



Government of the
Republic of Serbia

July 2012

12th
NEWS
LETTER

**ON SOCIAL INCLUSION
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.

ŽARKO ŠUNDERIĆ, MANAGER OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT – GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Social Inclusion – A Major Development Opportunity for Serbia

At this moment, social inclusion represents a major development opportunity and potential of the Republic of Serbia. This is the issue of involving a segment of population into social trends – those who are currently outside of the systems of education, employment, healthcare, housing and human rights.

In the course of the ongoing European integration process, we have managed to ban widespread discrimination, ensure the right to employment irrespective of personal characteristics, ensure the right to education and healthcare, design a dignified system of social welfare... From the viewpoint of legislation, we have become a more just society.

And still, a segment of our population is still excluded due to an incomplete implementation of regulations, wherefore Serbia, so to say, has fewer inhabitants than the census data may indicate: a significant number of children is leaving school, although education is mandatory, a number of people fail to find jobs because they need support of the society, a number of children fail to receive regular maintenance which they are entitled to, many women are exposed to family violence, which is strictly prohibited by law, some people fail to keep up with technological progress and thus constitute a new group of excluded population, and some people fail to exercise their right to social welfare, even though they are entitled to it.

Wealthy countries are wealthy not only because its individuals are wealthy, but because most population therein take active part in social trends, contributing to the creation and utilization of social wealth and higher social cohesion. People are, therefore, the major potential of Serbia, which may help turn unemployment into employment and dependence into income, and may help youth become the most creative and development potential of a society which thrives for itself and stimulates all others.

Every contemporary society is liable to create preconditions for individuals to use them and meet their full potentials. The new measures and policies which have been and will continue to develop – they depend on strong institutions able to design and put into practice the new and demanding measures. Strong institutions may guarantee the implementation of adopted laws, or that they are amended in order to be able to implement them.

Social inclusion contributes to building a sustainable welfare state. Every excluded person in our society implies less safety and equality in society. Every included and satisfied individual implies personal potentials used to a maximum and a maximum contribution to society's development. Therefore, the main issue before our society should not be – how much social inclusion costs, but what we can do to include the people who have withdrawn from society and who are lost to it.

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SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG
Movies for the Blind

Is it possible to experience a movie by means of hearing only?

The Homer Association of Blind Persons launched a project in 2005 to adapt and synchronize movies for visually impaired persons, aiming to bring movie arts closer to blind and visually impaired persons. I was involved in the project almost as of its start, which proved to be very difficult. We met with misunderstanding more often than with understanding. However, today, seven years into the project, the Homer Association has organized five festivals of movies for the blind, the number of adapted movies has reached fifty, the association's facilities have grown almost into a permanent movie theatre for the blind and, as of recently, movies are screened at the second channel of the national television.

What does an adapted movie look like? It lasts as long as a regular movie, and everything is prepared in advance through audio editing.

The original sound of the movie is audible throughout the movie. At the beginning of each scene, a narrator's voice is heard, which follows the eye of the camera. If a movie tends to be slow and has long shots, as is the case with Tarkovski, sentences are long, descriptive and merge with the spirit of the movie; if shots are short and scenes change quickly, as is the case with Tarantino, the narrator will speak in short sentences allowing the audience to enjoy the movie through voices of actors and sound images of the movie.

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Complete text, as well as other authored blog texts, is available at www.inkluzija.gov.rs/blog

Creating a Framework Favorable to the Development of Social Economy and Entrepreneurship

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, in cooperation with the OECD LEED programme and the Centre for Liberal-Democratic Studies (CLDS), is conducting a policy impact assessment relating to the development of social economy in Serbia, in particular to the development of social entrepreneurship and the establishment of social enterprises.

The analysis should contribute to the advancement of public policies, in particular in relation to a favorable legal framework and institutional support, access to finances and market, and management of entrepreneurs' skills management.

Social entrepreneurship may contribute to a wider social and economic transformation and employment of hard-to-employ categories of the population. Experiences of some EU member states indicate that social entrepreneurship may be complementary to the market and state interventions. It is estimated that some 10% of all companies in the EU comprise social enterprises and/or 6% of total employment is generated in the social entrepreneurship sector.

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Creating a Framework Favorable to the Development of Social Economy and Entrepreneurship

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There is a small number of enterprises in the Republic of Serbia which may fall within the category of social enterprises. Of all the social enterprises in Serbia, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total number are cooperatives, citizen associations, whereas the share of other forms is very small.

The goal of the initiative is a systematic analysis of overall conditions for the establishment and development of social enterprises in relation to the international practices, standards and experiences, a comparison and assessment of strategic measures implemented on the local level, as well as potential measures stimulating the development of social entrepreneurship in Serbia. The initiative will result in a Framework for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship in Serbia – an action plan supporting the implementation of the recommendations by setting out a roadmap. This will directly help implement the recommendations of the Government of Serbia set out in the First National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction. More information at www.inkluzija.gov.rs.

Guide through European Think Tank Organisations Presented

In mid-May 2012, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the TACSO Project Office in Serbia presented the Guide through European Think Tank Organisations.

The intended purpose of the Guide is to share best practices from the area of creating policies in the EU, and thus provide the state administration, civil society and the academic and business communities in Serbia with a more detailed insight and new ideas for possible directions of activity within the context of European integration, and also within the framework of enhancing the development of national policies in important policy areas.

The Guide is available on the website: www.inkluzija.gov.rs

Empowerment and Activation of Young People in Disadvantaged Situations

The social experimentation project addressing the disadvantaged youth entering adult life (Adult Life Entry Network – ALEN) was initiated under the EU PROGRESS in late 2011, programmed to end in April 2013.

The project was been initiated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit in cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Health and Social Care and the Hungarian and Austrian Anti-Poverty Networks. In Serbia, the project is implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the Institute of Psychology within the Faculty of Philosophy, the Belgrade University, the NGO Sunce from Kragujevac and the Association for Alternative Family Care Familia from Belgrade.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to developing innovative social policies related to the social inclusion and adult life entry of young persons in challenging socio-economic situations, by developing and piloting socially innovative approaches and through mutual learning.

