



Government of the  
Republic of Serbia

July 2011

8<sup>th</sup>

## NEWS ON SOCIAL INCLUSION LETTER AND POVERTY REDUCTION



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

PROFESSOR DRAGAN VUKMIROVIĆ, PHD, DIRECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC STATISTICAL OFFICE

### Official Statistics Facing European Challenges

The Republic of Serbia is working on a harmonisation with EU standards, practice, and thus also official statistics intensively.

The most important task of the official statistics is to present a realistic picture of social and economic trends in the country, and to provide reliable data for decision-makers at all levels: from state administration and other institutions to companies. Another important objective recognized by the Republic Statistical Office (RSO), as a key producer, coordinator and disseminator of official statistics, is to bring the statistical information closer to all the citizens.

The Republic Statistical Office is finalizing the preparations for 2011 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings to be conducted in the period 1 – 15 October under the motto: Census is a record for the future and thus it is important that all citizens take part in it! 50,000 interviewers, municipal/town and republic trainers, controllers and supervisors have been engaged to implement the Census in the field.

The first data on the total number of persons, households and dwellings will be announced on 15 November 2011, just 30 days following the end of the exercise. The final results will be published following entry and processing of the census data, successively, in the course of 2012 and 2013.

The results of the forthcoming Census are extremely important not only from the aspect of monitoring the complex demographic and socio-economic phenomena in our society but also in view of international comparisons and monitoring the success of the implementation of strategic objectives adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The RSO faces a number of other challenges: in accordance with the Law on Census of Agriculture, a Census of Agriculture – very important for our country – is to be conducted next year. By way of reminder, the last comprehensive census of this kind was conducted in 1960. The Census of Agriculture will build on the data collected on the Census of Population, and this coordination of activities of the two censuses will ensure substantial savings and enhance usefulness of data of both.

In the meantime, the RSO pursues its regular activities as defined in the Programme of Official Statistics 2011 – 2015 adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

Of the multitude of surveys conducted by RSO, we shall mention but a few of those relevant to the identification of social exclusion, unemployment and poverty and for definition of policies initiated by the Government in order to influence response to these social challenges.

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### IVANA KOVAČEVIĆ, STATE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS Law on Youth Adopted

The International Year of Youth will be remembered in Serbia by the youth getting their law for the first time in history. There are some 1.5 million young people in the Republic of Serbia - 20% relative to the total population of the country. Following the adoption of the 2008 National Strategy for Youth, this Law represents a new step towards creating a sustainable institutional framework for the implementation of youth policy.

The Law on Youth sets down the framework and conditions in support of youth to organise themselves, act socially and develop and fulfil potentials to the benefit of society and their own benefit, defines the structure of the youth sector at the national and the NGO level with a clear division of competencies, rights, responsibilities and obligations depending on the adequate level, affirms the autonomy of youth associations, associations for young people, alliances and umbrella alliances.

The Law provides for the establishment of the Youth Council of the Government of the Republic of Serbia with youth representation in addition to the most relevant and most competent actors in the sector as well as for the possibility of establishment of the same councils at the provincial and local levels. Furthermore, the Law on Youth defines the role of the Youth Office. For the first time, it also clearly establishes public interest in the areas of youth sector at the republic, provincial and local levels.

At the proposal of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Law defines public interest in the areas of youth sector at the level of the Republic: to fund youth programmes and projects related to: motivation of youth and promotion of youth associations, associations for youth and alliances for active participation in social trends and implementation of youth activities and fulfilment of the objectives of the National Strategy for Youth; information, career guidance and counselling, youth self-employment and entrepreneurship;

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### 2011 IPA Agreement Signed

The representatives of the European Union and the Government of Serbia signed on 22 July the agreement on the EUs grant totalling EUR 178.5 million for the implementation of 23 projects within the 2011 National Pre-Accession Instrument.

Signing the agreement, Vincent Degert, Head of EU Delegation to Serbia said that the major part of the funds – EUR 38.6 million would be allocated to the environmental protection projects. The priorities of Serbia on its EU accession path are the rule of law and the reform of public and state administration.

EUR 32.1 million will be allocated to social development and proceeds have also been earmarked for improvement of education, strengthening of the labour market and social inclusion of persons with developmental problems.

The EU has allocated funds to support the Census of Population and Census of Agriculture, as well as to the preparation of state administration for utilization of IPA funds 2014 - 2020.

The total sum of EU donations to Serbia over the past 11 years has amounted to EUR 2.2 billion. Serbia is expecting the opinion of the European Commission on its readiness for candidacy in October, as well as to obtain the candidate status by the end of 2011.

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

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**IVANA KOVAČEVIĆ, STATE SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS**  
**Law on Youth Adopted**

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informal education, active and quality leisure time, nurturing healthy and safe lifestyles, as well as the fulfilment of the needs of youth in the area of culture, volunteering and youth work promotion and capacity building of youth associations; promotion of activities of young people at the local level through support of implementation of local action plans for youth and programmes and projects of local youth offices; research into position and needs of youth; international cooperation and support to young talents through awards, scholarships and advancement of pupils and students.

The Law is aligned with the European Youth Policy and provides for the possibility for establishment of the Agency for Youth with a view to full realization of the EU programmes for youth.

This Law underwent an exceptionally wide, transparent and partner consultative process devised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. In addition to the institutions, associations and experts the key stakeholders in this process were young people. The adoption of this Law, along with the National Strategy for Youth, represents a responsible approach to youth who are no doubt the most valuable resource.

**Database with Municipality  
Social Profiles Established**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has put in place a database with a set of data on population, social welfare beneficiaries, the unemployed and beneficiaries of the lowest pensions. The overview and monitoring of these data provides insight into the social profile of municipalities.

The database integrates data from different sources and provides insight and monitoring of data on social transfers to alleviate the consequences of the economic crisis and poverty. The data may be observed at three levels: at the level of municipality, of administrative district and the whole of Serbia. The database was established using the data for 2010. Monthly updates are planned.

Contact: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  
Tel: 011 3112 916, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

**Online Course on Social Inclusion**

We are inviting you to visit the online course on social inclusion at [www.inkluzijakurs.info](http://www.inkluzijakurs.info). The course is to develop skills and competencies of different stakeholders in the area of social inclusion and thus contribute to a more successful alignment of the institutional framework, policies and practical actions in the area of poverty reduction and social inclusion to the EU standards.

