



Government of the  
Republic of Serbia



*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.*

**MICHEL SAINT-LOT, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE FOR SERBIA**

## Social Inclusion – Is Serbia on the right Track?

In the last decade Serbia has made steady and appreciable steps forward in protecting the most vulnerable, capitalizing on systems developed in the pre-transition era, with particular emphasis in recent years on social inclusion. Policies, legal instrument and systems are being put in place. Despite the economic crisis of the past years, the Government has thus far managed to safeguard allocations for social protection programmes.

However, there is an urgent need to evaluate the efficiency of these allocations to ensure that they do have an impact and increase the quality of life and well-being of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, particularly children. It is evident that the Republic of Serbia has recognized that its approach to economic development should enable inclusive growth and poverty reduction. It is commonly understood that economic growth will inevitably impact on the distribution of income and human development outcomes.

We can all agree that overall economic development and growth with equity are pertinent and necessary for inclusive development; but it is critically important to acknowledge that these alone remain insufficient. Changes in one's economic status or living standard does not automatically translate into full acceptance by all societal segments. Economic development is not sufficient to achieve an inclusive society.

The emphasis in Serbia seems to be largely put in the formulation of policy solutions and regulatory frameworks, including those that support inclusion. However, inclusive policies will only be implemented to the extent that people doing the implementation believe in them. It is important to look beyond service providers to Serbian society in general as outcome and legacy of socio-economic determinants transmitted across generations, are critical factors that must be addressed. Indeed negative beliefs and attitudes that promote and foster exclusion of some segments of society – e.g. Roma, people with disability, LGBT, and women -- can become internalised at an early age, and further exacerbated or nurtured during adolescence and adulthood. Cognizant of that fact, the Republic of Serbia has established several institutional mechanisms to protect human rights and equality.

When the concept of inclusion is not truly understood and embraced, what we call “inclusion”, might actually be “integration.” For example, take the case of inclusive education where you simply put a child with a disability in a regular classroom.

If at the same time, the classroom is teacher-centred, with rigid instruction not adjusted to the child, leaving the child without support and a chance to participate; should we call it inclusion or integration? *Continued on page 2*

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## Activities of the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Recovery of Flood-Affected Areas

• The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Decision on Establishment of the Office for Assistance and Rehabilitation of Flooded Areas at its session of 22 May 2014. The Office coordinates reception and distribution of overall humanitarian and other aid sent to the Government of Serbia for the population in the areas affected by the floods of mid-May. The Office is in charge of defining criteria and methods of distribution of assistance, coordination of assessments and plans for the recovery of the damages as well as of cooperation of all the state authorities, public companies and institutions in the domain of assistance and rehabilitation in the flood-affected areas.

• The Government of the Republic of Serbia decided to earmark RSD 100 million from the Republic budget for the rehabilitation of damages caused by the flood and to cede free of charge goods amounting to approximately RSD 5 million to the Red Cross for distribution to the population in the flood-affected areas.

• The Government adopted the Decision on the conditions and mode of attracting FDI thus creating more favourable conditions for investments into Serbia.

• Following the ongoing damage assessments conducted by experts at all levels, the Government plans to submit a request for use of proceeds from the EU Solidarity Fund for

removal of damages caused by the flood in the second half of July. This request could be approved in the fall.

• A donor conference on relieving the impact of floods in Serbia and BiH will be held in Brussels on July 16

• The Government allowed below modalities for raising assistance and donations:

– at [floodrelief.gov.rs](http://floodrelief.gov.rs) an account for payments through PayPal from 193 countries and the region was opened;

– the number 1003 for text messages was activated in all the three mobile operator networks – Telenor, Telekom and VIP. The price of a text message is RSD 100, and the funds are directed to the account of the Government opened, especially for fund-raising;

– a RSD account no. 840-3546721-89 was opened for payment of proceeds for removal of consequence of floods as well as the foreign account no. 01-504619-100193230-000000-0000;

– a call centre no. 011 274 14 44 was opened and is available 24/7 to inform everyone who wishes to help on the donation modalities.

A total of RSD 3 billion has been collected in funds as relief for the victims and sanitation.

Contact: Government of the Republic of Serbia [www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION  
UNIT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA**Draft Employment  
and Social Reform Program**

Following the call of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society, the interested organisations were able to submit their comments on the draft challenges of the first part of ESRP.

At the invitation of the European Commission, the Government of the Republic of Serbia has started development of the Employment and Social Reform Program – ESRP.

ESRP is a new instrument that will be used to establish and monitor the key priorities in employment and social policy in the EU accession countries.

Much like the EU employment guidelines, ESRP will present solutions in three sectors: labour market and employment policy, human capital and policy of development of skills and social inclusion and social protection policy. Additionally, the document will include horizontal aspects such as capacity building, management and institutional reforms, as well as the utilisation of EU funds for implementation of the planned reforms.

**Policy Impact Analysis:  
"Providing Additional Support  
to Students from Vulnerable Groups  
in Pre-University Education "**

The Study "Providing Additional Support to Students from Vulnerable Groups in Pre-University Education" was prepared by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF. This study provides an overview of the institutional and legal framework, policies and measures aimed at enhancing the education of poor and vulnerable children in Serbia (with a focus on the measures within the educational and social welfare systems) and/or that should be analyzed further with respect to their social and financial impact).

The study offers recommendation for policies/measures requiring additional research/primary data collection and which should be additionally analyzed with a view to their social and financial impact. The analysis primarily focuses on the current measures of support to the poor children in the area of education and includes information on the selected social welfare measures, on measures initiated and implemented by the civil society organisations as well as the measures representing international best practices, which are annexed to this document as separate reports. Based on the analysis, recommendations were formulated and a set of measures proposed with cost estimates and the expected economic benefits.

The Study "Providing Additional Support to Students from Vulnerable Groups in Pre-University Education" was declared one of the 12 best documents of the kind in the world published in 2014.

The study and the documents are available at [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs), at <http://goo.gl/R7NWef>.

**New Issue of the Guide Through Local  
and International Sources of Funding**

The 11th issue of the Review of Funding Opportunities for projects of CSOs, local governments, SMEs and entrepreneurs in Serbia for 2014 was published.