The activities in Serbia will cover 10 beneficiaries – youngsters without parental care, living in foster families or homes for parentless children.

The project's total budget is EUR 321,000.

A Project Launched to Promote Higher Education Opportunities for Youth

The project titled Equal Access for All – Strengthening the Social Dimension for a Stronger European Higher Education Area aims to increase chances for young people to enter and remain in higher education, especially Roma, persons with disabilities, rural population, young people with lower educational attainment and other marginalised groups. The long-term goal of the project is to enable labour market access for members of the target groups, which is essential for poverty reduction and social inclusion efforts.

The project also aims to ensure that the most talented persons, who have the capacity but lack opportunities, are given a chance to study, as well as to establish a network of support services for the students at the national level, so as to motivate children as early as during their secondary education and provide support to the students during their higher education studies. The duration of the project is three years.

Contact: University of Niš, Faculty of Philosophy, tel: +381 18 25 75 26
www.equied.nif.ac.rs

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

Unemployment Rate in Serbia 25.5%

The unemployment rate in Serbia totaled 25.5% in April 2012, which is 3.3% higher compared to April 2011 and is the highest since 1998 when the statistics was launched, said the Republic Statistical Office on June 29. Unemployment grew by more than 11% since the breakout of crisis in 2008, with 600,000 people losing their jobs. The employment rate, which represents a percentage of employed persons in the total population aged 15 or higher, also dropped, including undeclared work.

The data are collected through the Labor Force Survey at a sample of 8,000 households. A total of 21,402 persons were interviewed, and data on labor activity were collected for 19,017 persons. The unemployment rate among men and women reached 25% and 26.1% respectively. The employment rate in April totaled 34.3%, which is 1.9% less than in April 2011.

In Belgrade the unemployment rate totals 22.7%, 27% in Vojvodina, 24.9% in Sumadija and West Serbia region, 26.9% in South and East Serbia region. The informal employment rate totaled 17% in April.

Contact: Republic Statistical Office, tel: 011 2412 922
www.webrzs.stat.gov.rs

Open Parliament for Enhanced Parliamentary Work

The results of a study conducted within the Open Parliament project showed that in four out of eight parliamentary cycles, more than one half of the cities and municipalities did not have their representatives, while 13 municipalities have never been represented in the parliament.

The website www.otvoreniparlament.rs will be publishing recommendations for enhancing parliamentary work and promoting the communication between the citizens and their representatives, including various analyses and research. The platform contains an archive with more than 67 thousand speeches by MPs from all 98 parliamentary sessions during the past four years.

The project is implemented by the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), National Coalition for Decentralisation, Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM), Development Initiative Group (SeConS) and the Zaječar Initiative.

More info at: Open Parliament, www.otvoreniparlament.rs

Drafting of the National Strategy against Discrimination

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government has launched the drafting on the National Strategy against Discrimination.

As one of the first steps, the Ministry opened a call for civil society organizations to take part in Strategy drafting.

Source: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government, the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights, www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs

Number of Complaints Lodged with the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance Increases

The number of complaints lodged with the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, regarding the inability to exercise the right to free access to information, has markedly increased this year, as well.

The Commissioner has given an estimate that, with the current rate of new submissions, there could be about 6,000 cases by the end of 2012, or 30% more than in 2011, which, in turn, had approximately 40% more complaints than in 2010.

The number of justified complaints is still much larger than of unjustified ones, which points to the necessity to improve the transparency and accountability of the public administration bodies' work.

Source: Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, www.poverenik.org.rs

Municipalities Awarded for Transparent Work

The European Movement has presented awards for the most transparent local administrations in 2012. The City of Vranje has been awarded for the most transparent public administration by the assessment committee, whereas the Niš Municipality of Pantelej has received the award for the best practice for partnership between a municipal administration and civil society, through an online public vote.

The purpose of the award competition was to implement the 12 principles comprised in the Council of Europe's Charter of Good Governance, with special emphasis on Principle No. 4 – Openness and Transparency, as well as a public campaign for ratification of the Charter for Innovation and Good Governance, for overall benefit of the citizens and the state.

Contact: www.evropskipokret.org

2013 – European Year of Citizens

The better the men and women of Europe understand their rights as EU citizens, the more informed decisions they can take in their personal lives, and the more vibrant democratic life in Europe can be at all levels.

This is the vision for the European Year of Citizens 2013, which will provide an opportunity for people to learn about the rights and opportunities open to them thanks to EU citizenship, in particular their right to live and work anywhere in the EU, to stimulate debate about the obstacles that prevent people from fully exercising these rights and generate specific proposals for addressing them and to encourage people to participate more proactively in civic fora on EU policies and issues.

This year's activities of citizens and civil society organisations will primarily be organised at the grass-roots level.

The target groups are the EU citizens, policy makers at all levels of government and civil society organisations.

The budget envisaged for these activities will amount to EUR 750,000 for the preparatory actions during 2012, and EUR 1,000,000 in 2013.

Source: ec.europa.eu

More than 1.9 Million People in EU Lost Jobs in One Year

During the last 12 months, 1.9 million people lost their jobs in the EU, with the unemployment rate reaching 10.3% in April 2012, Eurostat reported.

This is the record high unemployment rate in the eurozone since the introduction of the euro in 1999, with the total count of job-seekers at the 17.4 million mark.

Estimates say that there were 24.7 million unemployed persons in the EU in April this year, 17.4 million of whom were in the eurozone.

Unemployment is the highest in the countries that are most severely affected by the crisis – Spain (24.3%) and Greece (21.7% according to data from February 2012).

Source: eurostat.eu

EU Stimulates Youth Employment

The European Commission has launched an initiative titled Your First EURES Job, as part of the European proposal stimulating employment in the EU countries.

The European Parliament has adopted the Resolution on Youth Opportunities Initiative, calling for more EU efforts to tackle youth poverty.

It puts forward proposals for devising a "European Investment Plan" to create new jobs by reallocating EU structural funds to projects targeting young people and introducing a "European Youth Guarantee" to ensure that they are not without jobs for more than four months.