The course was developed by the Development Initiative Group – “SeConS” for the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit. The course is free of charge. It comprises seven modules and targets decision-makers, employees in state administration, representatives of central and local authorities and institutions, NGOs, students, experts and the widest public.

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

**Report on the Status of Regulatory Reforms**

As concluded by NALED, and judging by the number of recommendations implemented, the greatest progress in the implementation of regulatory reforms to date was achieved in the second quarter.

Some of the recommendations – as is the new Company Law - are only partially implemented. The implementation of others is to begin in 2012.

Contact: NALED, Tel: 011 33 47 634  
[www.naled-serbia.org](http://www.naled-serbia.org)

**PROFESSOR DRAGAN VUKMIROVIĆ,  
PHD, DIRECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC STATISTICAL OFFICE**

**Official Statistics Facing European Challenges**

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The Labour Force Survey is one of the key surveys fully aligned with the European statistics, offering a large number of economic indicators of social inclusion. It is conducted twice a year (in April and in October) on the sample of approximately 8,000 households. The basic set includes permanent population or the persons residing on the territory of the Republic of Serbia for one year or longer.

All the unemployment-related surveys conducted since April 2008 show an increase of the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in April 2011 stands at 22.2%, which is a 3 percentage increase relative to the same period 2010 (19.2%). Relative to April 2009 (unemployment rate – 15.6%) the overall increase of this rate is 6.6%. As compared to April 2008, the difference is even more significant – unemployment increased by 8.9 percentage points (it was 13.3%).

In view of the commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, there is also a need to produce data and indicators impossible to obtain in regular statistical surveys. These are the data on living conditions of, primarily, women and children in Serbia, the poor and socially excluded categories of population, Roma...

The fourth Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey on the Situation of Children and Women in Serbia (MICS) was conducted in late 2010. The Republic Statistical Office and UNICEF successfully completed the survey on the national sample of 6,392 households and 1,711 households in Roma settlements.

The first data of the survey show an improvement in many of the observed areas: attendance of the preschool preparatory programmes and schools, development and discipline of children, maternal and infant health, etc. both at the national level and among the inhabitants of Roma settlements. The disparities among the observed categories still exist, but are decreasing.

The crisis in the world and in Serbia has once again underscored the significance of quality data for good policy making. By providing reliable data, we at the Republic Statistical Office try to assist the decision-makers in the Government and at the local level, the NGOs, donors and the EU to monitor the trends in the society and to respond in a timely fashion by adopting better programmes and laws, coordinating activities and prioritizing the issues of social inclusion and poverty reduction in the strategic documents, operational programmes and their budgets.

**Draft Civil Code**

The Commission for Drafting the Civil Code established by the Government of Serbia started codifying property, contractual, family and inheritance legal proceedings with a view to aligning current legislation in the area of civil and legal relations.

The future civil code provides for the possibility of concluding agreements on giving birth for another – surrogate maternity.

The Code will also include a provision on a monthly benefit for the mothers of three children for the third child until his/her coming of age. The Code terms this pay “demographic benefit” and defines it at a minimum of RSD 20,000/month. Mothers with more than three children will not be eligible for this benefit.

The Commission for Drafting the Civil Code has completed the third volume with

380 articles regulating the area of family relations which is to replace the current family Law. The provisions on the relations of parents and children have been aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The provisions related to exercise and cessation of parenting rights were improved and those related to adoption were defined in greater detail. A more precise formulation of support and property relations in the family was offered. The Code proposes the establishment of the alimony fund for the protection of children whose parents avoid paying alimonies.

The draft Civil Code of Serbia will be open to public debate until end this year. Text is available at <http://www.mpravde.gov.rs/lt/articles/zakonodavna-aktivnost/gradjanski-zakonik>

**Unemployment Rate on the Increase**

The unemployment rate in April 2011 was 22.2%: 22.0% and 22.5% among the male and female population respectively. The unemployment rate in Belgrade region totalled 18.9%, in Vojvodina 22.9%, in Šumadija and Western Serbia 22.0%, while in Southern and Eastern Serbia it reached 24.8%.

By level of education, the unemployment rate was the highest among the population with secondary school education – 25.2%, followed by the population with lower levels of education (primary or incomplete primary school) – 19.7%.

As for the age groups, the highest rate of unemployment was recorded among the population aged 15 – 24 – 49.9% (these persons are in education mostly). The following age group with the highest number of unemployed persons - 30.3% - is aged 25 – 34.

The employment rate totalled 36.2%: 43.2% among men and 29.8% among women. The highest employment rate was recorded in the Šumadija and Western Serbia -37.8%, Belgrade – 36.5%, Southern and Eastern Serbia – 35.3%, and the lowest in Vojvodina – 35.0%.

The rate of informal unemployment amounted to 19.9%. Informal unemployment is the share of persons working on the “black market” in the total number of the employed.

Contact: Republic Statistical Office, Tel: 011 2412 922, [www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)



## Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

The first annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion will be held 17–18 October in Krakow to take stock of the progress made in reduction of poverty and social exclusion for minimum 20 million persons by 2020.

The Convention will discuss the implementation of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, as well as recommendations for the future activities. The Convention is organized by the European Commission in cooperation with Poland as the Chair of the EU Council.

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

## EC: Decrease of Food Assistance for the Most Vulnerable

The European Commission announced a decrease in food assistance for the vulnerable Europeans to EUR 113 million in 2012. This is EUR 400 million less than in the past years.

The European programme of assistance to the most vulnerable disposed with approximately EUR 500 million in the recent years. An estimated 43 million inhabitants of EU do not have enough food. All the assistance to be distributed in 2012 will be secured from the existing reserves of EU that have recorded a record low.

The first time food was distributed free of charge to the population in EU was during an extremely cold winter 1986. In December 1987 the EU founded a Programme of Food Distribution to the most vulnerable persons (MDP). The EU had a surplus of agricultural produce at that time, but the reserves dropped after the reform.

The Programme is voluntary and 20 EU Member States have applied for it in 2012.

Contact: European Commission in Serbia,  
Tel: 011 3083 200, [www.europa.rs](http://www.europa.rs)

## The EU Registry of Interested Representatives

The European Commission and the European Parliament launched a joint Internet registry of lobbyists and all other stakeholders seeking to influence European policy making and implementation processes.