The Review with the latest information is prepared by the Civic Initiatives in cooperation with the the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society on an annual basis.

The Review is to contribute to enhanced informing of all the stakeholders by providing a better insight into funds for implementation of the different programmatic and project activities and to serve as an additional incentive for involvement of all those who may be able to contribute to a greater social inclusion in Serbia and improvement of the quality of life of its citizens.

Responding to the question as to whom they may send their project proposals, the Review simplifies the process for all the actors with ideas about the changes.

The Review is available at: <http://goo.gl/1xRcEu>.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit  
Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

MICHEL SAINT-LOT, UNICEF REPRESENTATIVE FOR SERBIA

**Social Inclusion – Is Serbia  
on the right Track?**

*Continued from page 1*

In such circumstances, children are doomed to failure – a failure which can re-enforce people's attitudes that these children do not belong in school. Actually, they were not provided with adequate learning and additional support to enable their full inclusion and therefore, their future contribution to Serbia. It is the responsibility and in the interests of the State to invest in the most disadvantaged children, to achieve more equitable outcomes and a more prosperous society.

Structural change cannot be achieved through economic forces alone, but by addressing the economic, social and cultural fabric of society holistically. Serbian society needs to embark on a transformative process that necessitates a re-thinking of the determinants of change. Only by recognizing all of Serbia's strengths, even if disguised as apparent weaknesses of currently excluded populations, will we be able to build the foundations for a more inclusive and cohesive society, and both the European Union accession roadmap and the post 2015 MDG dialogue are opportunities and good platforms to engage in that transformative process.

**EBRD: Weaker Economic Growth in Serbia**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) announced that Serbia's economic growth in 2014 and 2015 will be 1%, which is less than 50% of its 2013 level. EBRD warned that growth could be even lower in case of the global negative events scenario.

The economic growth outlook for Serbia was reduced from 1.3% in January to 1% due to a probable decrease of expenditures of the new Serbian government as well as for the trade and investment relations with Russia, contributing to increase of uncertainties in the current political climate.

At the level of the entire region in which the European creditor is engaged, the average 2014 economic growth will amount to 1.4%, and to 1.9% in 2015 (as compared to the average 2.3% in 2013).

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

**NALED: Status of Regulatory Reforms  
Report for the 1st Quarter of 2014**

The National Alliance for Local Economic Growth – NALED published the Report for the 1st Quarter of 2014 in mid-May 2014.

The Report aims to inform the public on the status of implementation of regulatory reforms in Serbia and includes systemic recommendations of NALED, the implementation of which would create a more favourable conditions for businesses operation.

NALED report analyzes the status of regulatory reform with a special focus on the priority recommendations of the businesses related to the changes of the Law on Planning and Construction, Labour Law, Law on Expropriation as well as to the reforms of inspectorates.

The report also offers an analysis of the draft law governing charges for use of public property, receivership and privatization, status of implementation of the recommendations made in the Gray Book and Regulation Reform, as well as the overview of the Barometer of Bylaws.

See NALED Report for the 1st quarter of 2014 at <http://goo.gl/6A0IX7>.

Contact: National Alliance for Local Economic Growth – NALED

Phone: 011 337 30 63, [www.naled-serbia.org](http://www.naled-serbia.org)

**Devinfo Serbia Database Updated**

The updated database DevInfo Republic of Serbia is available on the website of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. The database at the level of the Republic includes data for 228 indicators with the latest indicators from the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC).

For the database see [www.devinfo.stat.gov.rs](http://www.devinfo.stat.gov.rs)

For the database and the list of indicators see [www.devinfo.stat.gov.rs/diSrbija/Baze\\_DI.aspx](http://www.devinfo.stat.gov.rs/diSrbija/Baze_DI.aspx)

The profiles with the date from the new database DevInfo Overview of the situation and municipality development (DI\_Profil) are also available in Serbian and in English. The profiles include a new sector AGRICULTURE, with the data from the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

The profiles are available at the website of the Statistical Office:

[www.devinfo.stat.gov.rs/diProfilii](http://www.devinfo.stat.gov.rs/diProfilii)

Contact: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia,

Phone: 011 2412 922, [www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)



## EU Strengthens the Impact of Employment Policy in Serbia

On 11 June 2014, the Delegation of the EU to the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy held a closing conference of the twinning project "Preparation of Serbian Labour Market Institutions for European Employment Strategy".

The Programme worth EUR 2 million that lasted 26 months aimed at improvement of the employment policy in the Republic of Serbia.

More than 60 experts from France, Sweden and Romania share their knowledge and best practices with the colleagues from Serbia. The project strengthened the capacities of the labour market institutions in the context of the Programme of Employment and Social Reform that the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission are preparing.

Since new job creation is one of the main objectives of the EU 2020, and investments into human resources of key importance, the EU invested EUR 148 million from IPA funds into development of human resources in Serbia.

Source: [www.europa.rs](http://www.europa.rs)

## European Year for Development – 2015

Next year - 2015 – was officially designated a European Year for Development, with the activities focusing on raising awareness of the public on significance of development Europe-wide.

The motto of the European Year for Development will be "Our world, our dignity, our future". The year 2015 will be the final year of implementation of the current Millennium Development Goals, when the decision should be made about the objectives the years to come.

EU is the largest donor to development assistance in the world. Four years after the development of the Agenda for Change (document of the European Commission on re-directing development assistance towards the sectors and states needing assistance the most), 2015 will be the right moment for the donors and the stakeholders to gather and discuss the achievements or potential achievements.

As many as some 85% of the citizens of EU believe that Europe should continue to help the developing countries despite the current economic crisis.

## EU Develops Platform to Combat Undeclared Work

The European Commission proposed development of the European platform to combat undeclared work so that the EU could more efficiently prevent and deter undeclared work.

The platform will assemble all the relevant national authorities such as work inspectorates, taxation and migration authorities and other stakeholders in the fight against undeclared work which significantly damages competition and public budgets and leads to deterioration of working conditions.

Gray economy reduces the European GDP by 15-20%.