Source: <http://europa.eu>

Poland: EU's Fastest Growing Economy in 2012

Owing to the EU structural funds, which helped public investments grow substantially and thus attract private investments, Poland will be the country with the fastest growing economy in the EU in 2012.

The European Commission's economic forecast contains marked differences compared to its report from November 2011, when the fastest GDP growth in the EU was predicted for Lithuania (3.4%), Estonia (3.2%), Latvia and Poland (2.5% in both countries). Nevertheless, the prospects for the Baltic states have deteriorated, leading the GDP growth forecast to decrease by 1 percentage point for Lithuania, 1.6 pp for Estonia and 0.3 pp for Latvia, whereas the Polish forecast has improved, with the expected growth of 2.7%.

Source: www.euractiv.rs

EU Allocates 8 Billion EUR for Innovations in 2013

The European Commission has announced calls for proposals within the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), allocating 8.1 billion EUR. The support targets projects and ideas contributing to the competitiveness of Europe, improving the health of people, environmental protection and solutions to new challenges such as waste management. Serbia has been eligible to take part in the program since 2007.

The funds to be granted in 2013 are available for organizations and companies in EU member states and partner states. The funds account for a large segment of the EU budget planned for innovation and research in 2013, totaling EUR 10.8 billion.

Major funds, some EUR 4.8 billion, is earmarked for the naval sector and marine environment, as well as technologies facilitating sustainable development of urban environment. A total of 147 million is allocated for fight against medicine-immune bacteria, some

EUR 100 million for innovative solutions in water source management, and some EUR 1.5 billion for information and communication technology projects.

EU Opened 51 Calls in a Day!

On July 10, 51 calls for proposals were open through FP7, totaling EUR 3.5 billion. Western Balkans countries may apply for a number of calls open for the non-for-profit and profit sectors.

Information available at http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls

Special attention will be paid to small and medium-sized enterprises with a package worth EUR 1.2 billion, and some EUR 2.7 billion should help Europe become a main global researcher destination.

The support targets some 15,000 participants through 1,300 projects.

EU Assistance Better Adapted to Regional Needs from 2014

As of 2014, the pre-accession IPA funds of the EU, which are also available to Serbia, should become more adapted to the needs of each individual country. The EU is preparing a new multiannual financial framework, which will also include pre-accession funds for the period 2014–2020.

The plan also envisages that the rules for utilisation of IPA II from 2014 and 2020 should become more flexible and facilitate more efficient use while preparing for EU accession.

Having been awarded the status of an EU candidate, Serbia has become eligible to utilise IPA funds for regional development, agriculture and human resources. However, to be able to do so, it needs to develop the "decentralised implementation system". The Serbian authorities are planning to complete this work by mid-2013 and have it approved by Brussels. Serbia has already applied for the funds intended for agriculture, while the use of funds for employment and regional development will have to stand by until 2014. So far, Serbia has received EUR 200 million annually and this amount should increase by 30%.

During the seven years' period, more than 14 billion EUR will be allocated to support Serbia and other countries on their way towards the EU accession.

Source: www.euractiv.rs

Better Respect for Human Rights

The European Commission has opened a competition for projects aiming to advance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in states and situations where these are most jeopardized, and where human rights defenders and civil society organizations face high pressure.

A specific objective is to provide immediate support and protection for human rights defenders and build their capacities, as well as to provide support and funds for civil society activities on the local level, aiming to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms, where they are most vulnerable.

The competition is open for civil society organizations, including non-government organizations and independent political foundations, public institutes, national, regional and international parliamentary bodies, as well as international and regional inter-government organizations.

The budget totals EUR 20 million, and grants total between EUR 300,000 and 1.5 million.

The application deadline is July 20, 2012.

More information at:

<http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid>

EU Invites CSOs to Provide Feedback on IPA 2013 Projects

The European Union's DG Enlargement has launched an initiative for a consultation process with respect to the draft project fiches for the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme 2013 (MBIPA), as well as Tempus and Regional Housing Programme.

The Serbian Government's Office for Cooperation with Civil Society and TASCO have invited civil society organisations to take active part in the creation of EU programmes relevant for the IPA region by giving their comments and suggestions, and thus participate in the setting of priorities.

Contact: Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, tel: +381 11 311 3859

www.civilnodrustvo.org.rs

Travel to Europe 2012

A competition titled Travel to Europe 2012 was announced for the best students of final years of bachelor and master programmes and students who have completed all course work, which will send the top 70 applicants on a three-week summer trip around Europe. Applications were received until 22 June.

The competition was supported by the Austrian Embassy to Serbia, Robert Bosch Foundation, Balkan Trust for Democracy and Hypo-Alpe-Adria Bank Belgrade.

Contact: European Movement in Serbia tel: +381 11 3640 174, www.emins.org

Let's All Help

The signature of a tripartite cooperation agreement between UNHCR, Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation and RTS has officially marked the beginning of a humanitarian campaign titled Let's All Help.

The campaign should help to raise the funds and gather materials for housing solutions for more than 2,500 refugees and displaced persons, some of whom have lived in collective centres for more than two decades.

Contact: Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, Tel: +381 11 39 11 891
www.divac.org.rs

Homes for Refugee and Displaced Families

Twenty refugee and displaced families have received keys to new apartments in Veliki Mokri Lug.

The apartments were built as part of the Social Housing in Supportive Environment project, funded by the US Government, with the co-funding of UNHCR and the City of Belgrade and in cooperation with the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation and the Commissariat for Refugees.

Contact: UNHCR – Mission to Serbia, tel: +381 11 30 82 104, www.unhcr.org

Social Housing Building in Vranje

A new building for social housing in supportive environment with twenty apartments has been opened in Vranje. Sixteen internally displaced and refugee families from the collective centres and four socially vulnerable families received the keys of the new apartments.

The value of construction work and equipment amounted to EUR370,000, which was financed by the EU within the programme of Support to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia (IPA 2009 funds), with financial support from Habitat for Humanity, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the City of Vranje and the Housing Center, in cooperation with the Commissariat for Refugees.

Contact: Housing Center, tel: +381 11 2767 258
www.housingcenter.org.rs

Equal Opportunities

The Equal Opportunities project aims to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities through their full and effective participation and inclusion in society, by promoting their employment and building social cohesion.

