Social Economy”.

The programme will be opened until 20 July at the minimum.

Contact: Group 484, phone: 011 266 09 72 www.grupa484.org.rs

COMPETITION “THE BEST OF THE BEST” Secondary Schools Pupils in Social Entrepreneurship

Nine secondary school teams from all over Serbia presented business ideals based on the best practices of British social enterprises at the competition “Best of the Best” held in Belgrade on 8 March. The competition was organized by the British Council and the Junior Achievements in Serbia”.

The jury, comprised of representatives of the business sector, proclaimed the business plan of the team “Blue Moon” from the Technical school from Trstenik the best. Their idea was to start a company engaged in replanting and sale of house and garden plants that would employ deaf and mute persons.

The organisation „Junior Achievements in Serbia“, and eight European members of Junior Achievement Europe, is taking part in a two-year programme aimed at starting 50 pupils social enterprises in Serbia. More than 100 pupils and 25 secondary school teachers have been trained in 2011.

Contact: Junior Achievement, Phone: 011 33 45 691, www.ja-serbia.org
British Council, Phone: 011 3023 800, www.britishcouncil.org

Public Call for Young People in Recycling

The Green Initiative published a call “Online Recycling Plant” aiming to increase participation of young people in recycling processes and connect citizens, recycling businesses and local institutions in collecting scrap.

The call, launched by the European Movement in Serbia, targets young people who post a visual photo or mobile phone recording of destruction of environment on the web page of the online recycling plant by 31 March 2012.

Contact: www.zelenainicijativa.rs

Business Infrastructure Study

The Institute for Territorial Economic Development (InTER) published a study “Assessment of Business Support Infrastructure in the Republic of Serbia”.

The Assessment is part of the survey of business infrastructure entities - clusters, business incubators, industrial zones and technological parks – conducted in 2011.

The analysis was financially supported by the National Agency for Regional Development (NALED) and can be accessed on the Internet pages of InTER and NALED.

Contact: Inter Srbija, Phone: 063 85 50 929 www.lokalnirazvoj.org

Workplan of the Republic Trade Union of Collectors until 2015 Adopted

The 2012 – 2015 Platform for action of Trade Union was adopted at the annual conference of the Republic Trade Union of Scrap Collectors held in Sokobanja in March.

In the presence of presidents of municipal councils and more than 50 Trade Union members, the aims of scrap collectors were set: participation of representatives of individual scrap collectors in drafting and monitoring of implementation of local waste management plans, definition of status of scrap collectors, initiation of the process of codification of profession so as to include it into the nomenclature of jobs of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy as well as adoption of the programme of measures of protection at work.

Contact: www.zelenainicijativa.rs

Youth Entrepreneurship

One of the key results of the project “Youth Entrepreneurship, partnership of the public and the civil sector” conducted by the Business Start-Up Centre from Kragujevac is adoption of the Local Action Plan for Youth Entrepreneurship in Kragujevac.

In addition to development of youth entrepreneurship, this project deals with establishment of mechanisms of cooperation and partnership between the civil society organizations, local governments and others.

Partners on the project are NGO Sunce, the City of Kragujevac and the Dutch organisation SPARK; in cooperation with the Regional Youth Office Kragujevac. The EU-funded project is implemented in Sumadija and Pomoravlje as part of the programme “Support to the Civil Society”.

Contact: Business Start-Up Centre Phone: 034 330 651 www.preduzetnistvowladih.org.rs

CALL BIRODI

Local Anti-Corruption Plans in Serbian Municipalities

The Bureau for Social Research (BIRODI) supported by Olof Palme Centre continues the initiative for drafting and implementation of local anti-corruption plans in Serbian municipalities. Four municipalities will be selected in this round which will have the opportunity to undergo the process of development of local anti-corruption plans.

The unsuccessful applicants who nevertheless possess the necessary capacities will be offered a plan of cooperation in order to involve them into the existing activities on development of local anti-corruption plans.

The call is open until 16 April 2012.
Contact: Bureau for Social Research Phone: 011 334 9479, www.birodi.rs

Government of Serbia Adopts a Decision on Financing Associations and is Preparing a Summary Report

The Serbian Government adopted the Decision on Financing Associations allowing for transparency of budget funds distribution and control of their spending. At the same time, the criteria for selection of programmes to be funded have been improved. In addition to the legal obligation to publish, minimum once a year, the report on their operation and the funding sources, the associations will submit quarterly progress reports and the final reports.

The Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society of the Government of Serbia has started drafting an Annual Summary Report on the budget funds expended by the associations and civil society organizations.

The aim of publication of information about the budget funding of associations and civil society organizations is stimulating a more transparent planning and allocation of budget funds as well as monitoring of project implementation.

Contact: Government of Serbia Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society, Phone: 011 311 38 95 b
www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs

Presentation of the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

The Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society of the Government of Serbia organized info days to present the EU programme "Europe for Citizens" in three cities – in Novi Sad on 27 March, in Nis on 28 March and in Belgrade on 29 March.

The objective of this EU programme is partner implementation of activities in the areas of employment, social cohesion and promotion of participation and democracy at the EU level, sustainable development, strengthening of citizens' identity, cooperation and understanding and other.

Contact: Government of Serbia Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society, Phone: 011 311 38 95,
www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs

The Strategy of Support to Civil Society Development Adopted

The Belgrade City Council adopted the 2012-2017 Strategy of Support to Civil Society Development at the initiative of the Agency for EU Integrations and in cooperation with the associations.

The Strategy represents an framework document defining and improving the mechanisms of cooperation of the civil sector and the institutions of the city of Belgrade. The Agency is developing an Implementation Action Plan aimed at improving the planning process and creating a framework for more efficient use of EU IPA funds.

The Action Plan is developed in cooperation with the Civic Initiatives from Belgrade with the support of the Embassy of Great Britain.

Contact: Agency for EU Integrations
Phone: 011 715 73 61, www.beogradu.gov.rs

BCIF AND ERSTE BANK: Centrifuga Programme

Centrifuga is the first grant programme of the Balkan Fund for Local Initiatives (BCIF) realized in partnership with the Erste Bank a.d. Novi Sad. The program is an example of successful cooperation between the non-for-profit and business sectors supporting local initiatives.

The Centrifuga Programme supports youth groups outside of larger urban centers which are stimulating creative and innovative contents in the field of culture, with active participation of peers and relying on local potentials. The programme for esees grants totaling RSD 400,000 for project stacking issues relevant for youth, in towns where the Erste bank does business (excluding Belgrade, Novi Sad and Niš).

The competition is open until May 18, 2012. For more information visit www.bcif.org/Centrifuga.htm.

PUBLIC CALL TACSO: Overview of CSO Networks in Serbia

Technical support to the civil society organisations (TACSO) initiated drafting of the publication "Overview of networks of civil society organizations in Serbia" and invited the civil society organizations (CSOs) in Serbia to forward information on their networks and contribute to increasing their impact, especially in the context of EU integration and regional linking. Networking and coalition building are still underdeveloped in Serbia and TACSO office in Serbia initiated network capacity building as a form of association of two or more civil society organizations from the national to regional level, officially registered or informally organised.

The overview of European networks was completed in 2011 and may be accessed at www.tasco.org.

Web Page of Useful Tools and Two Guides

A new web page has been established on TACSO website – of tools useful for CSOs. For the time being, the tools are available in English only.

Two more guides in Serbian for CSOs have been published on the TACSO website: "CSO and citizen participation" and "Public advocacy and impact on policies for social change".

TACSO is an EU-funded project that started in 2009 with the aim of rendering support and strengthening of CSOs on the territory of the Western Balkans and in Turkey.
Contact: TASCOS Serbia, phone: 011 212 93 72, www.tasco.org

TACSO Offers Media Assistance to the Civil Society

TACSO office published a call to the civil society organisations in Serbia to apply for assistance in media promotion of their activities.

The TACSO media and communications expert will contact for selected organisations each month to help them promote one of their activities.

The support targets newly established organisations which lack experience and capacity to formulate their activities and place them in the media outlets.

USAID Public Call for Civil Society Organisations

USAID's Project for Sustainable Local Development published a call for civil society organizations for awarding of grants for promotion of establishment of mechanisms of communication between the CSOs, the public sector and local governments.

The objective is to increase public participation in decision making processes and improve cooperation between the sectors at the local level.

The call closed on 8 March.

Contact: US Agency for International Development (USAID), Phone: 011 306 46 75
<http://serbia.usaid.gov>

Regional Conference on the Relation between CSOs and the Government

The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society organized the Regional Conference: Partnership for Change: Civil Society and Government Institutions of the Western Balkans and Turkey, on March 15, 2012. The representatives of Government institutions and civil society organizations of the Western Balkans and Turkey presented their respective regulatory practices aiming to improve the legislative framework relating to civil society and inter-sector partnerships.