The platform will also contribute to raising awareness of the issue through joint activities including campaigns and adoption of regional or EU-wide strategies. The establishment of the platform is expected to cost EUR 2.1 million/annum and it is to be funded through the EU Employment and Social Innovation Programme.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## Development of e-health in EU

Use of information technologies in health care sector in the EU is on the rise, but many things need to be done yet, said the European Commission. In EU, the new technologies are mostly used for data entry and reporting for clinical purposes.

The countries leading in IT use in hospitals are Denmark, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Holland and UK.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## EUR 197.2 million from IPA Funds to Serbia

On 6 June 2014, Jadranka Joksimović, the Minister for EU Integration and the Jean Eric Paquet, the Director of the EC Enlargement Directorate signed a Financial Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission for the 2013 Republic of Serbia National Programme that includes transfer of powers to Serbia to manage a total of EUR 197.2 million made available within the framework of the first component of IPA 2013.

This non-refundable proceeds will be used for the projects of assistance to Serbia to implement the reforms in the key sectors necessary for future EU membership.

The Agreement adopts part of the national programme that the Serbian institutions are

to implement independently with the EU assistance.

The IPA proceeds will be used on public administration reform, enhancement of judiciary and internal affairs, implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy, private sector development, harmonization with the EU acquis, support to the energy sector, social development, modernisation of agriculture and inter-sectoral projects within the national programme.

The allocation of funds should be transparent so that the citizens will know how they are spent.

The European Commission agreed an EUR 3 million humanitarian assistance package for Serbia.

## Experts for Use of Donations and Loans Needed

Getting an accreditation for independent use of EU IPA funds i.e. decentralization of the management system means that the Serbian institutions will be authorised for tendering and other planning procedures as well as the procedures of accounting of spending of the funds. The beginning of this process means additional aggravation of the problem of lack of experts for management of funds and project managers in public administration.

In the past, Serbia's IPA funds implementation rate was 95%, and it also managed to use well the funds of certain European programmes such as the Framework Programme 7 for research (FP7), primarily intended for the Member States.

On the other hand, in the period 2009 – 2013, Serbia paid EUR 22 million for failure to draw loans, speaking of the necessity to improve all the project management stages and the relevant human resources.

Contact: Office for European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia

Phone: 011 306 11 00 [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## Period of Transition– Challenge for Agriculture

In the context of EU accession negotiations and in the area of agriculture, Serbia is to have a very demanding task to define the transition periods for harmonization and development of institutions – first of all, the Directorate for Agrarian Payments, for resolution of issues such as production quotas and reference years, as well as the right to purchase agricultural land, concluded a meeting on cooperation of producers and consumers in improving safety and quality of food and EU negotiations held in the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

The Chapter 12 on food safety and veterinary and phytosanitary policy is very comprehensive and includes numerous standards. According to the experiences of past enlargements, Serbia will probably be given criteria for opening and closing this Chapter.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## Serbia Increases Activity in Utilisation of TAIEX Support

In the first quarter of 2014, the Serbian state institutions have intensified the activities related to use and application for TAIEX (Bureau for Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) expert assistance of the European Commission in harmonization of regulations with the EU acquis and their implementation. In the pe-

## CHAPTERS 23 & 24: Fundamental Changes of the Society

Chapters 23 (Judiciary Reform and Fundamental rights) and 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security) will be among the most exacting for harmonization in the EU accession negotiations but also key to building an efficient legal state.

Depolitization of institutions and prevention of abuse of political influence are but two of the big changes that will be required from Serbia in order to start anti-corruption and create impartial, efficient and responsible institutions.

Certainly, these reforms will be a challenge for Serbia. Also, the state must ensure a higher level of protection of human rights, including freedom of expression or gathering, which will put into focus the issue such as holding of Pride Parade.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

riod January - 31 March, 34 applications were sent as compared to 88 for the entire last year, which is two times more than in 2013. Most of the applications related to organizing EU expert missions, study trips, seminars, workshops and training for civil servants.

Contact: [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## Better Consumer Protection in the EU and in Serbia

A new law on consumer protection came into force on June 17, 2014 both in Serbia and in the EU, which strengthens the rights of 507 million consumers, irrespective of whether they go shopping online or in shops across Europe.

Economy will also benefit from the law through simpler and more predictable rules,

stimulating them to expand their business across borders.

The new law extends the deadline in which a consumer may change their mind and give up on online shopping, forbids additional charge for using credit cards and other hidden costs.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## Economic Impact of Social Enterprises in Serbia

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Group for Development Initiative and the Group 484, carried out the project "Economic Impact of Social Enterprises in Serbia." The project aimed to display the gross value added achieved by social enterprises in Serbia, to map them and to display their wider social significance.

According to the results of the research, which are available at the link <http://goo.gl/e5uGHV>, 1,196 social enterprises operated in Serbia in 2012 (cooperatives, associations of citizens and companies for employment of persons with disabilities, development agencies, foundations, business incubators and subsidiary companies). The highest share (90%) was taken by cooperatives (65.6%) and associations of citizens (23.7%).

Gross value added achieved by these enterprises in the Republic of Serbia in 2012 amounted to 6,819.2 million RSD. This represented only 0.2% of GDP of the Republic of Serbia in that year. Cooperatives have contributed most to the total gross added value with 75.3%.

In 2012, there were 10,326 employees in social enterprises, which constituted 0.6% of the total number of employees in the Republic of Serbia. Most of them were employed in cooperatives (58.6%), in enterprises employing persons with disabilities (20.2)

This project was financed by the European Commission and Serbia was one of the five selected countries in which the project has been implemented.

Contact: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: + 011 2412 922, [www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)

## Declaration on Social Entrepreneurship in the Region

In 2014, representatives of numerous civil society organizations from the Western Balkans and Turkey signed the Belgrade Declaration (<http://belgradedeclaration.net/>) on the development of social entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans and Turkey, with the intention to contribute to the recognition of importance of this sector for economic and social development. Among the key principles of the Declaration is the need that the EU, the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey publicly announce their commitment to development of social entrepreneurship and partnership between institutions and civil society, business sector and social entrepreneurship sector in developing social economy.

The declaration was signed in September. The Belgrade Declaration has been supported by more than 200 NGOs and social enterprises so far.