In the field of employment, 20 workshops were held during the project implementation for employers such as Imlek, Adriatic Strauss Group, Victoria Group, Metro Cash and Carry. The employers were informed about the basics of accessibility, possibility of workplace adaptation and the conditions for the support provided by the National Employment Service for hiring disabled persons.

An interactive digital map of accessible buildings was also presented, which is generated in Android and Facebook applications developed within the project. All registered and verified sites are presented on the website

www.pristupacnost.info.
More info at: Accessibility Audit Association in Serbia,
www.pristupacnost.org

Access Ramps for PWD in Valjevo

Courtesy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, access ramps for persons with disabilities have been installed at the National Museum, the Cultural Centre and the Centre for Social Work in Valjevo.

The city budget has earmarked RSD 1.5 million this year for removal of barriers for PWD.

Source: www.valjevo.rs

National Conference on Employment and Inclusion of PWD

More than 80 representatives of civil society organisations (CSO), the Government, ministries, local authorities, experts and specialised institutions working with persons with disabilities (PWD) participated in the national conference Through Employment towards Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Serbia.

BCIF also presented the manual Through Employment towards Inclusion of PWD in Serbia, containing an overview of the legal framework for employment of PWD, as well as examples of good practice in this area by CSOs.

The conference was part of an eponymous project, implemented by BCIF in cooperation with the Soft Tulip Foundation from the Netherlands and five partner civil society organisations from Serbia, financed by the EU under the Civil Society Support programme.

Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF)
tel: +381 11 26 22 511, www.bcif.org

CAMPAIGN WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER ON RTS A Cycle of Documentary Films

Ten short documentaries, created within the campaign We Are Better Together and aired on the national television, illustrated the efforts of the society, parents and children in the inclusion process, including the services launched under the project Development of Community Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families. The project has resulted from the partnership between the EU Delegation to Serbia, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the UNICEF Serbia Office.

Source: www.svadeca.com

BOSIFEST 2012: Do Not Call Me Special

The Third Belgrade International Film Festival For and By People with Disabilities (Bosifest), organised by Hendi Centar Kološevac under the slogan "Do Not Call Me Special", presented 40 feature and documentary films by authors from the UK, France, the Netherlands, Italy, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, China, Africa, Israel, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Serbia.

Contact: The Belgrade International Film Festival
tel: +381 11 263 78 20, www.bosifest.rs

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG Movies for the Blind

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Visually impaired persons find it easier to follow a movie if the text of a character is read by another person, meaning that a movie with 50 characters will have just as many speakers reading their roles, and a narrator.

What does the movie screening look like?

The blind come to the association, where chairs are set out just as in a regular theatre. They behave as ordinary audience, though they tend to be a little louder due to their excitement, but due attention is paid once the movie starts.

As of that moment, the narrator and synchronized speakers' voices make every person in the audience their personal director. Each person experiences and imagines the movie in their own way. Once the movie is finished, the audience comments and retells the events from the movie.

Movies are selected against a number of criteria, in particular the complexity of the drama and the plot and characters. Hollywood blockbusters abounding with effects are not easy to adapt.

Adapted movies include film classics such as Citizen Kane, Casablanca and Rashomon, including cult movies such as Pulp Fiction, Taxi Driver and American Beauty.

A large number of persons is responsible for the adaptation of a movie.

Ivan Branislavljević, Validator

PHOTO NEWS

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Public Works in Bačka Topola



Zornatičko Lake prepared for the bathing season

For the second consecutive year, a local ward in the town of Bačka Topola, in cooperation with the National Employment Service – Branch Office Subotica, has carried out the activity of "Developing Lake Shores, Town's Beach, Untended Public Spaces, Informal Dumps, Road Shoulders and Atmospheric Water Drains", as part of which persons with disabilities are hired for landscaping of green areas.

This type of work was organised for the first time last year, when twelve people were hired.

Contact: www.btopola.org.rs



Public works are carried out between May and October.

The project is worth RSD 4.5 million.

Roma Integration A Benefit to Society

An analysis of the EU member states' national strategies by the European Commission has revealed that national strategies for improvement of Roma status in the European Union give priority to education, employment and anti-discrimination measures, yet they sometimes fail to address important issues, such as the access to decent housing and healthcare. The Commission stated that "Member States need to extend health and basic social security coverage, as well as to improve living conditions especially in segregated settlements".

Investing in Roma is not only a political act, it also makes economic sense. Research by the World Bank suggests that full Roma integration could be worth around half a billion euros a year to the economies of some countries by improving productivity, cutting welfare bills and boosting tax receipts.

Source: <http://europa.eu>

Scholarships for Roma Students

The Budapest-based Roma Education Fund announced the opening of the new application cycle for scholarships for eligible Roma students at secondary or university levels.

The scholarships were intended for Roma pupils who wished to pursue secondary education in medicine, pharmacy, dentistry or other health-related programme, secondary school students of private or public medical vocational schools, as well as the higher education students of medicine studying at colleges or universities according to the Bologna process.

Secondary school and college students will be awarded scholarships in the amount of EUR 1,290, whereas university students will receive EUR 3,335.

Last year there were 133 beneficiaries, of which 13 were young Roma persons from Novi Sad – eight university students and five secondary school students.

More info at: www.romaeducationfund.hu

European Academic Network on Romani Studies

The project on the European Academic Network on Romani Studies is under way, aiming primarily to involve educated Roma persons in the EU policies as far as possible, to facilitate intercultural dialogue and support social inclusion of Roma citizens in Europe. The project will enhance the visibility of existing researches, as well as the development of cooperation among policy makers.

The programme has been initiated by the Council of Europe and the EU, and it is foreseen from June 2011 to May 2013.

Source: www.romanistudies.eu

Serbian-Romani Dictionary

In collaboration with the association Rom, the Serbian-Romani Dictionary with Grammar and an Orthography Guide by Bajram Haliti was presented in Valjevo. Haliti's work is considered the world's first Romani dictionary.