The Conference was organized in cooperation with the Balkan Network for the Development of Civil Society, the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and TACSO.

Contact: Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society, phone: 011 311 38 95
www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs

INITIATIVE: It Does not Become Belgraders!

The Civic Responsibility Initiative (IDO) is conducting an initiative "It Does Not Become Belgraders!" in cooperation with the Centre for New Communications Dokukino and within the framework of the project "Civil Society without Violence 2.0". The aim of the initiative is to point to the situation in the society, start anti-violence action and raise awareness of these problems through Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/NijeBeogradski>) and Twitter (@NijeBeogradski). IDO has started also the website www.supergradjanin.com – an online platform helping the citizens register violence that they are witnesses to.

Contact: www.ido.rs

Website "Human Rights Situation in Serbia"

Ebart Media Archives invited the media, state institutions, NGOs and professional associations to cooperate in promoting human rights values through exchange of information and raising public awareness about concrete problems.

Announcements, press releases, news, reports and analyses will be published on the website "Human Rights Situation in Serbia".

The website was launched Ebart Media Archives wishing to monitor, at a daily level, media reports on the situation of human rights in Serbia and the response of state institutions and non-governmental organisations.

Contact: www.stanjeljudskihprava.org

"Human Rights House" - Assistance to the Dispossessed

The citizens of Belgrade are to get a "Human Rights House" where organisations engaged in protection of human rights will be housed which also provide direct legal assistance to the persons whose human rights have been violated.

The beneficiaries of the Human Rights House will be members of the Alliance of Associations „Human Rights and Democracy House“. These are Civic Initiatives, Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights – YUKOM, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights and Centre for Practical Politics.

In addition to the above organizations, the House will be opened to all the other human rights organisations.

Contact: City of Belgrade, www.beograd.rs

Public Call for Implementation of Objectives of the National Strategy for Youth

The Ministry of Youth and Sports published a call for implementation of objectives of the National Strategy for Youth in the cities and municipalities. The aim is to inspire associations to take part in implementing youth activities directed at implementing the activities of the National Strategy for Youth.

The associations and alliances may apply with their projects by 1 June for the funds ranging RSD 300,000 – 1,000,000. To date, the Ministry has gathered some 300 associations around various activities and funded 620 programmes and projects.

Contact: Ministry of Youth and Sports
Phone: 011 313 09 12, www.mos.gov.rs

Public Call for Projects in the Area of Child Education

The Secretariat for Child Protection of the City of Belgrade published a call for funding projects of associations in the area of pre-school education.

The project should be focused on protection of children and improvement of work with pre-school children.

The total budget is RSD 4,000,000. The deadline for applications expired on 21 February.

Contact: City Secretariat for Child Protection
Phone 011 33 09 389, www.beograd.rs

City of Belgrade Assists Professional Advancement of 170 Students Abroad

The Secretariat for Youth and Sports of the City of Belgrade has helped hold seven professional meetings organized by the Belgrade University students' associations and professional advancement of 170 full-time students in foreign countries during the past year.

More than 300 foreign students attended these meetings in Belgrade last year.

Contact: City of Belgrade, Secretariat for Youth and Sports
Phone: 011 71 57 440 www.beograd.rs

PUBLIC CALL FOR BELGRADE STUDENTS:

BG PRACTICE 2012

Belgrade City Administration and the University of Belgrade published a Public call to students to take part in the programme of Academic Practical Work – BG PRACTICE 2012.

The four-month long work practice with tutor's aid is taking place in public companies, in City Administration, institutions of culture and Belgrade city municipalities.

Public call targets all the students of the final years and grad-

uates of institutions of high education in Belgrade: faculties of the Belgrade University, professional colleges and University of Arts.

The implementation will start on 25 April 2012, and the deadline for applications is 2 April 2012.

The guide and application forms may be accessed on the website of the University Career Development and Student Advisory Services Centre.

www.razvoj.karijere.bg.ac.rs

Digital Agenda Competition for Best ICT Girls

In celebration of the International "Girls in ICT Day", 23 April 2012, the Digital Agenda announced the contest for the best ICT girl entitled "What are you able to do in Serbia thanks to the broadband internet access?"

The aim of the competition is to support female students of technical faculties on their journey to their successful careers and to raise awareness concerning the importance of the development of internet infrastructure.