Contact: SENS, Social Economy Network in Serbia, [www.sens.rs](http://www.sens.rs)

## NALED: II Regulatory Index of Serbia Presented

The second annual Regulatory Index of Serbia (RIS) was presented to the public by NALED and USAID in the beginning of June 2014. On the basis of analysis of the work of the Government of Serbia in the areas of quality, transparency and predictability in drafting regulations, promptness in law implementation, regulatory burden on the economy and availability of information, it was concluded that the quality of regulatory framework in our country reaches only 41.8% of the desired standard. The value of RIS for 2014 is significantly higher than in the previous year (31.7%), but the quality of regulations and the procedure of their adoption are a stumbling-stone for businessmen. In order to verify the validity of RIS, NALED conducted a survey of business opinions, on the sample of 250 companies, which showed high correlation of 87.5% between the perception of businessmen and Regulatory Index. Economy requires a more stable policy, more consistent law implementation, less expensive and more efficient administration, and more transparent communication with state administration.

## NALED: Public Call for Municipalities in the Region for Certification by BFC SEE Standard

National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) and Regional Network for Business Friendly Environment in Southeast Europe announced a public call for municipalities in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia to apply for the certification process by regional standards of a business friendly environment.

Certification programme for business friendly environment in Southeast Europe (SEE BFC) is a unique regional program which aims to improve the competitiveness of municipalities.

This programme encourages municipalities and cities to attract investments and develop local economies, by using their own capacities and making a strategic decision to improve business environment. The deadline for submitting applications for certification expired on 1 June 2014.

Contact: National Alliance for Local Economic Development – NALED  
Phone: 011 337 30 63, [www.naled-serbia.org](http://www.naled-serbia.org)

## RESEARCH: Women in the Labour Market and ICT Skills

On the occasion of the International Girls in ICT Day, the research "The Role of Knowledge in the Field of ICT and the position of Women in the labour market" was presented in Belgrade, in April 2014. The research showed that the achievement of gender equality in the field of ICT is an important economic issue.

According to the latest research on the role of ICT in the status of women in the labour market of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, there is less than 20% of women in managerial positions in IT companies in Serbia.

Global statistics show that women's participation in managerial positions contributes positively to the financial success of IT companies, whereas the limited employment of women in, for example, the countries of Asia and the Pacific, incur costs of 42-46 billion USD a year.

According to the World Economic Forum report on gender equality, Serbia ranks the 42nd place among 136 countries.

Contact: Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy  
Phone: 011 36 16 599, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

## The Draft Entrepreneurship Development Strategy by 2020

The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with line ministries, agencies, other institutions, and business associations which represent the economy sector, prepared the draft Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness Development Strategy for the period of 2014 to 2020, together with a draft action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the period of 2014 to 2015. The Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness Development Strategy for the period of 2014 to 2020 represents builds upon and continues the previous development policy in the areas of entrepreneurship and competitiveness in the Republic of Serbia. It continues the policy of full compliance with documents which define the EU policy in the area of entrepreneurship and competitiveness.

It includes a set of measures which support development of entrepreneurship and competitiveness in the following areas: improvement of business environment, facilitated access to sources of funding, improvement of workforce quality, support to innovations, facilitated access to new markets and the strengthening entrepreneurship of women and the young population.

Draft is in the process of final harmonization and its adoption is expected in the near future. Call for submitting expert proposals, amendments and changes to the draft will be opened until 23 June 2014.

Contact: Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 36 42 641, [www.privreda.gov.rs](http://www.privreda.gov.rs)

## Social Entrepreneurship for Innovative and Inclusive Societies

Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN), in cooperation with ten partners from different European countries, initiated the research project "Enabling the Flourishing and Evolution of Social Entrepreneurship for Innovative and Inclusive Societies." The project has four primary objectives: to explain the evolution of social entrepreneurship in Europe, to identify conditions under which social entrepreneurship can contribute efficiently and effectively to build an inclusive and innovative society, to identify the "New Generation" of social entrepreneurs, and, the fourth, to provide advice to stakeholders.

In order to achieve the objectives at the national level, FREN will conduct extensive research in the territory of Serbia. The project is designed for policy makers at the EU, national and local levels, financial institutions and other organisations such as associations of entrepreneurs and local development agencies.

The project has been implemented since February 2014 and funded by the EC under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) in the duration of three years.

Contact: Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN), [www.fren.org.rs](http://www.fren.org.rs), FP7-efeseiis.eu

## INVITATION FOR ROUNDTABLE: e-Government Development Trends

The roundtable "e-Government Development Trends in Serbia" will be held on June 3, 2014 in the organization of the Directorate for e-Government and the Education Center, with support of the USAID, Institute for Sustainable Communities and the National Democratic Institute. An innovated document "Guidelines for the Development of Website of Public Administration and Local Government Institutions v.5.0" will be presented, as well as the "Research of Costs and Savings through Centralized Solutions" and "Research of Needs of Local Governments and Civil Society Organizations on the Development of new eServices".

Contact: Directorate for e-Government  
tel: 011 3341 885, [www.deu.gov.rs](http://www.deu.gov.rs)



## First Coordination Meeting about the Improvement of the Position of Roma in the Republic of Serbia

The first coordination meeting about the projects for implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Position and Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia was held on 16 June 2014. The meeting was organised by the Office for Human and Minority Rights in cooperation with the Serbian EU Integration Office and Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The initiative aims to establish mechanisms of regular information exchange about all the activities planned and implemented by way of support to the process of improvement of the situation of Roma in the Republic of Serbia.

Exchange of information between the beneficiaries, donors and project implementation teams should contribute to transparency of projects related to improvement of the situation of Roma, a more efficient use of budget and donor funds as well as to better results of the process through the existing institutional mechanisms such as the Council for Improvement of the Situation of Roma, Strategy

and Action Plan and coordination mechanisms at the local level.

The Office for Human and Minority Rights developed a Communication Plan with the support of EC IPA 2011 project "Implementation of Anti-Discriminatory Policies".

Together with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit it will coordinate development of a Report on Implementation of Operational Conclusions of the Seminar about Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia, that the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the EC convened in June 2013.