This is a dictionary of standard language and it provides a basis for education of the new Roma generations.

www.maticnabiblioteka-va.org.rs

Project OkO Ulice

The Association of Photographic Authors has initiated the project titled OkO Ulice (Street Eye), aimed at stimulating social inclusion and empowerment of youth living and/or working in the streets, through photo workshops and exhibitions. The first group of ten children learned the basics of photography. After the workshops, an online gallery was created, where all interested would be able to purchase the photos and give donations to the fund that would be used for skills and crafts training of project participants.

The project has received support from Telekom Srbija and Comtrade.

Contact: Oko Ulice Project

www.okoulice.com

Memorandum Signed to Help the Roma Register in Birth Registries

The Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self Government, Mr. Milan Marković, the Deputy Ombudsman, Mr. Goran Bašić, and the Chief Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to Serbia, Mr. Eduardo Arboleda, signed the Memorandum of Understanding envisaging the establishment of closer cooperation in the implementation of activities aimed at assisting members of the Roma national minority in the procedure of their subsequent registration in the Birth Registries.

The Memorandum stipulates the establishment of a Steering Committee, which will, together with the technical group, be tasked with proposing and carrying out activities related to exercising the right to delayed registration of the fact of birth.

Source: www.drzavnauprava.gov.rs

Call: Training of Start-Up Entrepreneurs

The Kragujevac-based association Roma Information Centre (RIC) has announced a call for Roma citizens from the Šumadija region to apply for entrepreneurship training free of charge.

The training targets Roma citizens wishing to start their own businesses or to grow existing ones. Following training, the participants will have an opportunity to apply for a grant.

Training will be delivered as part of the project Empowerment and Integration of the Roma in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway with the support of CARE Norway.

The programme is implemented by CARE Serbia in collaboration with Roma Information Centre.

Contact: RIC, Kragujevac, tel.: +381 34 34 95 87, www.ric.org.rs

European Network on Statelessness

The European Network on Statelessness has been formed as a joint initiative of Asylum Aid, the Equal Rights Trust, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, the Open Society Justice Initiative, Praxis and the Statelessness Programme at Tilburg University.

The European Network on Statelessness encourages regional and international institutions to address the issue of statelessness within their respective mandates and urges countries in the region to adopt policies to prevent and reduce statelessness and to protect stateless persons.

More information on the Network is available on the website www.statelessness.eu

For More Effective Migration Policy in Serbia

Group 484, the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights are implementing the project Networking and Capacity Building for More Effective Migration Policy in Serbia, supported by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Belgrade.

The project is aimed at building capacities for policy monitoring, analysis and advocacy in the spheres of asylum and readmission, with a strong emphasis on enforcement of international and European standards, human rights and social inclusion, especially as regards vulnerable groups and minorities. Unless it takes adequate measures, Serbia can become a permanent channel for illegal migrations towards the EU.

Source: www.bgcentar.org.rs

PHOTO NEWS

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENIUM GOALS: Mobile Kindergarten



They like drawing and singing most.

As part of the first pre-school education programme funded by the European Union with EUR 3.75 million, Improvement of Preschool Education in Serbia – IMPRES, the conditions for the youngsters will be improved in 15 municipalities. Nine vans have been procured to provide transportation for children, as well as a bus – the only mobile kindergarten in Serbia.

The little ones, mainly ethnic Roma, from the settlements of Didino selo, Elektrane and the centre of Kostolac now have an opportunity to play with their peers and learn with a kindergarten teacher in the only mobile kindergarten in Serbia.



When the weather is nice, the six-year olds, 23 of them in the group, go out to play in the countryside by the Danube as part of their four-hour routine.

Women Entrepreneurs Create Jobs in South Serbia

In order to spur economic development in two municipalities in the south of Serbia ranked as the most underdeveloped, 27 women from Vlasotince and Crna Trava founded an Association of Vlasina Lake Housewives. The women involved their families and started collective fruit picking and baking activities.

They opened a small production plant in the village of Gradska thanks to the Norway grant of USD 57,000 and the support of the Peacebuilding and Inclusive Local Development Programme in South Serbia (PBILD) in cooperation with the municipalities Crna Trava and Vlasotince.

Source: <http://rs.one.un.org/pbild>

Support to Women in Agribusiness

The Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Regions and USAID earmarked RSD 35 million in support of women in agribusiness.

The programme was adopted by the Government of Serbia and the agreements were signed by 107 women entrepreneurs from South-East and South-West Serbia. The top eight entrepreneurs were granted RSD 1 million each towards production development or start up and the others shared the remaining sum.

The programme "Support to Women in Agribusiness" is aimed at women entrepreneurs with a business idea in the area of agribusiness.

Contact: Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Regions Phone: 011 32 24 227
www.kornpr.gov.rs

"Best Woman Entrepreneur of the Year" Selected

Svetlana Vuckovic from Belgrade is the winner of the third competition of the Opportunity Bank for the best female entrepreneur of the year entitled "A Woman for 10".

She launched the Agency for Elderly Care four years ago, which today employs 32 household carers and totals 250 beneficiaries.

The award amounts to RSD 500,000 which shall be invested into business development and promotion.

Information: Opportunity Bank
Phone: 021 53 01 11 www.obs.rs

Low Profit Banca Intesa Loans for Women Entrepreneurs

Aiming to contribute to self-employment and financial empowerment of women, and to support sound entrepreneurial ideas, Banca Intesa, based on the call by the Guarantee Fund of Vojvodina, provides specialized credit models for inactive women and female entrepreneurs under conditions more favorable than those on the market. The bank approves loans for financing the procurement of equipment for female entrepreneurs and women founding small businesses operating under three years, along with loans intended for financing startup programmes for inactive women.

Loans for financing equipment procurement are placed to a maximum amount of RSD 2,000,000, with a payment timeframe of up to 6 years with annual installments encompassing a one-year grace period and the effective interest rate of 8.44 percent annually. One the other hand, credits for financing startup programmes represent loans intended for inactive women and are tailored for the procurement of equipment and turnover capital in the fields of manufacturing and processing, tourism, crafts and old crafts, as well as production services. These credit models are available to amounts of up to RSD 1,000,000, with an effective interest rate of 8.27 percent annually. The maximum timeframe for the payment of the loan, encompassing the grace period of up to 12 months, is 6 years.
Contact: Banca Intesa ad Belgrade, tel. 011 209 98 17, www.bancaintesa.rs

Certificates Issued to Business-friendly Municipalities

NALED and the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development awarded five certificates municipalities that fulfilled the business-friendly standards: Novi Sad, Smederevo, Užice, Kruševac and Paraćin.