The participants should record a video long from 40 seconds to one minute, which will depict the situation before and

after the introduction of broadband Internet access in every household in Serbia, and how it affects the individuals, the development of society and/or economy in Serbia.

The video should be uploaded on www.sendspace.com.

The competition runs until 19 April, and the winner will be announced on 23 April at the Career Mixer Party.

All information are available on www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

Contact: Office of the State Secretary of the Digital Agenda, phone: 011 2020 057 www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

Free Legal Assistance for Young Belgraders Continues in 2012

Over the past 8 months, more than 200 young people sought free legal assistance provided by the Youth Office of the City of Belgrade within the framework of "Info Room".

The Office will continue providing free legal assistance this year also.

The project "My Rights" aims to protect young people from different forms of discrimination. It employs three lawyers, two law graduates and two students of the final year of the Belgrade Faculty of Law.

Contact: Youth Office, City Administration, City of Belgrade, Phone: 011 30 61 426
www.kancelarijazamlade.rs

Project „Active citizen” in Palilula and Obrenovac

"Active Citizen" is a project implemented by the youth offices of the municipalities of Palilula and Obrenovac in cooperation with British Council in the area of inter-cultural dialogue and global social networking. Young people have the chance to contribute to the development of their communities at local and international level.

The project "Active Citizen" is implemented in more than 30 countries and serves to prepare the future generations for work and life in the global society.

Contact: Youth Office Palilula, Phone: 011 3294 733, www.kzmpalilula.rs
Youth Office Obrenovac, Phone: 011 872 4025, www.mladi.obrenovac.rs

Assistance to Sports Alliances for Work with the Youth

The City of Belgrade has earmarked significant funds for 57 Belgrade sports alliances, organizations and associations, with the primary aim of putting in place better conditions for work with young talents. The result of this programme is the increasing number of medals won by young champions.

The Secretariat also supports alliances of the so called "small sports" in order to offer a large number of young talented people greater choice. It also supports alliances and sports organisations for persons with special needs.

Contact: City of Belgrade, Secretariat for Youth and Sports, phone: 011 7157 440, www.beograd.rs

CALENDAR of Important Dates

APRIL

- 01. 04. Anti-Alcoholism Day
- 02. 04. International Day of Children's Literature
- 04. 04. Safety at Work Day
- 07. 04. World Health Day
- 08. 04. International Roma Day
- 22. 04. Earth Day

MAY

- 01. 05. International Labor Day
- 03. 05. World Press Media Day
- 09. 05. Europe Day
- 15. 05. International Family Day
- 21. 05. Global Day of Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development

Belgrade– European Capital of Culture 2020

In cooperation with the Board for Candidacy of Belgrade for the European Capital of Culture 2020, an exhibition of works of the first year students of master studies at the Faculty of Architecture "UrbanLAB: Belgrade 2020 – European Capital of Culture" was opened in the gallery Ozone.

12 designs of several city parts which would lead to a better and more comfortable life in the capital were presented.

To date, the candidacy of Belgrade for the European Capital of Culture 2020, was supported by Perugia, Vilnius, Corfu, Sarajevo, Ljubljana, Podgorica, Banja Luka, Maribor and Athens.

Contact: Grad Beograd, www.beograd.rs

New Guide through the Programme "Youth in Action"

A new Guide through the programme "Youth in Action" has been published with information about the objectives of the programme, selection criteria, budget planning and other details that may be relevant for development and implementation of quality projects. The revised Guide also includes 2012 programme priorities.

BalkanIDEA Novi Sad, Group "Hajde da..." and Education Centre Kruševac are the focal points for the EU programme "Youth in Action". The work of focal points is supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, SALTO Resource Centre for SEE and the EU Programme Youth in Action. Contact: Youth in Action, www.mladiuakciji.rs

Regional Networking Increases Social Inclusion of Young People

"Equal Opportunities for All Youth!" is a project aimed at greater social inclusion of marginalized youth through institutional cooperation of civil society, implemented by the Institute for Youth Development Kult from Ilidža.

The partners on the project are Croatian Youth Network from Zagreb, Development Resource Centre ALFA from Novi Sad and European Inter-Cultural Forum from Berlin. This EC-funded project is implemented in BiH, Croatia and Serbia.

Contact: Institute for Youth Development, www.mladi.org

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

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FREEDOM HOUSE: Report on Human Freedoms in the World

In its annual report on human freedoms, Freedom House lists Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia as free countries. The list contains 87 countries.

Contact: www.freedomhouse.org