The Office for Human and Minority Rights is implementing the project "Technical support to the implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Roma in the Republic of Serbia", in partnership with the OSCE Mission in Serbia, donor funds of the Swedish Agency for International Development and Cooperation.

Contact: Office for Human and Minority Rights  
Phone: 011 214 29 74, [www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs](http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs)

## Best Practices in Roma Employment

The Seminar on Best Practices in Roma Employment was organised by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The objective of the Seminar was to exchange successful practices in employment in light of establishment of partnerships towards the implementation of Roma employment policies, being one of the priorities of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of the Situation of Roma by January 2015. The National Employment Service records show a significant increase of Roma - from 7,500 in 2008 to the present 22,098.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## REPORT: Overrepresentation of Roma Children in "Special Schools" in Serbia

In April 2014, the European Roma Rights Center – ERRC published a report on overrepresentation of Roma pupils in schools for the children with developmental issues.

The Report is a result of a survey of the achievements of four years of implementation of the 2009 Law on the Foundations of the Education System, the adoption of which formed basis for substantial changes in the inclusive education of the Roma.

The data collected refer to the school years 2011/12 and 2012/13 and include data from 31 specialised schools for pupils with developmental problems in Serbia.

According to the Report, the number of Roma children enrolled in the so called "special schools" is decreasing slowly and the share of them in the total number of pupils in these schools is up to 70%.

The Survey is complemented by a poll conducted on 10 locations Serbia-wide, in 128 households where Roma pupils attending "special schools" live. A team of 16 Roma interviewers talked to the parents and foster parents about the processes that resulted in enrollment of their children in "special schools".

For the Report, please see <http://goo.gl/AAFprC>.

Contact: European Roma Rights Centre, [www.errc.org](http://www.errc.org)

## Serbian Municipalities for Improvement of Social Inclusion of Roma

Within the EU-funded project "We are here together – European Support to Roma Inclusion", the representatives of municipalities and towns met at the meeting in Arandjelovac in May 2014.

The project is implemented by the OSCE Mission in Serbia.

The meeting gathered more than 50 representatives of pilot municipalities and towns taking part in the project and the representatives of the EU Delegation to Serbia.

The heads of municipal/town administrations, Roma coordinators, town planners and experts for Roma housing discussed and exchanged ideas on concrete aspects of the project that helps Serbian institutions improve the living conditions of Roma through an improved access to basic rights, civic participation, labour market, education, health, adequate housing and new job creation.

The project established mobile units in 20 pilot municipalities, and their members took part in first trainings in June 2014. This will be followed by preparation of their respective action plans.

An initiative to establish a Forum for Cooperation of the 20 pilot municipalities as a platform for exchange of information and best practices was launched.

Source: [www.evropa.gov.rs](http://www.evropa.gov.rs)

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION Award for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey 2014

The Award of the European Commission for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey is intended for projects with innovative contribution to the full social integration of Roma, offering holistic solutions for overcoming the social gaps between the majority communities and the Roma population in a sustained manner.

The total value of 7 prizes is EUR 98,000, to be awarded in October 2014 in Brussels. The deadline for applying is August 6, 2014.

The goal of the award is to raise the political importance of the Roma integration work in the enlargement process, enhance the role of civil society and increase the visibility of the award winners.

More information on: [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm)

## PHOTO NEWS

## CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION: Knowledge to Combat Poverty

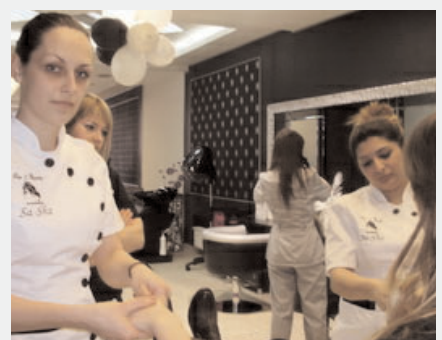
Within the project of cross-border cooperation of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, 24 young Roma and majority population representatives from Šabac were given a chance to master the secrets of hairdressing and cosmetics. The projects is implemented in four municipalities: Šabac, Loznica, Bogatić and Koceljeva. The aim of the project is inclusion of the representatives of Roma community.



Svetlana Topalović, lecturer of aesthetics reveals beauty secrets to participants.

One of the ways to implement it includes decreasing differences and allowing for acquisition of knowledge and vocation, so that the Roma are given an opportunity to educate themselves says Sofka Vasiljković, deputy chairman of the Roma National Council and a Chairwoman of the Regional Office of the Council in Šabac.

In addition to the Academy, the project of cross-border cooperation includes courses of computer literacy and programming, literary evenings, exhibitions of Roma works, seminars on gender equality, reproductive health, significance of social inclusion.



Future hairdressers take in every word about hair care uttered by Aleksandra Simić, their trainer.

## For a more Dignified Life of the Elderly in Social Care Institutions

Final conference under the project "For a more Dignified Life of the Elderly in Residential Care Homes in Serbia" took place in April 2014 in Belgrade. The objective of the project was to intensify the role of civil society organisations in the promotion and protection of human rights of the elderly who reside in social care institutions.

Participants have been introduced to recommendations for decision makers at the national level, regarding the necessary amendments to the Law on Social Protection, the Regulations on the Conditions and Standards for Providing Social Care Services, and expanding the list of medications and medical devices which should be available to the elderly at the expense of the Republic Fund for Health Insurance.

The conference pointed out the importance of speeding up the development in order to prevent the placement in residential care homes of those elderly persons who do not want that.

The project was implemented by Amity in partnership with the Autonomous Women's Centre from Belgrade, and in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, with financial support from the EU Delegation to Serbia. Contact: [www.amity-yu.org](http://www.amity-yu.org)

## Apartments for 20 IDP Families in Bujanovac

A total of 15 families of internally displaced persons from collective centres in Bujanovac and 5 domicile, socially vulnerable families got keys to their new apartments on 20 June. The project was implemented within the framework of the project "Support to the Implementation of the Strategy for IDPs, Refugees and Returnees in Serbia" funded by the EU, cofunded by UNHCR and executed by NGO Vizija in the amount of EUR 358,000.