Contact: NALED, Phone: 011 33 47 634
www.naled-serbia.org

Youth Business Serbia

The programme "Youth Business Serbia" invited young entrepreneurs up to the age of 35 to apply for support of experienced managers – business mentors.

The volunteering mentors will help them develop their businesses and entrepreneurship potential, working with them 2-4 hours a month for one year.

Programme aims to support economic empowerment of young entrepreneurs. It was launched as a partner initiative of SMart kolektiv, Erste Bank and the National Employment Service with the support of the USAID Sustainable Local Development Project and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The deadline expired on 20 May.
Information: Youth Business Serbia
www.preduzminesto.org

National Competition of the Best Student Companies

The student company "Candela" from the high school "Svetozar Marković" from Niš won the first prize at a national competition of the best student companies in Belgrade and will represent Serbia at the European Competition for the Best Student Company to be held in Bucharest in July.

Twenty best teams of high schools from Leskovac, Ivanjica, Niš, Futog, Požega, Novi Bečej, Belgrade, Ruma, Vlasotince, Trstenik and Kuršumlija took part in the national competition.

The students who are "employed" in these companies learn about market economy and entrepreneurship within the program Junior Achievement throughout the year.

This competition is implemented by Junior Achievement Serbia, with USAID support and financial assistance within the framework of the programme "Civil Society in Serbia Public Advocacy Initiative".

Contact: Junior Achievement Serbia
Phone: 011 334 56 91, www.ja-serbia.org/sr

A New Students Competition Round Finished

Siemens organized a competition "Create the Future 2012" for students of primary and secondary schools. The teams of students assisted by mentors were to design a multimedia presentation "A Step Ahead of the Times – Innovations that Changed the World". The award fund is EUR 7,000.

The competition is part of the global education

programme Siemens Generation 21 which promotes and supports education and training of young people.

This is the first consecutive year that Siemens, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Secretariat for Education of the City of Belgrade, has been organizing the competition.

Source: www.personalmag.rs

Call: Grants for Talented Youth

The Serbian Business Foundation opened a call for proposals for grants to talented students, master studies students and institutions of education the students of which achieve significant results in competitions. The grant totals RSD 30 million and the proceeds will cover scholarships, costs of participation in competitions, professional courses and education camps. The call expired on 1 June.

The Foundation was initiated by Delta Holding.
Contact: Srpska privredna fondacija
Phone: 011 20 12 663
www.srpskaprivrednafondacija.com

Call for Proposals for Cultural Projects – "Centrifuge 12"

Erste Banka a.d. Novi Sad and the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) announced the winning projects of the call for proposals "Centrifuge 2012".

This is the sixth consecutive year that donations in the area of culture at local level are granted within this project.

The winners of this year's Erste Bank donations totalling RSD 2.2 are the youth initiatives from Jagodina, Požega, Pančevo, Novi Pazar, Požarevac, Vršac and Kragujevac.

This year the applications were submitted by 60 organisations from 29 towns.

To date, Centrifuge has extended support of more than EUR 150,000 to 35 projects from 20 Serbian towns.
Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF)
Phone: 011 26 22 511, www.bcif.org

Call for Proposals – Support to Civic Activism

Individuals, associations or institutions whose projects target improvement of the living conditions in their surroundings, infrastructure, social inclusion, culture and education on the web portal "Uradi nešto!" (Do something) and which get the most of votes of web portal visitors, will be granted funds for implementation of these from Telekom Srbija.

"Uradi nešto!" is a web portal launched by Telekom Srbija as a mechanism of long-term support to civic activism.

A maximum of RSD 500.000 may be granted for one project; the total budget for the first cycle of calls totaling RSD 4 million. Telekom Srbija plans to organise calls for proposals in support of civic activism twice a year.

The deadline for the first call expired on 3 June.
Contact: www.uradinesto.rs

NIS Call for Proposals

The Oil Industry of Serbia (NIS) published a public call for funding projects of citizens' associations and informal groups in the area of sports, culture, environmental protection, science and social and human projects.

The projects, for which RSD 2.025 to 9.5 million have been earmarked, are implemented on the territory of Novi Sad, Pančevo, Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Novi Bečej, Kanjiža, Žitište and Niš.

The deadline for project submission expired on 1 June 2012.
Contact: Oil Industry of Serbia
www.nis.rs

STATE ALLOCATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**Children Are Not Responsible
for Their Poverty!**

A panel discussion was held on state allocations for children and families in Belgrade, mid-June 2012, organized by the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia (MODS) and the Society for the Development of Children and Youth – Open Club from Niš, with the support of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF.

Secondary school students, members of the children's council of MODS, called on the adults for action, noting that "Children did not choose, they had no choice, and when they are born in poverty, they live in poverty."

The joint conclusion from the discussion is that changes should be considered in the application of the programme of child allowance that would lead to improved targeting and recognition of various needs of the approximately 400,000 children receiving child allowance. The complex bureaucratic procedures were also pointed out, along with the fact that three out of five children with rights to child allowance do not make use of this right. Apart from increasing budget allocations and changes in procedures, quality services should be provided for childcare, better education, as well as the protection of child rights.

The expenditures for child allowances in Serbia in 2011 was RSD 10.4 billion, approximately 0.3% of the GDP. Serbia is among the countries allocating the least for this programme. Contact: Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia – MODS, tel: 018 599 111, www.zadecu.org

**Initiative: Improving Social Protection of
Women and Children – Victims of Violence**

The Autonomous Women's Centre, the Human Rights Council of Vranje and "... From the Circle – Vojvodina" requested changes to the local policy in Vranje and Novi Sad, while the Women's Centre in Užice requested changes in Užice, aiming for the more efficient protection of women and children, victims of family violence.