All the organisations, be they commercial or professional associations, NGOs or professional organisations will be listed in the registry and responding to the questions about their operation. The European Parliament will make the registration a condition for work in the Parliament. The organisations registered will have to provide all information of number of persons, main proposals and the sums of money they received.

Over the next 12 months data will be entered from the current registries of the Commission and the Parliament. The registry of the Commission was established in 2008 and lists 4,000 organisations.

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

## Competition "Let's Travel to Europe"

The European Movement in Serbia announced a competition "Let's Travel to Europe" for the 70 best students of academic and master studies. The competition was open from May to June 2011. The winners will get Inter-rail tickets with 22 day validity and pocket money for travelling across Europe during the Summer 2011.

The project has been implemented for the 7th consecutive year. To date, 1,100 students travelled through EU with this programme. The project is implemented by the European Movement in Serbia in cooperation with the Robert BOSCH Foundation and the support of the embassies of Austria and Germany in Belgrade.

Contact: Putujemo u Evropu, Tel: 011 36 40 174  
[www.putujemouevropu.org](http://www.putujemouevropu.org)

## Progress Report on National Programme of Integration Adopted

At its session as of 22 July 2011, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a Progress Report on the National Programme of Integration (NPI) in April - June 2011.

According to the findings of the Report developed by the EU Integrations Office, taking into consideration the commitments fulfilled in advance as well as the outstanding commitments, the NPI was realized 110%. This means that all of the 68 planned commitments were implemented in addition to 7 the implementation of which was planned for the next quarter.

In the reporting period, the National Assembly adopted 15 laws included in the NPI.

With respect to the adoption of draft laws and adoption of by-laws planned for the second quarter 2011, the Government reached a 75% success levels as of the planned 68 it adopted 51 regulation – of the 8 planned draft laws, the Government adopted 4 and all the 7 planned by-laws.

From the aspect of regulations to be adopted in the period July 2008 – June 2011, the 82% of NPI is fully executed – 649 of the 795 regulations were adopted.

NPI represents an accurate schedule of fulfilment of all the criteria required for a country to become an EU member state, ranging from

political and economic standards to the most detailed standards of the Union in the sectors of trade, agriculture, environmental protection, and infrastructure.

### Adopted Laws in the Field of Social Inclusion

The National Assembly adopted the following laws in the reporting period relevant to social inclusion: the Company Law, the Law on Sports, the Law on Excise, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Voluntary Pension Funds and Plans, the Law on Capital Market, the Law on the Protection of the Beneficiaries of Financial Services, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Financial Leasing, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Agricultural Census 2011, the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Census of the Population, Households and Apartments 2011 and the Law on Youth.

The objective of the NPI is for the state institutions to monitor the progress made in EU accession process in a transparent and measurable way.

Contact: Government of the Republic of Serbia, Tel: 011 3617 719, [www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)

## Web Page about Social Inclusion Competitions and Projects

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit launched a web page about the social inclusion and poverty reduction-related EU competitions and projects. This page offers information about the current programmes and calls for project proposals, as well as information on the previous EU-financed projects.

The web page is to inform the public and especially the potential beneficiaries about the EU funds, donor and commercial sources

of funding, the projects implemented, ongoing and planned and the calls for project proposals related to social inclusion.

The aim is to enhance coordination of donor activities and build capacities of potential project proponents so as to raise the level of effectiveness of the funds invested into strengthening of social inclusion.

For information see:  
[www.inkluzija.gov.rs/projects](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/projects)

## VAT Exemption on the Implementation of EU-funded Projects

TACSO office has drafted the Guide for VAT exemption on the Implementation of EU-funded Projects offering an overview of regulations related to VAT exemption in all the countries – beneficiaries of IPA including Serbia.

The Guide is available in English. Part of the document will be translated into Serbian.

Contact: TACSO – Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations Serbia Office  
Tel: 011 2129 373 [www.tacso.org](http://www.tacso.org)

## European Support to the Civil Society of Serbia

Information meetings in the organization of the EU Delegation in Serbia, where a new cycle of support for civil society organizations will be presented, will be organized between July 26 and August 8 in Belgrade, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad and Leskovac.

## BOŠ: Evrokrem project

Mingl Webportal for secondary school pupils and the Belgrade Open School are organising a project "Evrokrem". "Evrokrem" is a seminar on the European values in the areas of environmental protection, culture and youth policy for secondary school pupils. The objective of the seminar is to turn the participants into promoters of EU values. The project is supported by the Agency for EU Integrations.  
Contact: Website for secondary school pupils Mingl  
Tel: 011 30 65 830, [www.mingl.rs](http://www.mingl.rs)

## A Linear Increase of EU IPA Required

Božidar Đelić, Deputy Prime Minister for EU Integrations stated at a conference "Transparent Use of EU IPA in Serbia" that a linear increase of EU IPA granted to the countries aspiring to EU membership is required.

This means that the countries should get more funds in the years preceding accession and less upon their accession into the European Union.

The countries which are on their way to the EU have been receiving approximately EUR 200 million/annum. At the same time, Croatia for instance, will receive 10 times as many funds as soon as it becomes a Member.

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

## National Employment Strategy 2020 Adopted

At the proposal of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, the Government of Serbia adopted the National Employment Strategy 2011-2020 defining policies, objectives and priorities in the employment sector.

The main aim of the employment policy is to put in place an efficient, stable and sustainable trend of employment growth by end of 2020 and to align the employment policy and the labour market institutions fully with the EU acquis. The priority in implementation of the strategy is reduction of disparities in indicators between the labour market in Serbia and the EU.

Increase of employment as a strategic priority and the strategic objective of employment growth, especially in the private sector, depend on the increase not only in the number but also in the quality of jobs.

Support to foreign direct investments and the export-oriented programmes are the incentives that require special support aimed at creation of conditions for new job creation.

Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development  
Tel: 011 2855 231, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)

## Social and Economic Council Calls for Sanctions on Irresponsible Employers

The Social and Economic Council decided to propose to the Government of Serbia the changes and amendments of the Law on Criminal Proceedings, that would provide for criminal responsibility of employers who fail to pay salaries to their employees for three months.

Rasim Ljajić, Minister of Labour and Social Policy said that this is only an initiative and that the proposal should be put forward for public discussion to define conditions for introducing this criminal act.  
Contact: Social and Economic Council  
[www.socijalnoekonomskisavet.rs](http://www.socijalnoekonomskisavet.rs)

## MINISTRY OF ECONOMY: Three Public Calls for Disbursement of Funds

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development has published three public calls for distribution of funds.

The first refers to distribution of funds for professional rehabilitation and is granted to companies specialized in professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities. The same companies are eligible also for the second call for funds for business operation and the revolving funds.

The Ministry also published an advertisement for disbursement of grants towards co-funding of initiatives of local governments and accredited regional development agencies for development and implementation of projects at local and regional levels.

Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Tel: 011 2855 231, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)

## Support to Capacity Building of Social Enterprises in Serbia

The European Movement in Serbia launched a publication "Recommendations to Support of Capacity Building of Social Enterprises in Serbia".

The publication offers recommendations for creation of favourable environment for functioning of social economy and the proposals for future legal solutions. It also carries an overview of the sources of funding of social enterprises and conditions for strengthening human resources for this form of entrepreneurship.

The publication is part of the project "Support to EU Integrations through Promotion of Alternative Economy and Social Cohesion in the Republic of Serbia", implemented by the European Movement since 2008 with the support of the International Centre Olaf Palme. The electronic version of the publication is available at the website of the European Movement in Serbia.

Contact: Evropski pokret u Srbiji  
Tel: 011 36 40 174, [www.emins.org](http://www.emins.org)

## Launch of the project „Promotion of Female Entrepreneurship“

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and the UN gender equality and female empowerment agency (UN Woman) started to implement the project "Promotion of Female Entrepreneurship in Serbia".

The project of strengthening support for female entrepreneurship in Serbia is to research the levels of female entrepreneurial activities and analyze the existing measures in support of female entrepreneurship and thus get a picture of the current situation and define recommendations for improvement of the existing and development of the new incentives. The project activities will be implemented by the consultancy agencies Fund for Development of Economic Science and Group for Development Initiative (SeConS), selected in a public call.

The findings will be published in early 2012.  
Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Tel: 011 2855 231, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)

## Employment Promotion Measures

The Government adopted the measures for the promotion of new employment involving benefits for employers who employ new workers.

Employers will not pay contributions for pension and disability insurance and 30% of the calculated income tax for the new employees.

Should an employer employ a person under 30 or over 45, they will not pay income tax and contributions for pension and development insurance.

The Government has provided for the entrepreneurs to pay lower taxes and contributions on income for each newly-employed person.

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

## Project to Improve Business Climate

USD 16.7 million will be invested into development of competitiveness of economy within the "Business Climate Improvement Project" over the next five years.

The project will be implemented by the Serbian EU Integrations Office and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

All the three project components – regulatory reforms in the sector of economy, macroeconomic policy and public finances management and financial market development are to improve competitiveness of economy with a view to successful inclusion thereof into European and international market.

The programme is in line with the new economic growth model of Serbia by 2020 which aims to increase exports and investments into infrastructure and energy, remove regulatory obstacles, restructure the public sector and re-industrialize the country.

Contact: Serbian EU Integrations Office  
Tel: 011 30 61 101, [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## National Plan of Regional Development of Serbia

The draft National Plan of Regional Development of Serbia 2013 – 2023 should be finalized by March 2012. This was concluded at the conference "Utilization of Potential for Development of Regions in Serbia".

As a result of migrations, unemployment and the poor status of infrastructure, disparity between development of Belgrade and Eastern Serbia is 1:10. A balanced regional development of Serbia is supported by the EU, 36% of the budget of which has been earmarked for regional cohesion policy.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development in cooperation with the EU-funded project „Support to Development of Regional Policy at the National level – RegPol“.

Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)

## 148 Persons with Disabilities Engaged on Public Works

Jobs were created for 148 persons with disabilities within three public work projects for persons with disabilities in the area of responsibility of the Belgrade branch of the National Employment Service. They will be engaged on the projects "Digitalization of Data from the Company Register", "Ethno Network" and "Personal Assistant Service as a Support to Independent Life to Persons with Disabilities".

RSD 23 million have been earmarked for the projects. Public works are organized in social, humanitarian, cultural and other activities and the NES approved 112 such projects for persons with disabilities.

This year, the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development earmarked RSD 253 million, and more than 40 % of them were implemented in the underdeveloped municipalities of Majdanpek, Srbobran, Osečina, Mionica, Ljig, Vladičin Han.

Contact: National Employment Service  
Tel: 011 29 29 800, [www.nsz.gov.rs](http://www.nsz.gov.rs)

## AWARDS TO FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS „The Woman for A“

The competition for the woman entrepreneur of the year entitled "The Women for A" is organized by the Opportunity Bank as an incentive to female entrepreneurship. The competition calls on women – owners of small and medium-size companies, self-employed entrepreneurs and women owners of registered farms.

The winners will receive an award of RSD 500,000 to invest into development of their business operations.

This is the second consecutive year that the Opportunity Bank is promoting small female business models. The project is supported by the National Regional Development Agency.

Contact: National Regional Development Agency, Zaječar, Tel: 019 44 53 01  
[www.narr.gov.rs](http://www.narr.gov.rs)



## EU Assistance for 43 Civil Society Organizations

43 civil society organizations will implement EU financial assistance amounting to EUR 4 million.

The funds are disbursed within the two-year project "Support to Civil Society" launched by the EU Delegation to Serbia with a view to supporting the civil sector in the process of Serbia's integration into the EU.

The call was answered by 284 NGOs, cultural foundations, customers' associations, employers' associations, trade unions and other organi-

sations. The value of the selected projects ranges from EUR 50,000 to EUR 150,000 and the implementation timeframe is up to 12 months.

The objectives include building of social cohesion and overcoming discrimination through promotion of tolerance and cultural diversity, ensuring active participation of the civil society in social and economic development.

Contact: EU Delegation to Serbia  
Tel: 011 30 83 200

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

## Code of Ethics Signed by 60 NGOs

Sixty non-government organizations signed a Code of Ethics of Civil Society Organizations setting the common values and principles of operation.

The debate about cooperation, values and the public image of the civil society was organized by Civic Initiatives with the assistance of USAID, ISC and the TACSO project.

Contact: Civic Initiatives,

[www.gradjanske.org](http://www.gradjanske.org)

## Call for submissions of the Canada Fund

The Canadian Embassy published a call for the civil society organizations to submit their project proposals by 15 July 2011 and obtain financial support of the Canadian Fund.