The total value of the project - EUR 1.4 million was funded by the EU IPA 2011 including four components: construction of prefabricated houses, construction of "social housing in supportive environment" apartments, distribution of construction materials and distribution of dependency reduction grants Serbia-wide.

Contact: UNHCR, Phone: 011 3082 100, [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

## INVITATION: "Personal Attendant to a Child" Project

Republic Institute for Social Care, with the support from UNICEF, announced a public call for the submission of proposals for the concept of a training programme which will provide the personal attendants' service to children. Between 15 applications, the Commission has chosen the concept entitled "Personal Attendant to a Child - Step by Step." It was drafted by the Society for Cerebral and Child Paralysis organisation from Ivanjica, and it will develop further with support under the project.

The objective of the project is to provide the prerequisites for capacity building necessary for the realisation of the service Personal Attendant to a Child.

Contact: Republic Institute for Social Care, Phone: 011 36 21 563, [www.zavodsz.gov.rs](http://www.zavodsz.gov.rs)

## The Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality Opened in Novi Pazar

The first Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality outside of Belgrade was opened in March 2014 in Novi Pazar. The financial support was provided by the European Union and the Government of the Swiss Confederation under the Programme of European Partnerships with Municipalities - EU PROGRESS. This office in Novi Pazar will facilitate the access of citizens of this part of the country to the institution which primarily aims to prevent all forms and cases of discrimination.

Contact: Regional Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Phone: 020 311 930, [www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs](http://www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs)

## Accessing Information of Public Importance through the Website "For the Knowledge of All"

"For the Knowledge of All" is an internet platform that enables the citizens of Serbia to request access to information of public importance from public authorities. Public authorities have a legal obligation to respond to requests. The purpose of the platform is to facilitate access to information of public importance by the citizens of Serbia and to contribute to transparency and political responsibility of public authorities.

The platform "For the Knowledge of All" was launched by the Zaječar Initiative under its "Transparency and Political Accountability" programme, with initial financial support from the Open Society Institute.

The platform can be accessed at: <http://www.daznamosvi.rs/sr>. Contact: Zaječar Initiative, Phone: 019 440 224, [www.zainicijativa.org](http://www.zainicijativa.org)

## Political and Economic Empowering of Persons with Disabilities

Centre for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia, in partnership with the National Organisation of Persons with Disabilities in Serbia has carried out the project "Political and Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Joint Effort". The fundamental objective of the project was to increase the level of political participation of persons with disabilities (PWD) and support the role of PWD organisations in establishing the general policy which will contribute to social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Serbia.

The results of the project were presented in May 2014. Contact: Centre for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities of Serbia, Phone: 011 367 53 18, [www.cilsrbija.org](http://www.cilsrbija.org)

## Report: "Accessible Elections - Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Political and Public Life"

Centre for Society Orientation in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute carried out the project "Accessible Elections" under which the report with the same title was drafted. It tackles the realisation of voting rights and participation of persons with disabilities in political life and accessibility of political campaigns within the electoral process. This report provides recommendations for the development processes and the role of people with disabilities in public and political life. Contact: Centre for Society Orientation, Phone: 011 311 38 60, [www.cod.rs](http://www.cod.rs)

## CSOs' Effort to Establish Tolerance between Asylum Seekers and Local Population

Association "Atina" and the Centre for the Protection of and Assistance to Asylum Seekers presented the project "Initiating the Dialogue on Mutual Tolerance and Nonviolence between Migrants and Citizens in Local Communities" in April 2014 in Belgrade. The project aims to initiate a dialogue on tolerance between the local Serbian population and the asylum seekers and to develop mechanisms for solving the problems of asylum seekers in Serbia, as well as persons who are in transit to other countries.

The project was motivated by the fact that asylum seekers in Serbia have been exposed to different forms of violence, including trafficking in human beings.

The number of asylum seekers grows in Serbia - in 2008 there were 44 asylum seekers, while in the last year 2,994 persons have sought asylum - mainly from Syria, Eritrea, Somalia, Afghanistan...

Contact: Centre for the Protection of and Assistance to Asylum Seekers Phone: 011 2457 376, [www.apc-cza.org](http://www.apc-cza.org)

## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE: Prisons in Serbia are Overcrowded

Serbia is among the 47 member states of the Council of Europe with the biggest problem of overcrowded prisons, with 160 inmates per 100 places. Statistic data for 2012, published in April 2014, indicate this fact. According to the Council of Europe report, Serbia ranked first in the mortality of inmates with 82 deaths per 10,000 inmates. Average population in prisons in member states of the Council of Europe is 98 inmates per 100 places, and average mortality is 28.9 per 10,000 inmates. Average costs per inmate in the member states of the Council of Europe in 2011 amounted to 103 euro per day, whereas in Serbia they did not exceed 15 euro per inmate per day.

Until 1 September 2012 there were 11,070 inmates in Serbian prisons - 153.4 inmates per 100,000 citizens, while the European average is around 150.

Source: [www.euractiv.org](http://www.euractiv.org)

## Tanja Mišćević Received the "Rainbow" Award for 2013/14

Tanja Mišćević, Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU, is the winner of the "Rainbow" award for 2013/14.

The "Rainbow" award was established by the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA), and it has been awarded as of last year, through a public competition, on the occasion of 17 May - the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, for contributions in the fight against homophobia and transphobia and protection and improvement of human rights of LGBT people in Serbia.

Contact: GSA Information Centre, Phone: 011 328 40 81, [www.gsa.org.rs](http://www.gsa.org.rs)

## Association "Atina" won the U.S. Award for Contribution to the Work with Children - Victims of Human Trafficking

Association "Atina" is the winner of the prestigious Global Catalyst Award, awarded by the Americans Global Children's Fund, for contribution to the work with children - victims of human trafficking. This year, at the global level, the award was given to six civil society organisations with highest contribution to the protection of children and adolescents within their communities.

"Atina" Association has been cooperating with the Global Children's Fund in the area of direct work with children from vulnerable groups over the last seven years. Contact: Atina Association, telephone: + 381 11 322 00 30, [www.atina.org.rs](http://www.atina.org.rs)



### Call for CSOs to select SCSO

Serbian European Integration Office has invited civil society organisations to apply for an invitation to select the sectoral civil society organisations (SCSO), with the aim of continual cooperation with civil society organisations in the field of programme planning, monitoring and reporting on international aid, with a focus on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

The new call to organisations clearly defines the mandate of SCSO mechanism, objectives, results, and stakeholders, their roles and responsibilities, in order to contribute to strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the mechanisms to fit the needs and interests of all decision makers in the process of programming and using IPA funds.