Changes were proposed in Vranje to documents regulating the accommodation of women and children, victims of violence at the Shelter for Victims of Family Violence, as well as to rights in social protection. More detailed regulation of criteria for the accommodation of women and children, victims of violence at the Shelter was requested, of terminating provisions prescribing that women victims of violence pay for the accommodation, as well as providing a safe space for women and children, victims of violence.

Initiatives in Novi Sad and Užice relate to amending town decisions on social protection, aiming to introduce a new right to monetary assistance and expanding the circle of users of the right to social housing in protected conditions for women victims of family violence.

The activities are part of the project "Towards Social Cohesion – Impact of Social Inclusion Policy for Multiply Marginalized Groups of Women Victims of Violence", financed by the EU.

The proposals for amendment to local documents are available at www.socijalna-kohezija.womenngo.org.rs
Contact: Autonomous Women's Centre, tel: 011 2687 190
www.womenngo.org.rs

**Programme for Children
and youth "Be a Buddy"**

BCIF developed the programme „Be a Buddy” to promote greater social inclusion of youth and children with disabilities with the support of volunteers. The programme is based on support to civil society organizations to implement the Dutch be a buddy model in their work. This model provides an opportunity to vulnerable groups to take an active part in the society and expand the network of their social contacts. The model contributes to development of volunteerism in local communities.

The programme supports CSOs from Serbia whose local projects involve some 190 volunteers and more than 170 beneficiaries. Contact: BCIF, Phone: 011 26 22 511, www.bcif.org

Joint project of Civil Society Focal Points

As of this year, Civil Society Focal Points (KOCD – Kontakt organizacije civilnog društva) are implementing a joint project – Initiative for Monitoring Social Policy, to monitor the implementation of the Law on Social Protection relative to the seven marginalized groups.

KOCD has been implementing the project "For Poverty Reduction – Civil Society and Accountable Government" for three years as a support to the reforms processes within the framework of EU integrations in order to improve accountability of the work of the Government.

In 2007, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point appointed the Civil Society Focal Points relating to seven marginalised groups as a mechanism for

communication between the Unit and other Government institutions and civil society organisations.

The members of KOCD are Amity – Power of Friendship (the elderly), Autonomous Women's Center (women), Center for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities (persons with disabilities), Civic Initiatives (the youth), Group 484 (migrants), Association for Development of Children and Youth – Youth Club (children) and Roma Information Center (the Roma).

More than 600 civil society organisations are taking an active role in different political processes through the KOCD mechanism.

Civil Society Focal Points
<http://kocd.org/sadrzaj.php>

Inclusive Education – Education Tailored to Children

The Society for Development of Children and Youth Open Club from Niš and the Center for Interactive Pedagogy from Belgrade, Initiative for Inclusion VelikiMali from Pančevo, Nexus from Vranje and the Užice Centre for the Rights of the Child is implementing a three-year project "Civil Society for Inclusive Education – Education Tailored to Children" within the programme "Capacity Building of the Civil Society Organisations" of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway.

The project aims to increase active participation and role of the civil society organisations in social and political development through monitoring the process of inclusion into educational institutions and implementation of new legislation in this area.

Contact: Open Club Nis, www.oknis.org.rs

"Support the Children of Single Parents"

The Association of Autonomous Women's Initiatives launched a petition "Support the Children of Single Parents" and sent an open letter about discrimination of children of single parents to the Commissioner for Protection of Equality. The petition was launched in view of the dramatic situation with non-payment of alimonies. The state is requested to protect the children and single parents from the irresponsible behaviour of the other parent through legal solutions.

Contact: Association of Autonomous Women's Initiatives, Phone: 011 36 20 917, www.awin.org

Three Anti-discrimination Model Laws

With the support of legal experts of the London AIRE Centre, the members of the Anti-Discrimination Coalition developed three new model laws in the area of combating discrimination: the model law on registered same sex unions, model law on recognition of the legal consequences of change of sex and establishment of transsexualism and the model law on restrictions and protection of certain rights and freedoms.

The model laws were developed with a view to opening a dialogue on legal solutions related to ensuring equality and protection of rights of the couples of the same sex, trans-persons and the persons with inborn or acquired physical, sensory, intellectual or emotional disability.

Source: Coalition against Discrimination,
www.stopdiskriminaciji.org

SOS Telephone for Lesbians

The support organization Gayten for the LGBT population was reinforced with the new SOS telephone 011 292 00 67 for support to lesbians. The idea arose from the need for support to lesbians living in small villages and towns, isolated, without understanding by families and their environment. The line is open from 7 May every Monday from 5 PM to 8 PM.

Consultants shall provide emotional empowerment and support to women by telephone, or through e-mail: sos.lezz@gmail.com

Contact: Gayten LGBT, Center for the Promotion of Rights of Sexual Minorities, www.transserbia.org

**European SOS Phone
for Missing Children**

The Republic Agency for Electronic Communications assigned the single European telephone number for missing children 116000 to the non-governmental organisation Astra.

The services provided via this number are registration of disappearance of children and its forwarding to the police, provision of support to parents and guardians of missing children and support to the police in investigation.

The introduction of the single telephone number for missing children is a result of cooperation between Astra and the South-East Europe Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.

The support was ensured from the company Vip.

For the fifth consecutive time, Astra got the accreditation from the Institute for Advancement of Education for the programme "Trafficking in Human Beings (children) – Prevention and Education".

The objective of the programme is to train teachers to identify potential victims and to develop potentials for prevention and education.

Contact: Astra,
SOS Phone: 011 334 7817,
www.astra.org.rs

Survey: Internet Communication with the State Relevant for 80% of Citizens

According to the findings of the survey on the use of Internet, conducted by the Centre for Internet Development, as many as 80% of citizens believe Internet communication and information exchange with state institutions to be very important.

Also, 80% of citizens wishes to deal with the state over the Internet, and 68% find it equally

important to have the information of public relevance published on the Internet with a view to controlling the work of the institutions.

More than 70% of the services for which the citizens use e-Government was graded with the highest grade.

Contact: Digital Agenda Administration
Phone: 011 202 00 57, www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

Best ICT Girls

On the occasion of April 24, the Girls in ICT Day, the Digital Agenda Administration, along with its partner companies, hosted over 300 girls from schools across Serbia, awarding prized for works arriving to the call for the Best ICT Girls.

The call for female students of technical faculties on the subject of "Why I Love the Internet" and "What I Use My Cellphone For", was announced with the aim of providing support on their road to a successful career, as well as to raise awareness on the importance of the internet.

Contact: Digital Agenda Administration
tel: 011 202 00 57
www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

28 Software Applications Improving Citizen Communication Selected

Twenty eight software applications were awarded at the competition "Improvement of Communication between the Citizens and the Public Authorities through Internet" launched by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Information Society.

The awarded solutions mainly refer to communal problems but there are also those that aim to improve lives of persons with disabilities and integration of minorities. The authors were awarded by prizes ranging RSD 150.000 to 300.000.

Contact: Digital Agenda Administration, Phone: 011 202 00 57
www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

Awards to the Participants of "Digital class 2"

Jasna Matić, State Secretary for Digital Agenda awarded the teachers of primary schools who took part in the competition „Digital Class 2“. The awards ranging RSD 30,000 to 70,000 were presented for 48 top presentations and the special award amounting to RSD 100,000 was given to three presentations. More than 200 presentations were submitted at this year's competition.

The competition was to encourage teachers to use ICT more in teaching, and thus contribute to the development of an information society.

„Digital Class“ was announced for the second time with a view to use Digital classrooms that each primary school received for all the subjects taught. The programme included equipping of 2,910 schools with more than 30,000 computers.

Contact: Digital Agenda Administration, Phone: 011 202 00 57
www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs

Online Learning Came to Town

The group of teachers gathered around the idea and name "e-literate" first met on seminars due to Moodle, Microsoft Serbia and the Electrical Engineering Faculty from Niš – entirely free! The project "Online learning just came to town..." supports the idea of free exchange of knowledge, with the aim of colleagues, education workers from underdeveloped municipalities attending this programme of professional improvement for free.

The project of the Sixth Belgrade Gymnasium and the creative team "e-literate" is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Information Society, the Digital Agenda, through the "Programme of Support to the Promotion and Popularization of Electronic Communication and Electronic Society".

Learning requires a computer with an internet connection, a web browser and basic computer literacy.

Seminars last from 15 September to 15 December 2012, six weeks each.
More information at: <http://e-pismen.rs> and <http://glavna.vigimnazija.edu.rs>

Free Programmes for Pupils during the Summer Holidays

The Secretariat for Sports and Youth of the City of Belgrade is to co-finance free summer programmes for pupils of Belgrade schools.

The offer includes programmes of 48 sports organizations with more than 70 sports programmes that is to involve some 30,000 pupils in Belgrade.

Contact: www.beograd.rs

Knowledge Base „Creative School“

The knowledge Base of Creative School, as a sum of the best innovative teaching practices and electronic preparations of teachers for class has today more than 1,100 teacher presentations and more than 19,000 users. In practice, this means that one out of five teachers in Serbia is using the base available on the web portal www.kreativnaskola.rs in order to improve their teaching.

The programme Creative School has been successfully organised by the Institute for Advancement of Education (ZUOV) and Microsoft with the support of the Ministry of Education since 2004. In the eight years of its existence, 972 primary and secondary schools, 5,500 teachers and 1,995 teams took part in its implementation.

This year's competition, organized for the eighth time, involved 678 teachers, with 229 presentations, of which 146 were posted into the Knowledge Base.
Contact: ZUOV, Phone: 011 208 19 08

www.zuov.gov.rs

Free Internet in Public Transport

3G Routers were set up in public transportation vehicles in Belgrade, providing free access to wireless internet to passengers.

In order to make internet service in vehicles available to a greater number of public transport users, the lines with wi-fi devices changes and are not fixed. This option is available in Belgrade, with the installation of devices in vehicles in other larger cities currently ongoing.

The idea, implemented by the Masel Group, involves companies using this system of advertising in addition to the existing ones. Having watched a commercial on their mobile device, passengers can use the free internet during their journey to find information or stay in contact with friends.

Contact: Masel Bus Advertising, www.masel.rs

Serbia Fifth According to the Number of Participants in Online Week 2012

With 10,562 participants, Serbia ranked fifth of the 50 countries who took part in the Online week.

The European campaign Online Week was organized for the third year in a row with the aim of introducing 200,000 persons who never used computers and Internet to the world of IT and of them acquiring e-skills.

More than 70 schools, libraries, and civil society organizations took part in the campaign. Creative workshops, lectures, classes of e-skills promotion were organized in more than 30 towns and villages.

The campaign was organised by the European Network Telecenter, and the national coordinator in Serbia was IAN - International Aid Network.

Contact: International Assistance Network (IAN),
Phone: 011 76 17 197, www.ian.org.rs

Student Team Wins the First Place at an International Competition

The web platform for children with autism, designed by the team of students of the Faculty of Information Technologies and the Faculty of Defectology won the first place at an international competition ThinkQuest among the 5,600 designs. In the category "Application Development" the team designed a platform for children suffering from autism that helps their parents and educators prepare games for them.
Source: Faculty of Information Technology
www.fit.edu.rs

All about Kragujevac in One Spot

The Citizens' Association Vido launched a project "KG info" aiming to integrate all the online information available in one spot and thus simplify activities of students and young people from Kragujevac.

By programming a mobile phone application "KG info" and with support of the web portal kragujevacinfo.rs all the existing services, portals and social networks will be accessible on one spot.

The project is implemented in cooperation and under the auspices of the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) under the umbrella of the programme "We are Online".

Information: Citizens' Association Vido
<http://nvovido.wordpress.com>

CALENDAR of Important Dates

JULY

- 01 July - Start of Cyprus Presidency of EU
- 11 July – International Population Day

AUGUST

- 07 August – International Day of Rights of Transgender Persons
- 09 August – International Day of the Indigenous People
- 12 August – International Youth Day
- 23 August – International Day of Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Prohibition
- 30 August – international Day of Victims of Forced Disappearance

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