The Canada Fund has been supporting projects enhancing good governance in local institutions, sustainable democratic development and advocacy for human rights of vulnerable groups.

The advantage will be given to projects directly affecting improvement of life of women and enabling them to acquire experience through their engagement on the project. The maximum support per project is CAD 30,000.

Contact: Canada Fund, Embassy

of Canada, Tel: 011 306 3000

[www.canadainternational.gc.ca/serbia-serbie/index.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/serbia-serbie/index.aspx?lang=eng)

## Data on NGOs Supported from State Budget

The Centre for Development of Non-Profit Sector (CRNPS) published a database on all the organizations that received financial assistance from the state budget in the period 2008 -2010 on its website.

The database includes all who received funds by budget items, republic agencies that paid funds against this line as well as amounts of individual assistance over the past three years. NGOs were allocated funds against the budget line 481 "assistance to NGOs".

CRNPS obtained the data from the Treasury Department and published them in order to provide citizens with the insight into the way their money is managed.

The objective is to start a debate on the efficiency, priorities and effect to be achieved through use of public funds.

Contact: Centre for Development of Non-Profit Sector

Tel: 011 32 25 024, [www.crnps.org](http://www.crnps.org)

## Civil Society Engages in Combating Poverty

The conference "Networking of Civil Society Organisations in Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion" was held within the project "Anti Poverty Networking". The key topics of the conference included opportunities for action of associated organisations of the civil society in the area of combating poverty and social exclusion, implementation of solutions identified and the potential of the newly-formed Anti Poverty Network – Serbia.

In cooperation with 11 CSOs, SeConS – Group for Development Initiatives, implementing the project in partnership with the European Anti Poverty Network, established an Anti Poverty Network – Serbia in December 2010.

The procedure of accession to the European Anti Poverty Network has also been initiated.

Contact: Anti Poverty Network, [www.protivsiromastva.net](http://www.protivsiromastva.net)

## Conference on Partnerships

The Balkan Fund for Local Initiatives (BCIF), EU Office for Technical Support to CSO in Serbia (TACSO), Office of the Government of Serbia for Cooperation with the Civil Society, UN Global Response in Serbia and the Forum of Business Leaders in Serbia organized a Conference on Partnerships.

The aim of the conference is to define and promote inter-sectoral partnerships as an important factor of civil society development. The conference set the platform for discussions, exchange of best practices and facing the obstacles to cooperation as well as to present the opportunities for development of inter-sectoral partnerships.

Contact: BCIF, Tel: 011 26 22 511 [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## NATIONAL LOTTERY OF SERBIA: Competition "Dobrota"

The National Lottery of Serbia announced the competition "Dobrota".

The objective is to spur citizens associations at the level of local communities to apply with their projects for intergenerational support in local communities. By supporting civil societies' projects which are aimed at cultural and social revival of local communities through the exchange of experiences, skills and crafts, National Lottery of Serbia wishes to encourage intergenerational cooperation, solidarity and volunteer spirit, which are parts of Serbian culture and tradition...

The maximum amount of donations per project is RSD 400,000. The competition is administered by the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund and the deadline for applications is 22 August 2011.

Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF)

Tel: 011 26 22 511, [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## BCIF: Programme "It Takes Two"

In cooperation with The Skan Foundation and Cooperating Netherlands' Foundation for Central and Eastern Europe (CNF CEE) from The Netherlands, BCIF has launched "It Takes Two" programme. The programme is to encourage civil society organizations to develop and implement Buddy projects in Serbia, as a form of social inclusion for the vulnerable groups, notably the children and the youth with disabilities.

After the training and project development, 10 civil society organizations will be selected, and they will receive financial support in the amount of up to 9,500.00 euros for the implementation of their projects starting 1 August. The deadline for applications closed in June 2011.

Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF)

Tel: 011 26 22 511, [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## ERSTE FOUNDATION: 2011 Social Integration Awards

The awarded projects of three Serbian organisations: "Little Home Community" of the association Half Way There from Pančevo, "Third Age" of the Association for Local Development from Kamenica and "Health Against Poverty" of the Initiative for Sustainable Development "Mostovi",

are among the 30 finalists of the competition for the Award for Social Integration of the ERSTE Foundation.

This is the third time the award is presented to the organisations imple-

menting projects related to social integration.

A total of 1,850 projects from 11 Central and Eastern European countries took part in the competition.

The total fund of the award that will be shared by the finalists is EUR 613,000, while 132 organisations will receive a two-year support in media relations and capacity building workshops.

Contact: ERSTE Foundation

[www.erstestiftung.org](http://www.erstestiftung.org)

[www.integrationaward.org](http://www.integrationaward.org)

## Annual Anti-discrimination Awards

The Coalition against Discrimination presented the 2010 Anti-Discrimination Awards. An award was presented to the Institution for Accommodation of Adults "Little Bees" for exceptional contribution in the category "public authority".

Among the civil society organizations, the NGO "Out of the Circle" was awarded. The Film Festival "Free Zone" was awarded in the domain of the media, and Metro Cash & Carry Belgrade in the business sector. In the category of celebrities, the winner was Dragoljub Raša Teodosijević.

The Anti-Discrimination Award is presented for exceptional efforts in combating discrimination of minority and marginalised groups.

The members of the Coalition against Discrimination are: Centre for Advancement of Legal Studies, Civil Rights Defenders, Labris, Network of Councils for Human Rights, Association of Students with Handicap, Gayten LGBT, PRAXIS and the Regional Minority Centre.

Contact: Coalition against Discrimination, [www.stopdiskriminaciji.org](http://www.stopdiskriminaciji.org)

## “Evidence Based Policy Making in Education” Cluster of Knowledge

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with partners from the region, held the first meeting within the Joint Cluster of Knowledge entitled “Evidence-based Policy Making in Education” on June 17-17, 2011.

The cluster was launched with the idea that Serbia, together with countries from the region and partner organizations, enhance mechanisms of regional cooperation in the fields which may contribute to the following goals: enhance communication and cooperation between the research community and policy-makers; identify mechanisms for a better utilization of research findings by decision-makers; advance research practice in education policy creation; map and launch analyses relevant for education policy development; a more efficient utilization of EU mechanisms and funds for enhancing evidence-based policy making in education.

The Cluster should play an important role in harmonizing initiatives with the new frameworks set by the ET 2020, EU 2020 and VET initiatives.

The meeting gathered the representatives of ministries in charge of education and science from the countries in the region, the representatives of the research community and international organizations and non-government organizations, who used this opportunity to decide on the priorities and the operational concept of the Cluster.

The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe and the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council.

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

## PISA Pilot Testing

About a thousand first-grade students from fifty secondary schools from all regions took part in a pilot testing in the framework of PISA Project in mathematics.

Data from PISA research are needed to establish the quality, fairness and efficiency of the education system, as well as to explore to what extent the changes in education and social context could affect the quality of outcomes.

Based on the test results, the quality and the level of math problems is assessed in order to select the best assignments for the main testing next year.

PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) is an international project that will cover 76 countries around the world by the year 2012.

Contact: PISA Serbia, Tel: 011 21 85 301  
[www.pisaserbia.org](http://www.pisaserbia.org)

## New UN Mechanisms to Eliminate Discrimination against Women in Law and Legislative Practice

More than 15 years after governments' commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action, the UN Human Rights Council has established a new working group for a period of three years on the issue of discrimination against women in laws and practice.

Kamala Chandrakirana, former Secretary General of the National Commission on Violence against Women in Indonesia, was appointed the chair of the working group and will work together with four other members to identify and eliminate laws that discriminate against women. Despite progress in legislation, the discriminatory legislation still exists in most parts of the world.

In Europe, the laws that regulate the transmission of family names, discrimination with regard to unequal access to artificial reproductive technologies and even discrimination in

taxation are present. The biggest problem is the fact that even the social security systems are just examples that illustrate gender-biased legislation.

Identifying and eliminating the laws that discriminate on the basis of sex negatively affecting women is a precondition for achieving equality between women and men.

The working group has been tasked by the UN to map out the information that is available and relevant to combat discrimination against women.

The goal of the newly-created group is to contribute, together with UN Women, to the UN playing a stronger role in working towards the realization of women's rights and equality between women and men in practice.

Source: <http://www.womenlobby.org/spip.php?article1901&lang=en>

## Scholarships for 200 Young Researchers

Ministry of Education and Science will grant one-year scholarships to 200 post-graduate students at the amount of CSD 32,000 per month.

The Ministry aims to support the reform and modernization of the scientific and research system. Ministry of Education and Science is obliged to regularly pay scholarships, while PhD students are obliged to indicate in public appearances who is funding them.

Funds from the scholarship are intended for scientific-research work, and the Ministry will make it possible for them to travel abroad to professional conferences once a year and provide them with financial assistance to publish papers in professional journals.

There is a possibility that one-year scholarship contracts be extended to four years.

Over the past three years, Ministry of Education and Science has provided scholarships to 500 students.

Contact: Ministry of Education and Science  
Tel: 011 36 16 489, [www.mp.gov.rs](http://www.mp.gov.rs)

## Gender and Security Newsletter

Belgrade Center for Security Policy has published the first issue of the Gender and Security Newsletter. The newsletter will be published monthly in Serbian language.

The Newsletter will be available on the following web sites [www.ccmr-bg.org](http://www.ccmr-bg.org) and [www.bezbednost.org](http://www.bezbednost.org).

Contact: Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCBP)  
Tel: 01132 87 226, [www.ccmr-bg.org](http://www.ccmr-bg.org)

## Violence against Women Costs Serbia Nearly Six Million Euros

The minimum budget costs of violence against women, which include the costs of police employees, judicial system, social and health care system in the year 2009 amounted from 2, 2 to 5, 7 million Euros. The data result from the analysis made by the Autonomous Women's Center.

It is estimated that the real costs of domestic violence are considerably greater because they also include the immeasurable and hidden costs – loss of economic profit, pain and suffering costs, impaired health and so on.

Thus the estimated costs of violence against women for the whole society in the year 2009 amounted to between 16, 8 and 43, 9 million Euros.

Contact: Autonomous Women's Center  
Tel: 011 2645 328, [www.womenngo.org.rs](http://www.womenngo.org.rs)

## ASTRA Published the Report on Human Trafficking in the Previous Decade

Non-governmental organization ASTRA has presented its “Report on Trafficking in Persons in Serbia for the period 2000–2010”. The report contains information on the activities of Astra SOS teleTel, a map of the victims' background and maps of trafficking in persons routes through Serbia and Europe.

It provides an overview of research results on public opinion regarding the perception of trafficking in persons issue and the report on SerbAz case of labor exploitation, as a presentation of active entities in the combat against human trafficking.

It also includes the report on revealed cases of trafficking in persons and the activities undertaken by the police and social welfare centers in 2010 in the cities where the organizations – members of Astra network - operate.

In addition to the general, the report also includes the specific recommendations pertaining to legislation, prevention and protection of victims of trafficking in persons.

As of March 2002, Astra SOS teleTel line,

the only line specialized in trafficking in persons, received more than 13, 000 calls and identified and/or took care of 360 victims of human trafficking, mostly girls who were exposed to sexual exploitation.

Children make up 38% of all victims to whom ASTRA has provided assistance.

Contact: ASTRA, Tel: 011 33 47 817  
[www.astra.org.rs](http://www.astra.org.rs)

## Case Law

In cooperation with the company Paragraf, ASTRA has dealt with the case law regarding the criminal offense of trafficking in people. The case law, which includes the processing of a part of the final verdict regarding the criminal offense of trafficking in persons, is available to the users of the legal database Paragraf Lexa. This project is a part of the program “Promotion of Rights of Trafficking in Persons Victims in Serbia focusing on legal aid – human rights-based approach “funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs within MATRA Program for European Cooperation.



## MICS4 RESEARCH: Improved Status of Children, Women and the Roma

Preliminary research results of the multiple indicators of the state and status of children and women in Serbia (MICS4) indicate a visible progress at the national level and among the Roma in Roma settlements, but also point to the disparities and the need to introduce measures specifically aimed at the most vulnerable and socially excluded children.

Mortality of children in Roma settlements has been halved compared to the period of five years ago. This is huge progress, but it is still two times higher than the national average (7% among general population compared to 14% in Roma settlements when it comes to infants). The coverage of check-ups of women during pregnancy has improved,

with a high rate of deliveries in health facilities for women aged 15 to 49 years.

Only eight percent of Roma children attend preschool programs, but the number of children attending first grade has increased by 25 percents in the last five years. Two thirds of children aged 2 to 14 years experienced some form of psychological aggression or physical violence, mostly among children from Roma settlements.

The research was conducted in the year 2010 on the national sample of 6,800 households and 1,800 households in Roma settlements. The research was carried out by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF. Contact: UNICEF, Tel: 011 36 02 100 MICS, <http://www.childinfo.org>

## Roma Social Inclusion Seminar

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the European Commission organized a seminar on social inclusion of Roma population. The seminar covered the key issues on improving the status of the Roma that have already been recognized in the current Strategy for Improving the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia and the accompanying action plans, as well as the budgets of the competent institutions in the Republic of Serbia. In addition, both the priorities and the challenges for advancing the social inclusion of the Roma, as well as the opportunities for sharing in the costs of implementation of the activities have been discussed at the meeting.

The issue of improving the status of the Roma is also discussed in the documents of the European Commission and European Parliament, as well as international organizations such as the Council of Europe.

The event was also attended by the representatives of the National Assembly, the Government, Roma National Minority Council, civil society organizations, and international organizations, as well as Pierre Mirel, Director of the Directorate C at the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission.

Presentations are available at [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## Scholarships for Roma High School and University Students

Open Society Institute and Fund for an Open Society, in the framework of the Health Program and in cooperation with the Scholarship Program of the Roma Education Fund, launched the Program of financing Roma education in the field of health (Roma Health Scholarship Program). The Program is intended for the members of the Roma minority who are finishing the 8th grade of primary school and want to enroll in secondary schools of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and other health-related schools. It is also intended for secondary school students gaining education in both private and public secondary schools and for university students studying in accordance with the Bologna principle in private and public accredited schools and universities in the field of medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and other health-related areas. Contact: Fund for an Open Society, Tel: 011 30 25 800, [www.fosserbia.org](http://www.fosserbia.org)

## Report on the Management of Internally Displaced Roma Population

Secretariat of Health of the Belgrade City Administration submitted a report on the activities directed at management of the internally displaced population conducted in order to achieve the goal of the City of Belgrade to improve the health of Roma IDPs by means of the more accessible health care.

Health care workers teams from Dom Zdravlja/Health Center (Rakovica, Mladenovac, Zemun, Barajevo, Čukarica and Obrenovac) visit Roma settlements on monthly basis, and out of 470 inhabitants of the newly formed settlements 440 of them have obtained health cards.

All children underwent medical check-ups in order to enter preparatory preschool pro-

gram, and pediatricians from Dom Zdravlja constantly work on vaccination of all Roma children. Workshops are held to stimulate health education and raise awareness about health, as well as to raise the hygiene, sanitary and spatial living conditions to a higher level.

Cooperation with the Office of the World Health Organization in Belgrade is achieved through the continued support and joint activities. The City of Belgrade supported SWIFT Center – Sustainable Waste Management Initiative for a Healthier Tomorrow – whose employees received free of charge medical check-ups.

Contact: Belgrade City Administration Secretariat of Health, Tel: 011 715 7479

## Studies for Preschool Teachers in the Romani Language

Preschool Teacher Training College "Mihailo Palov" in Vršac, where instruction is also held in the Romany language, defined requirements to enroll students in the first year of study for the academic year 2011/2012.

The Department of vocational preschool teachers admits 10 students, while the Department of crèches teacher admits 5 students. All 15 are financed from the state budget.

Contact: Preschool Teacher Training College "Mihailo Palov", Tel: 013 83 25 17, [www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs](http://www.uskolavrsac.edu.rs)

## Roma Education Fund Awards Scholarships

Roma Education Funds began the fifth year of Education Scholarship Program. Scholarships are awarded based on the educational outcomes for one academic year, with the possibility of an extension under the condition of fulfilling Program criteria.

The aim of the scholarship is to promote academic mobility of Roma students and support their academic integration at international level.

Contact: Roma Education Fund [www.romaeducationfund.hu](http://www.romaeducationfund.hu)

## Easier Subsequent Entry into the Birth Registry

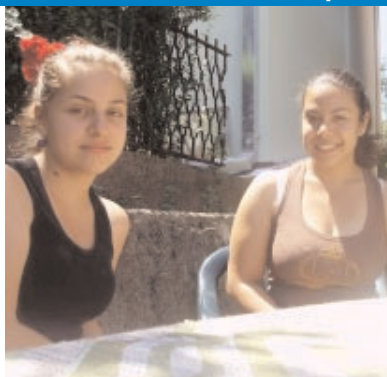
Members of the Roma minority no longer have to pay the application fee for subsequent registration of birth in the birth register.

Amendments to the Law on Republic Administrative Fees abolish the payment of application fee for subsequent registration in birth register. This meets the requirements from the Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in Serbia and the Action Plan for implementation of strategies for improvement of Roma status referring to subsequent birth registration.

## FOTO BECT

With the help of their parents, Marija Vesić and Jovana Jovanović from the settlement Bair in Valjevo have applied to obtain monthly scholarships that the city of Valjevo will be awarding as of next year to both high school and university students. The two of them have finished primary school „Sestre Ilić” and now hope to enroll in the School of Economics– Marija wants to enroll in the course for tourist guides, because she is doing well in English and French, while Jovana wants to go to school for economic technicians.

While Marija was in primary school, she was an excellent student and hopes to continue with high grades in new school, as well, while Jovana inquires with senior students, her brother and cousin, about the new experience in secondary school.



## Scholarship – An Opportunity for a Dream to Come True

About 200 Roma children attend primary school in Valjevo, about 50 attend secondary school, while the exact number of university students is not known.

Valjevo will provide funds for monthly stipends in the amount of 2,500 and 5,000 dinars from the municipal budget for the upcoming academic year for high school and university Roma students in accordance with the recommendations of the Local Action Plan for Roma Education. The plan is to set aside for that purpose from the budget about million dinars, and by the year 2015 the funds for scholarships will increase every year. The criterion is primarily the educational outcome of high school and university students, while the control condition is the financial status of parents.

Contact: City of Valjevo, [www.valjevo.rs](http://www.valjevo.rs)

## Competition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

CIP – Center for Interactive Pedagogy included primary schools and preschool institutions in the project “Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Education and Employment of Disabled Persons– Phase Two“ (“MIDWAY phase two“). CIP invited them to apply to obtain support to remove or reduce physical, social or communication barriers to child’s full access to education.

This organization supports inclusive education teams from five educational institutions from Belgrade with thirty thousand dinars. With this money schools and preschool institutions can purchase teaching resources to meet the needs of a child, some of the alternative means of communication, assistive technologies etc. Contact: CIP – Center for Interactive Pedagogy Tel: 011 32 23 909, [www.cip.org.rs](http://www.cip.org.rs)

## “Raise the Ramp“ Initiative

Association of citizens “Serbia on the Move“ launched the initiative “Raise the Ramp!“, aimed at involving the inhabitants of Belgrade in resolving the complex issue of inaccessible environment by removing architectural barriers in inaccessible facilities, that is to say by raising the ramp.

The Accessibility Team was formed and it will assist students and parents to remove barriers for persons with disabilities, for parents with children, elderly population, children, temporary disabled persons...

Six different inaccessible facilities were found: kindergartens “Plavi Čuperak, Dr Nenad Parenta, Lepirić, Dambo, Bubamara and the building of Poštanska Štedionica (Postal Savings

Bank) in Novi Beograd.

In cooperation with the teams of citizens and by August 15, the students of the Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesic School and Polytechnics Belgrade will develop preliminary designs and define the strategy to carry them out in practice with November 1, 2011 inclusive.

The project is supported by the Fund for an Open Society, and the call was sent to all companies and sponsors to donate and become a part of the initiative and support continuation of the development of this initiative.

Contact: Association of Citizens „Serbia on the Move“, <http://srbijapokretu.org>

## Regional Competition: Liceulice “Action!”

The activism platform opened a regional competition “Action!” for the best video/short film produced with cheap technologies in the field of discrimination and the position of marginalized groups for candidates residing in BiH, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia.

Authors should send their work made by mobile phones or amateur cameras no longer than 5 minutes. The award for the author/group of authors is a video camera, and a group of authors of

the most interesting works will take part in a film-making workshop.

The most successful works will be presented in the Liceulice magazine and webpage, and will be screened in different towns in the region.

The submission deadline is July 30, 2011. The decision on the awarded authors will be made by August 15, 2011.

Contact: SMART kolektiv (for the Action! – Liceulice), Tel. 011 2440 096, [smartkolektiv.org](http://smartkolektiv.org)

## Connecting Academics to Distance Learning

University of Belgrade will receive the most advanced communications equipment worth 35,000 Euros that will improve the quality of teaching. University of Belgrade will receive “Siemens Open- Scape UC” equipment from the company NES Communications that will allow students to follow lectures and presentations from any location and discuss with professors and colleagues, as well as networking of all the

faculties of this University and their connecting with other universities in Serbia and abroad.

The platform supports video conferencing, Web collaboration, Internet access and voice communication by mobile phones, without GSM and roaming costs.

The project is open to all other faculties and institutes of the University of Belgrade.

Source: [www.najstudent.com](http://www.najstudent.com)

## PUBLIC CALL OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY Support to Projects for Promotion of Information Society

At the session held on June 9, 2011, the Government adopted the Program on the manner and conditions of the use of funds aimed at supporting the projects of promotion and popularization of electronic communications and information society with an aim to contribute to the implementation of identified strategic priorities in these areas.

Development of the information society should be directed towards using the ICT potentials to increase the work efficiency, economic

growth, better employability and raise the quality of life of all citizens of the Republic of Serbia. The maximum amount of support for the selected project under this public call amounts to up to five million dinars. The total funds that will be allocated based on this public call for all selected project will amount to the maximum of 10 million dinars.

The deadline for application was July 5, 2011. Contact: Digitalna agenda, Tel: 011 20 200 57 [www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs](http://www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs)

## Application for New Electronic Services of the Tax Administration

Tax Administration conducts the action of recording taxpayers in order to create conditions for a taxpayer to operate electronically with the Tax Administration through TLT whom it authorizes (T – tax attorney, L – legal representative, T – tax advisor). In the first phase, the Tax Administration will allow registration of VAT taxpayers only.

By submitting the application of the taxpayer, the Tax Administration will make the registration of the taxpayer for e-business, thus the tax-

payer through authorized persons acquires the right to carry out a certain number of tax and legal affairs for which the Tax Administration will provide electronic services.

In this stage and as of June 1, VAT payers may submit VAT tax returns electronically, and the electronic service for filing tax returns for annual personal income tax is also provided.

Contact: Tax Administration, Tel: 11 39 50 585, [www.poreskauprava.gov.rs](http://www.poreskauprava.gov.rs)

## CALENDAR of Important Dates

### AUGUST

- 07 Transgender International Rights and Education Day
- 09 International Day for the Poor
- 12 International Youth Day
- 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 29 International Day of the Disappeared

### SEPTEMBER

- 01 Deaf Day
- 08 International Literacy Day
- 25 World Heart Day
- 26 World Contraception Day

## Sixth Issue of the “Liceulice“

A new issue of “Liceulice“ was published and it continues to explore other areas of activism in society, art, sports, everyday life. The sixth issue of “Liceulice“ investigates the perspectives of young people, while the education is the fundamental theme.

The Editorial Board made it possible to subscribe to the magazine.

Contact: “Liceulice“, Tel: 011 24 40 096 [www.liceulice.org](http://www.liceulice.org)

## Guide for Implementing the Law on Endowments and Foundations

Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) in cooperation with the Business Registers Agency published the Guide for Implementing the Law on Endowments and Foundations.

The Guide was made with an aim to assist endowments and foundations to adjust their work to the new legal regulative.

The registration of new endowments and foundations and adjusting of the old endowments and foundations with the new regulations started on March 1, 2011 and it will last for one year.

The new Law on Endowments and Foundations was adopted in November 2010.

Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF), Tel: 011 26 22 511, [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## Republic Senior Info Center is Open

The Republic Senior Info Center was open in Belgrade with an aim to provide information from a variety of important areas of life of elderly fellow citizens. The Republic Info Center will address the preparation of future beneficiaries for admission to social welfare institutions, and assist the elderly in realization of the rights in the field of social policy. In Serbia there is approximately 1.2 million citizens aged over 65 years, which makes 17.4 percent of the total population and places it among the states with the oldest population.

Contact: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Tel: 011 3112 916, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

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