The call expired on 20 June 2014.

Contact: European Integration Office

Phone: 011 30 61 100, [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

### Strategy for the Development of Civil Society at the Beginning of 2015

The Adoption of the Strategy for the Enabling Environment for Civil Society is envisaged for the beginning of 2015. This was announced at the meeting on civil society in Serbia "Monitoring and Evaluating Public Policies in Serbia through Support of Civil Society" which took place in late May 2014.

Serbia, together Albania, is the only country in the region which does not have a strategic document that defines institutional and legislative framework in this area and tackles many issues, such as the transparent funding of the non-governmental sector.

At the meeting, the warning was heard that there is a real danger of "withering away" of Civil Society due to withdrawing of investors, which happened in most countries that recently became members of the EU. Monitoring and evaluation of public policies by the civil society was proposed as one of the rescue solutions for the non-governmental sector.

The event was organized by the Centre for European Policy (CEP) and the Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN), which had initiated the research of the role and capacity of civil sector in controlling and evaluating public policies six months ago.

Contact: Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 311 38 95

[www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs](http://www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs)

### Public Call for CSO Projects by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations

Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations published the public call for financing proposals related to the population of refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and returnees under the readmission agreements.

Of primary importance are programmes of studies for establishing the condition and needs of user population in the process of integration and reintegration and accomplishing sustainable return, other programmes of legal and other forms of assistance and programmes for raising the information level.

Deadline for submitting applications is 28 June 2014.

Contact: Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 311 72 72, [www.kirs.gov.rs](http://www.kirs.gov.rs)

### "Donations" Platforms has been Launched

B92 Fund has launched a new online platform Donacije.rs at [www.donacije.rs](http://www.donacije.rs), the aim of which is to connect citizens, donors and non-profit socially responsible projects in Serbia in order to collect donations through the Internet by using credit cards.

Due to the current situation Donacije.rs site is supporting exclusively actions and projects which tackle the consequences of recent devastating floods. Thereafter, Donacije.rs will support projects in the domains of social and health care, inclusion, entrepreneurship of young and marginalized groups, activism, culture and art, ecology and other forms of public engagement and social responsibility.

Contact: B92 Fund, Phone: 011 301 2000, [www.b92.net](http://www.b92.net)  
[www.donacije.rs](http://www.donacije.rs)

### First Plenary Session of the National Convention on the EU

The National Convention on the EU held its first plenary session in the Parliament on June 20, 2014.

The National Convention on the EU is a mechanism facilitating direct cooperation of civil society with state institutions in charge of the negotiations process. The mechanism also facilitates reaching a wider social consensus on Serbia's membership in the EU and the quality of reforms.

The Convention and its working groups will be formulating opinions and recommendations for negotiation positions of the Government and will provide expertise to state bodies involved in the negotiations. The Convention will provide information to the public and media on EU accession negotiations, making the process more open and transparent and bringing it closer to the citizens.

The National Convention on the EU gathers more than 250 organizations and coalitions of civil society from Serbia, which are organized in 21 working groups to monitor the negotiations process and implementation of reforms falling under 35 negotiation chapters.

Source: [www.emins.org](http://www.emins.org)

### Declaration on the Joint Platform of Civil Society for Monitoring the Negotiation Process

The "Declaration on the Joint Platform of Civil Society for Monitoring the Negotiation Process of Serbia's Accession to EU" was presented at a conference which took place on 9 June 2014 in Belgrade. The Declaration is the basis for the actions of civil society organisations in the process of Serbia's EU accession negotiations. It is the result of work of representatives of twenty civil society organizations (CSOs).

The conference was organized by the Centre for European Integrations (CEI) and the Belgrade Open School, with support from the Foundation for Open Society in Serbia. The principles of transparency, openness and accountability, inclusion of all social actors, all capacities of the population and the exchange of information have been emphasized at the conference as the basic principles during the complex negotiations with the EU.

The role of CSOs in the negotiations should be professional and advisory, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia should harmonize the principles for the quality and final results of the negotiations: the speed of integrations, democratic control of government and participation of all stakeholders in the process. More information about the Declaration and its principles can be found at: <http://goo.gl/aLYxvQ>.

For the purpose of bringing the negotiation process closer to the general public, CSOs have launched the initiative "Lets speak about negotiations" (<http://eupregovori.bos.rs/>) relating to the active participation of Civil Society organisations in the process of negotiations with the EU.

Contact: Belgrade Open School, Phone: 011 30 65 800, [www.bos.rs](http://www.bos.rs)

### Public Call for Candidates for JCC

On 1 April 2014, the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy of the Republic of Serbia, published a public call for associations and other civil society organisations (CSOs) to select candidates for the representatives of the Republic of Serbia in the Joint Consultative Committee (EU-Serbia Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee JCC). JCC is a body which consists of representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and representatives of the social partners and civil society in Serbia.

For the first time, this public call allows civil society organisations to directly and publicly nominate and vote for their representatives who will represent the interests of the civil society of Serbia in the JCC in the areas of the rule of law, protection of environment, farming and rural development and socio-economic development. The deadline for the submission of proposals of candidates expired on 15 April 2014. Selection of the proposed candidates is underway.

Contact: Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 311 38 95, [www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs](http://www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs)

### Third Call under the Programme "Support to Civil Society"

EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia published the third in a series of calls for submission of project proposals for disbursement of grants to civil society organisations, within the framework of the national component of the programme "Civil Society Facility." Total available amount for distribution of grants is 2.4 million EUR.

The call covers three topics: fight against corruption, anti-discrimination and support to cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo (this definition is without prejudice to position on status and is in line with the Resolution 1244 of the UN Security and the Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence).

The call expired on 26 May 2014.

Contact: European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, [www.europa.rs](http://www.europa.rs)

## Open Method of Coordination

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit launched the programme of participation of Serbia in the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in education.

Called by the European Commission, Serbia nominated its representatives in the working groups: adult education, modernization of higher education, school development (with focus on teacher training and early school leaving), vocational education, development of transversal skills with focus on ICT and entrepreneurship, digital and online learning.

The topics considered priority at the EU level are crucial for further reform processes of the Republic of Serbia in the field of education and are in line with the Education Development Strategy. Participation in the working groups will enable Serbia to learn about best practices and education policies of EU member states, as a full-fledged member.

The programme is realized under the project Support to Human Capital Development and with support of Tempus office.

Contact: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Phone: 011 3616 489, [www.mpn.gov.rs](http://www.mpn.gov.rs)

## Assessment of Professional Training Effects

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has launched the development of methodology for assessment of impact of professional training of teachers, pre-school teachers and other professionals, at the initiative of the Institute for Assessment of Education Quality and in cooperation with the National Education Council and the Institute for Psychology.

The goal of the initiative is to advance the quality of education by ensuring the quality of professional training programme, through the development of methodology of assessing the effects of the professional training programme on the national and local level in the Republic of Serbia.

This methodological framework will enable a systematic and continued process of monitoring and assessing the effects of professional training, providing relevant information for improving the quality of professional training programmes due for the next accreditation cycle, and an assessment of effects in the course of assessing the work of education institutions.

The methodology should be made public towards the end 2014.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 311 4605, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## Prevention of Early School Leaving in Serbia

UNICEF and the Centre for Education Policy, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development commenced the implementation of the project "Prevention of Early School Leaving in the Republic of Serbia."

The project aims to decrease the dropout rate and early school leaving of children and adolescents through establishing and implementing mechanisms for early detection of children at risk of dropping out, as well as to contribute to the realisation of efficient measures of prevention and intervention by strengthening the capacity of the schools.

The primary target group consists of children at

risk of dropping out from the educational system and their parents. Due to the wide social significance of the project, the Project Board includes representatives of the Ministry, educational institutions, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Republic Bureau for Social Security. The Project Board will take care of the implementation of project goals and its compliance with other initiatives and policies.

The project will be implemented in 10 regular elementary and secondary schools which have been selected through a competition for schools and will continue until October 2016.

Contact: Centre for Education Policy Phone: 011 3230 105, [www.cep.edu.rs](http://www.cep.edu.rs)

## ICT-supported Education

The round table "ICT-supported Education" was organized in May 2014, in Belgrade.

In order to formulate joint platforms and present the Guidelines for Advancing the Role of ICT in Education adopted in 2013, the round table was organized by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the National Education Council, with expert and financial support by the British Council and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

The event highlighted the relevance of high-quality education and new opportunities that ICT provide through interactive approaches, such as professional trainings and e-learning.

Contact: National Education Council Phone: 011 313 09 65, [www.nps.gov.rs](http://www.nps.gov.rs)

## CONFERENCE: Special Educational Needs and Inclusive Education

British Council in Serbia organized the Second Conference on Special Educational Needs and Inclusive Education, on June 14 2014, in Belgrade.

The conference was organised with the aim of emphasizing the importance of inclusive education and adequate training of school teachers for such teaching programmes.

Speakers shared their experiences and practical advice from the UK with teachers and representatives of institutions and organisations from Serbia, involved in the educational process.

Contact: British Council, [www.britishcouncil.rs](http://www.britishcouncil.rs)

## Serbia Becomes Eligible for Erasmus+ and Creative Europe Programmes

On 19 June 2014, the Republic of Serbia officially joined the new program of the European Union for Cooperation – Erasmus+.

The goal of the Programme is to contribute to greater synergy between formal, non-formal and informal learning, and to facilitate links between education institutions and labor force. Studying in EU states will be more accessible to youth from Serbia.

With a total of 14.774 billion EUR for the next seven years, the programme will fund projects which support all levels of education.

Erasmus + continues education programs in which Serbia has participated – Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, the Lifelong Learning Programme

and Youth in Action programme.

On the same day, Serbia joined the Creative Europe programme as a first non-EU country to access this programme.

This programme targets projects of transnational cooperation in culture and creation in 2014-2020 and totals EUR 1.5 billion.

Cultural organizations from Serbia may apply for multi-annual projects tackling multinational cooperation. Serbia may take part in the media sub-program, after its audiovisual laws are harmonized with EU acquis.

Contact: Foundation Tempus – National Tempus Office Serbia, Phone: 011 33 42 430 [www.tempus.ac.rs](http://www.tempus.ac.rs)

## TEMPUS PROJECT: Strengthening Higher Education in the Field of Social Policies and Social Care

SHESPSS project (Strengthening Higher Education for Social Policy Making and Social Services Delivery) aims at the development of higher education in Serbia in the areas of social policy, social work and social education, at all levels of high-school education. The project involves the introduction of new study programs, new courses within existing programs, improving courses and preparation of educational materials.

The coordinator of this three-year project will be the University of Niš, in cooperation with universities in Belgrade, Kragujevac, Novi Sad, partner universities in the EU and institutions of the Republic of Serbia in charge of education and social welfare. The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit will provide support to the implementation of the Tempus project SHESPSS.

Contact: Foundation Tempus – National Tempus Office in Serbia, Phone: 011 33 42 430, [www.tempus.ac.rs](http://www.tempus.ac.rs)

## eTwinning – Portal for Cooperation between Educational Institutions

The Republic of Serbia has joined eTwinning network – Internet portal which enables international cooperation and exchange of methodologies between educational institutions.

The network aims to introduce teachers and students to the school systems of other countries, to enhance knowledge and exchange experiences with more 200,000 currently registered participants from EU and other countries, members of the network.

Some of the activities offered are eTwinning communication with network members, participation in joint projects and attending online seminars and conferences.

The portal can be accessed only by teachers, in order to provide better protection of information. Communication is possible in all languages which are in official use in the member states of this network.

Public segment of the portal can be accessed at: <http://www.etwinning.net>.

## CALENDAR of Important Dates

JUNE	
15	World Food Day
20	World Refugee Day
21	World Peace Day
26	International Day for Support to Victims of Violence and International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
JULY	
11	World Population Day

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The Newsletter was published with support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC