



Government of the  
Republic of Serbia

October 2011

# 9<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.*

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SLAVICA ĐUKIĆ-DEJANOVIĆ, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

## From Poverty to Sustainability: People in the Centre of Inclusive Growth

October 17 is the international day of fight against poverty. The number of the poor in Serbia has increased as a consequence of the three-year global economic crisis. The data indicate that, for example, more than 9% of our population entered the category of the poor in 2010 are very unsettling and require that all societal factors should unite to provide support and solidarity to all our citizens that need social assistance.

The National Assembly, in a national consensus which – when it comes to poverty reduction and inclusion of vulnerable population in social processes – has a role underscoring that people are in our focus. All the adopted antidiscrimination laws which improve the status of marginalized population enter the anti-poverty body of legislation, because marginalized groups constitute the segment of our population most susceptible to poverty.

The definition of the European Union stipulates that social inclusion is a process which provides everyone who is prevented from participating in social relations and processes with their full capacity due to their poverty, lack of knowledge or discrimination, with opportunities and funds necessary for participating in economic, social and cultural life and achieving living standards considered nor-

mal in society. Personally, I believe deeply that social inclusion is a key to fighting poverty.

Social inclusion grants us opportunities for work, studying, health care, being respected and open for differences – allowing everyone to take equal part in decision-making, contribute to the development and wellbeing of their community. Social inclusion is a fundamental human right, to be equal and be given a chance for decent life, irrespective of who we are or where we come from. Social inclusion is our right to strive for the better and create a life we want for ourselves and others.

The Law on Social Welfare, adopted in March 2011, the Law on Employment of Persons with Disabilities, the Law on the Fundamentals of the Education System, in the segment relating to inclusive education – these are all specific indications that the National Assembly undertakes the measures in its mandate. However, in addition to the National Assembly, every segment of our society has its share of responsibility and its role in overcoming the issues of poverty and social exclusion. More than is the case with any other societal change, poverty reduction requires civic dialogue and cooperation, so that people may be in the center of inclusive growth.

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PROF. JURIJ BAJEC, PHD – ADVISOR TO SERBIAN PRIME MINISTER

## Social Market Economy: Higher Economic Efficiency and Improved Equality (Equity) of Distribution

One of the key commitments of the Serbian Government is to ensure the establishment and solid functioning of the social market economy, where the higher economic efficiency, founded upon the market economy principles, is closely related to the achievement of key development objectives: full employment, reduced gaps in income distribution, as well as social inclusion and poverty reduction of the population as an inseparable part of the integral development strategy.

Prior to the global economic crisis, Serbia had decent economic growth and managed to gradually decrease the number of poor people in the urban and rural areas, in various regions and regardless of the type of household or age of the individuals.

Although the effects of the crisis in Serbia were severe, the Government succeeded in mitigating the negative consequences and the gross domestic product decreased only in 2009. However, even though efforts intensified in the entire social policy sphere, the deterioration of the living standard, unemployment growth and poverty increase could not have been avoided.

The state of affairs has slowly begun to look up in 2011. According to some estimates, the real growth of GDP will be 2%, wages and pensions (expressed in EUR) have increased compared to 2010, while the preliminary data of the Republic Statistical Office indicate that the number of poverty stricken individuals has not increased compared to last year.

Unfortunately, the number of unemployed persons is still rising despite a set of stimulation measures taken by the Government. The continuation of the poverty reduction efforts is directly related to the creation of new jobs. This will reduce the number of socially disadvantaged persons and allow the state to generate additional tax-related revenues for funding the social inclusion and poverty reduction programmes. Therefore, Serbia's priority mission is to attract foreign direct investments and mobilise domestic savings for investment in the fields considered as national development potentials, which could open the possibilities for new jobs.

In the times when there is an indication of imminent new wave of global crisis and when investors seem to add extra caution to the game, the fact that Serbia has prepared to withstand a possible crisis blow to its economy is vitally important. On the one hand, macroeconomic stability has been ensured, which is highly significant in the times when the world is dominated by the crisis of large public debts. On the other hand, the precautionary arrangement with IMF and a package of reform legislation, as part of the European integration agenda, has sent a positive signal to the investors that Serbia is a good and safe place to invest and that it is in the right track of establishing a functional social market economy, wherein new values are added, new jobs are created and a realistic material basis for social integration and poverty reduction is ensured more efficiently.

## Commemorating October 17, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty will in Serbia be commemorated by a public hearing in the National Assembly entitled "From Poverty to Sustainability: People in the Center of Inclusive Growth", on October 19, 2011. On this occasion, the overview of the status of social inclusion and poverty trends in Serbia will be presented, as well as the roles of the participants in the eradication of poverty.

As for Europe, this day will be commemorated in Krakow at the First Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, in the organization of the European Union, presided by Poland. The experiences of the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 will be linked with the results achieved in 2011 and further objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy.

The data of the Household Budget Survey 2010 indicate that 9.2% of Serbian population lived below the absolute poverty line in 2010 and/or households whose consumption totaled below RSD 8,544 per

consumption unit. Poverty was reduced between 2006 and 2008, yet it increased in 2009 in relation to 2008 by 0.8 percent (6.9%); in 2010 this rate raised by 2.3% in comparison to 2009. Preliminary data of the Republic Statistical Office indicate that the growth in the number of poor population was halted in the first half 2011.

According to the data of the European Statistical Office – Eurostat, a total of 16.3% population was at risk of poverty, whereas the unemployed constitute the most vulnerable population – some 45.3% EU citizens. The risk for the unemployed is highest in Germany (62%), followed by Estonia, Bulgaria and Great Britain.

At least every fifth citizen of Latvia, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Greece, Estonia and Spain is exposed to risk of poverty, and the lowest number of vulnerable population is in Czech Republic (8.6%), Slovakia (11%) and the Netherlands (11.2%). Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, tel: 011 311 4605, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## On Social Inclusion Priorities

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration has launched an initiative with a view to opening a discussion on the priorities in the fields of social inclusion and poverty reduction. The discussion will take the form of national debates among institutions at the national and local levels, civil society organisations, expert and academic communities, business communities, trade unions and other stakeholders.

The first of five national debates, titled "Economic Development and Employment – Post-Crisis Opportunities and Challenges", was held in Novi Pazar in June 2011.

The idea behind the national debates is to promote information, contribute to exchange of good experiences and practices and identify the solutions targeting the priorities significant for the promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction.

The next four debates will include the issues of competitiveness, rural development, education and social protection. The national debates are organised in a joint effort by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence and Civic Initiatives.

Contact: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration – Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## Additional 1,000 Roma Interviewers in the Census

In addition to roughly 50,000 interviewers and instructors, about a thousand Roma interviewers are involved in the Population Census. They facilitate the communication between the citizens and interviewers in the Roma settlements, if needed.

The Census, scheduled in the period of 1–15 October this year, introduces certain innovations in comparison with the previous Census of 2002, namely: it will provide the data on the number of common-law marriages, mean age of child-bearing women; also a set of census questionnaires has been prepared in the languages of national minorities, so as to allow all citizens to read the questions in their mother tongue, including an English version.

In addition to these, it has also introduced changes with regard to the rules as to who will be considered an inhabitant of Serbia. In accordance with international standards, for instance, students living abroad and rarely returning to Serbia will not be included in the population of Serbia, whereas the citizens of, for example, Montenegro or Bosnia who study in Serbia will be considered as inhabitants of Serbia.

Contact: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, tel.: 011 24 12 922  
[www.popis2011.stat.rs](http://www.popis2011.stat.rs)

## Average Life Expectancy at Birth in Serbia 73.7 Years

As the Serbian Ministry of Finance stated in its 2010 Report on the Development of Serbia, average life expectancy at birth in Serbia was 73.7 years. In 2009, average life expectancy at birth of women in the EU was 81.7 years, whereas that of men was 75.5 years, which was 5.3 and 4.6 years longer than in Serbia, respectively.

After a period of stagnation in the late 1990s, average life expectancy at birth in Serbia has been on a constant rise, while the sex ratio in the total population is 1.06 women to one man.

Contact: Ministry of Finance, tel.: 011 36 14 007, [www.mfin.gov.rs](http://www.mfin.gov.rs)

## Serbian Government Adopts the Industrial Development Strategy and Policy 2011–2020

The Government of Serbia has adopted the Industrial Development Strategy and Policy 2011–2020. The Strategy foresees revitalisation and rehabilitation, restructuring and reengineering, modernisation of export-oriented fields and the development of competitiveness of the Serbian industry.

The strategy particularly stresses the development of three sectors – automobile and components industry, electronics and information technology, while emphasising the attraction of direct investments as a crucial development factor.

The Strategy stipulates that the fundamental objective of the new export-oriented growth model is to reach a 47.1% share of export in the gross domestic product by 2020. The projected total export of goods in 2020 would be EUR 24.8 billion (an EUR 18.8 billion increase compared to 2009).

The cumulative net inflow of foreign direct investments by 2020 should be approx. EUR 22.7 billion.

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

## Projects Selected within the Implementation of the Strategy for Advancing the Status of the Roma

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government – Department for Human and Minority Rights announced, in August 2011, a call for project proposals for realising the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Advancing the Status of the Roma.

The Action Plan specified that the Ministry should provide legal assistance for entry in the Birth Register to the Roma national minority members who previously failed to register. For implementation of this measure, the Department for Human and Minority Rights allocated RSD 10,000,000.

The organisations whose projects have been selected to be funded with about RSD 5,000,000 are: Minority Rights Centre (Belgrade), Committee for Human Rights (Leskovac), Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre, Association of Roma Persons from Braničevski County, Roma Educational Centre (Subotica), Association of Roma Intellectuals (Vladičin Han), Lutajuća srca (Ruma) and Zajedno – Zajedno (Belgrade). The selected projects include organisation of campaigns and work on the ground in the Roma settlements aimed at informing the Roma of the way they can exercise their right to be entered in the Birth Register, as well as the provision of professional assistance in the registration procedures.

Contact: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government  
Tel.: 011 21 429 74, [www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs](http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs)

## On-line Course on Social Inclusion

We are kindly inviting you to visit the on-line course on social inclusion at [www.inkluzijakurs.info](http://www.inkluzijakurs.info).

The course is aimed at enabling the development of knowledge and competences of various stakeholders on social inclusion, thus contributing to a more successful harmonisation of the institutional framework, policies and practical work in the area of poverty reduction and social inclusion with the EU standards. The course comprises seven modules and it is intended for decision-makers, civil servants, representatives of governments and institutions, non-governmental organisations, students, professional communities and the widest interested public.

The course has been developed by the "SeConS" Development Initiative Group for the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit. Participation in the course is free.

By October 2011, the course was taken by 369 persons.  
Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit  
Tel.: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## UNICEF: Helping Children in Africa

UNICEF Serbia has published a call for donations for supporting African children, primarily in Somalia – where famine has been officially declared, Kenya and Ethiopia. UNICEF has opened an account for donations with Komercijalna banka, and it is also possible to donate by sending text messages to the number 9009.  
Contact: UNICEF, Office in Serbia, tel.: 011 36 02 100  
[www.unicef.org/serbia](http://www.unicef.org/serbia)



## EC Adopts EU Budget Proposal

The European Commission has stated its position regarding the EU finances for the period of 2014–2020 in the draft Multiannual Financial Framework.

Changes have been proposed in the fields of research, cohesion, agriculture and external action instruments. The Connecting Europe Facility is intended for financing cross-border projects in the field of energy, transport and information technologies throughout Europe.

As regards the future financing of the EU Budget, the Commission has proposed the use of new solutions, insisted on further simplification and presented a new system of own resources.

The total budget proposed for the next seven years is EUR 1,025 billion in commitments, which is 1.05% of the EU's gross domestic product, and EUR 972.2 billion in payments.

## Guide to Active Ageing Projects

The Committee of the Regions, AGE Platform Europe and the European Commission have published a brochure with information on the possibility of EU to finance, in 2012 and onwards, the regional and local initiatives promoting active ageing and enhancing solidarity between generations.

The brochure should contribute to the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations by giving an overview of available resources.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7005&langId=en>

## 35% of EU's Population Insufficiently Literate

According to the PISA survey, published in December 2010, more than 20% of adolescents and 15% of adults in the EU have not mastered the basics of reading and writing, which puts them at risk of social exclusion. The objective of the EU is to reduce the share of insufficiently literate students under 15% by year 2020.

The highest rate of insufficiently literate youth in the EU in 2009 was recorded in Bulgaria – as high as 41%, whereas it was the lowest in Finland – 8.1%. Among the EU accession candidate countries, the lowest rate was in Iceland – 16.8%, while in Croatia it was 22.5% and in Turkey 24.5%. Difficulties in reading and writing are experienced by 18% of youth in the USA, 14% in Japan, 10% in Canada and only 6% in South Korea.

In Serbia, the rate of insufficiently literate students in the field of reading is 33%, more than 34% in science and as high as 40% in the field of mathematical literacy.

Contact: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

## “Open Door” for the Civil Society

The City of Belgrade Agency for European Integration and Cooperation with Associations organises consultation meetings with the civil sector representatives, under the title Open Door.

The idea behind the Open Door is to prepare and inform the associations about the conditions, rules and the documentation required for applying for funds in the competitions announced by the City Administration units, metropolitan municipalities and other donors. Contact: City Administration – Agency for European Integration and Cooperation with Associations, tel.: 011 715 73 61, [www.beograd.rs](http://www.beograd.rs)

## European Youth Parliament

In August, the European Youth Parliament Serbia (founded in 2006), in cooperation with the Belgrade Youth Office, organised the 4th National Selection Session in Belgrade, modelled after the work of the European Parliament in Brussels, and the session theme was Embrace the Difference.

The goal of the session was the exchange of opinions among secondary school students, awareness raising on the current social and political topics, as well as expansion of democracy and initiative among the young people. The Session gathered a hundred secondary school students, from among whom representatives were selected for the international sessions in Zagreb, Istanbul and Tallinn. Contact: European Youth Parliament Serbia, [www.eyp.rs](http://www.eyp.rs)

## BEUM: Belgrade Model European Union

Scheduled for early November, Belgrade Model European Union (BEUM) is an international conference organised for the first time in the region and for the third time in Europe. BEUM is a simulation model of the work of EU authorities and it gathers the best students of various profiles from the region and from more than 20 countries around the world. Its goal is to enable future leaders to practically present, in simulated sessions, their knowledge in the fields related to EU functioning, diplomatic protocol and debate.

The conference is organised by the BEUM Student Association in cooperation with the B.E.T.A. Association – organiser of the most significant models EU around the world, and supported by the Faculty of Economics, Finance and Administration (FEFA).

Contact: Belgrade Model European Union Students' Association, [www.beum.org](http://www.beum.org)

## EC Recommendation for Granting EU Candidate Country Status to Serbia

The European Commission has recommended the EU member states to grant the candidate status to Serbia on October 12, 2011 in Brussels.

The Council of Ministers will adopt a final decision on the candidacy of Serbia in December 2011; the issues of telecommunications, energy, diplomas and regional representation of Kosovo as evidence on progress in relations with Priština, as one of the most sensitive issues, should be tackled. A member state may deny support to a candidate or potential candidate state based on any bilateral issue.

The EC Progress Report, which contains a recommendation for granting Serbia the candidate status, estimates that Serbia has made significant progress in EU accession by achieving good cooperation with the ICTY, improved judiciary, efficiency of the Parliament and anti-corruption.

## New Programme for Social Change and Innovation

The European Commission proposes to maintain, with roughly the same budget, the EURES portal on employment mobility, the EU Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress and the Progress Microfinance Facility over the period 2014–2020. It suggests, however, that the scope of these three initiatives should be expanded and merged into the new Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI). It presented a proposal to this effect on 6 October.

The PSCI would build on the three existing programmes (or areas) and would have an allocation of EUR 958.19 million, distributed as follows: 60% for analysis and social innovation (Progress), 15% for workers' mobility (EURES) and 20% for microfinance and social entrepreneurship. The draft regulation will now be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council for approval.

The Republic of Serbia, as a potential candidate state, has taken part in Progress since 2007. Under the EC proposal, candidate states will be able to take part in the new program, under the component covered by the Progress program (as before) and in the component relating to micro-financing and social entrepreneurship, which is a novelty in comparison to the previous microfinancing program.

More information on the EC website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1093&furtherNews=yes>

## Europe 2020 Strategy Translated into Serbian

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration has prepared a translation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, as well as of the key initiatives “Youth on the Move” and “Innovation Union”.

These documents are available in the section Strategic and Other Documents of the European Union, on the webpage [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs). Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## COMPETITION: Media Report on European Integration

The EU Delegation to Serbia, the European Integration Office and Erste Bank have announced a competition for the best media report on the process of European integration in Serbia in the period of 1 January to 1 December 2011. Reports should be made on the topic of European integration, or the Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Process, including their influence on everyday life of people. The best report will be awarded a work and study visit to Brussels, where the winners will meet officials from the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The competition is open to all journalists from the Republic of Serbia and works should be submitted no later than 1 December 2011.

Contact: EU Delegation to Serbia, tel.: 011 30 83 200, [www.europa.rs](http://www.europa.rs)  
European Integration Office, tel.: 011 30 61 101, [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## OPEN CALL: Implementation of EU Employment Policy

The European Integration Office and the Belgrade Open School have announced the call for proposals for the “EU Employment Policy” training programme, organised within the framework of the “Strengthening the Capacities of Serbian Administration for EU Accession – SA4EU2” project. The project's aim is to strengthen the capacities of the local, regional and national administration for successful implementation of practical EU policies in the European integration process. It will be carried out in October and November 2011, for two groups of 30 participants each.

The project is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the programme of bilateral cooperation between the governments of Norway and Serbia.

Contact: Belgrade Open School, tel.: 011 30 65 800, [www.bos.rs](http://www.bos.rs)  
European Integration Office, tel.: 011 30 61 101, [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

### Scholarships for Women Scientists

Young women engaged in science and research work in the field of natural sciences may apply for national scholarships within the programme "For Women in Science". Three EUR 5,000 scholarships are offered to women researchers, not older than 35, in doctoral or post-doctoral studies, with the aim of stimulating their further science-related and professional development.

This year's scholarship competition was opened by signing the cooperation protocol between the Ministry of Education and Science, the Commission of the Republic of Serbia for UNESCO and L'Oréal in Belgrade. The deadline for the submission of applications is 1st November 2011.

The international partnership between L'Oréal and UNESCO "For Women in Science" has been operational in more than 50 countries around the globe. In Serbia, it was launched last year.

Contact: For Women in Science

[www.zeneunauci.co.rs](http://www.zeneunauci.co.rs)

### Tempus and Erasmus Mundus Approved Projects

A total of 11 projects was selected at the fourth Tempus call for proposals. The value of the approved projects to be financed from the Tempus budget for higher education institutions from Serbia is some EUR 6.3 million.

The implementation of the projects will be launched in mid-October 2011, the topics including the harmonization and modernization of teacher training, improved social dimension in higher education, career-management in higher education, establishment of an Academy of Vocational Studies and development of study programs through cooperation with business community and other organizations.

The selection of projects for the Erasmus Mundus call for proposals, announced in 2010, has been completed. The list of joint master courses now includes 131 programmes, whereas there are 34 programmes in the list of joint doctorate studies.

Within the "exchange network", there are two new projects – ERAWEB and AUROWEB, which have partnered with the universities of Belgrade, Niš and Novi Sad. Contact: National Tempus Office

Tel.: 011 34 43 342, [www.tempus.ac.rs](http://www.tempus.ac.rs)

### Solidarity Foundation Awards 10 Scholarships

The Solidarity Foundation of Serbia has provided free studies for ten young people in the first year of the Faculty of Media and Communications – Social Work Department. The free studies are intended for youngsters who have completed four years of secondary education, come from socially disadvantaged families, live without parental care and are cared for by others, or the income of their families is below the national minimum wage.

Contact: Solidarity Foundation of Serbia

Tel.: 011 26 44 351

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

### Scholarships for 30 Students from Socially Disadvantaged Families

The "Fund for 5+" has awarded 15 scholarships to primary school students and another 15 to secondary school students from socially disadvantaged families, for the 2011/12 academic year.

To date, 24 awards have been presented, each amounting to RSD 10,000, to the talented students.

The "Fund for 5+" has been established by Srpska banka a.d. Beograd, as a mechanism supporting the

education of talented children from socially disadvantaged families through scholarships, awards and assistance for advanced education of exceptionally talented and gifted students. The founder and majority owner of Srpska banka a.d. Beograd is the Republic of Serbia.

Contact: Srpska banka – Fund for 5+

Tel.: 011 36 07 402, [www.srpskabanka/fond](http://www.srpskabanka/fond)

### Improvement of Preschool Education in Serbia

A conference titled Improvement of Preschool Education in Serbia – IMPRES, presenting the eponymous joint project of the European Union and the Ministry of Education and Science, was held in Belgrade in mid-September.

The purpose of the IMPRES project is, principally, to ensure the material conditions for preschool education of children, especially those from vulnerable social groups. In 2011, preschool education in Serbia has covered more than 49 percent of all children (which is a 17% increase compared to 2003), whereas the preparatory preschool programme included approx. 99% of children, as a result of the introduction of mandatory preparatory preschool programme for all children.

Children from remote areas, as well as Roma children, have not been attending preschool education and one of the project's objectives is to change this negative practice. Through this project, 15 municipalities in Serbia will be provided with the necessary facilities and transportation means for the implementation of preschool education.

The EU has earmarked EUR 3.75 million for the improvement of Serbian preschool institutions' work. The financial assistance has been allocated from the EU pre-accession funds in the form of grants.

The project will run until January 2014, covering the following municipalities: Arandjelovac, Bela Palanka, Beočin, Gadžin Han, Kruševac, Leskovac, Mali Zvornik, Petrovac na Mlavi, Požarevac, Ražanj, Ruma, Šabac, Surdulica, Tutin and Užice.

Contact: Ministry of Education and Science

Tel.: 011 36 16 489, [www.mpn.gov.rs](http://www.mpn.gov.rs)

### CITY OF BELGRADE: Projects in the Field of Social Integration of Roma Persons

The City of Belgrade has selected and will provide funding for 23 projects proposed by the social and non-governmental organisations, in the field of social protection of the Roma population.

The implementation of the selected projects, which entail functional literacy training, will ensure high quality and sustainable social integration of the Roma population in the slums and of displaced persons living in the newly founded settlements.

The group of selected projects focuses on gaining knowledge and skills required for working on computers, in the field of baking industry, as well as on training in skilled trades that are in short supply in the labour market, whereas the projects in the field of social integration and protection entail the inclusion of children in sport/recreational activities, creative workshops, lectures on recycling, etc.

In cooperation with the non-governmental organisation Civic Initiatives, a project of literacy training for 70 adult Roma persons will be carried out, as well. For project purposes, ten self-financing students will be engaged and, in return, the City will provide them with scholarships to pay their tuition fees.

In a joint effort with the Zajedno, zajedno Citizens' Association, workshops are organized for women from the old Gazela slum, now living in the newly established settlement of Kijevo in Rakovica. The workshops aim at improving the position of women and promoting the relations in the family and in the entire settlement.

Contact: Belgrade City Administration – Secretariat

for Social Welfare, tel.: 011 330 90 92

[www.beograd.rs](http://www.beograd.rs)

### Students' Cooperatives for Increased Social Inclusion of Children

Having joined efforts with the Serbian Ministry of Education and the Institute of Economic Sciences, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has conducted a research on students' cooperatives and schools' non-core activities, with a view to higher quality education and increased social inclusion of schoolchildren.

The research has been conducted with the idea of analysing how students' cooperatives and schools' non-core activities are operated, identifying the major

hindrances in work and drawing relevant conclusions and making recommendations aiming at improved functioning of this area.

The analysis should stimulate the decision-makers in the relevant public authorities, most importantly, to adopt the necessary legislation governing schools' non-core activities and the functioning of students' cooperatives in schools in a more detailed manner.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction

Unit, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

### ELEMENTARY ADULT EDUCATION IN COOPERATION OF THE STATE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

#### EUR 4 Million of EU Grant for the "Second Chance" Program

The "Second Chance" – functional elementary education of adults over 15 years of age, was launched on October 3, 2011. The program will enable adults to finish elementary education free-of-charge and also obtain professional qualifications for one of the 35 professions.

The instruction will take three, two or one year, depending on whether the students have already attended school and the number of grades they finished. A school year takes after the eight-year regular education and ends in June. The instruction hours are adapted to the needs of the students and the space will be equipped adequately.

Instruction is delivered by teachers who were to

become redundant, and who will fill in their teaching norm through the project.

The Project is launched in seven schools in Serbia: adult elementary education school "Sveti Sava" (Novi Sad) and elementary schools "Stevan Sremac" (Senta), "Petar Petrović Njegoš" (Zrenjanin), "Dragiša Luković Španac" (Kragujevac), "Mladost" (Knjaževac), "Nada Matić" (Užice) and "Đura Jakišić" (Pančevo). Another 31 schools are selected where lectures should launch in October 2011. More than 2000 adult students is planned to be enrolled in this school year.

Contact: Second Chance, tel.: 011 26 36 026

[www.drugasansa.rs](http://www.drugasansa.rs)



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
MINING AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

**Social Housing Funding  
Attended To by a New Agency**

In future, funds earmarked for social housing will be managed by the new Housing Agency of the Republic of Serbia, established by the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The Agency will also grant long-term loans to not-for-profit housing organisations, natural and legal persons, with a view to providing social housing units, and it should also prepare funding models and select social housing projects to be funded.

The means for the Agency's operation will be provided from the Republic of Serbia Budget, as well as from the revenues generated by discharging the tasks within its purview.

The Agency will take over staff from the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning, which announced that, during the summer, the construction of 1663 social housing units would commence in 12 cities. It is foreseen that 114 social housing units will be built in Zaječar, 100 in Zrenjanin, 60 in Kikinda, 400 in Kragujevac, 100 in Kraljevo, 100 in Kruševac, 300 in Niš, 64 in Pančevo, 65 in Pirot, 150 in Smederevo, 80 in Užice and 100 in Čačak.

Contact: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, tel.: 36 17 593, [www.ekoplan.gov.rs](http://www.ekoplan.gov.rs)

**UNHCR: 20 Social Housing  
Units to Be Built**

The construction of the first sheltered social housing building in the territory of Belgrade will be completed towards the end of the year.

This will meet the housing needs of 20 families of refugees and internally displaced persons currently residing in collective accommodation centres in the territory of the capital city.

The construction of the first of three sheltered social housing buildings is funded by the USA Government's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration and co-funded by the City of Belgrade.

As part of the programme, UNHCR and other partners have built more than 550 housing units in 27 municipalities so far.

Contact: UNHCR Serbia, tel.: 30 82 100  
[www.unhcr.rs](http://www.unhcr.rs)

**BCIF: Competition within the  
Social Transition Programme**

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund has launched a competition within the programme Social Transition, implemented in collaboration with the Co-operating Netherlands Foundations for Central and Eastern Europe (CNF SEE).

The programme aims to support the social welfare system transition process in Serbia by awarding grants amounting up to EUR 15,000 to local, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisations that are proactively and creatively engaged in social issues and services.

Project proposals may be submitted throughout the year, and the Grants Committee deliberates on them two or three times per year. Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF), tel.: 011 26 22 511, [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

**New Services for Children with Developmental Disabilities**

Forty-one Serbian municipalities are involved in a project to launch new services for children with developmental disabilities as part of a national initiative promoting social inclusion of these children as active participants in community.

In collaboration with civil society, municipalities grouped in ten clusters will provide the following new services: day care for children with developmental disabilities, home care and assistance for families with children with developmental disabilities, respite care for families with children with developmental disabilities and other services.

The new community-based services will be delivered for the next two years thanks to a grant from

the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia amounting to EUR 3 million. Activities are delivered as part of the project Developing Community-Based Services for Children with Disabilities and their Families in Serbia, implemented jointly by the EU Delegation, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and UNICEF Serbia.

With a view to encouraging local communities to understand and accept children with developmental disabilities, the EU Delegation is funding a nationwide media and awareness-raising campaign, as part of which good practices will also be presented.

Contact: UNICEF, Office in Serbia  
Tel.: 011 36 02 100, [www.unicef.org/serbia](http://www.unicef.org/serbia)

**FOOD BANK**

**The City Beats Hunger**

On the occasion of the World Food Day, 16 October, the Food Bank organises the action titled "The City Beats Hunger". The action took place between 10 and 16 October 2011 at the Delta City shopping mall, Ušće shopping mall and Tempo stores.

Food donations collected from individuals and socially responsible companies will be distributed to elderly households from rural areas recorded by the social work centres of the municipalities of Knjaževac, Brus and Malo Crniće and to the poorest inhabitants of the most disadvantaged municipalities in Serbia.

The action has been supported by numerous companies, and the Food Bank has invited all citizens to join the action and help the most vulnerable.

Contact: Food Bank, [bankahrane.org](http://bankahrane.org)

**Social Services  
Supporting Persons  
with Disabilities**

The Centre for Society Orientation is implementing the project Social Services for Persons with Disabilities as Support for Equal Socio-Economic Development.

The project is being implemented in 10 cities and municipalities: Kanjiža, Novi Kneževac, Belgrade, Smederevo, Smederevska Palanka, Velika Plana, Majdanpek, Užice, Aleksandrovac and Vranje.

Project objectives are strengthening the capacities of local stakeholders working with persons with disabilities, supporting the standardisation of working procedures of two services for persons with disabilities, a media campaign for the promotion of the services, networking and establishing liaisons among service providers at the national level, as well as establishing long-term collaboration with the network of service providers at the European level.

The programme is delivered with the support of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia within the project Support to Civil Society. Contact: Centre for Society Orientation – COD  
Tel.: 011 21 20 176, [www.cod.rs](http://www.cod.rs)

**SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION: Independence  
of Children without Parental Care**

The Social Experimentation project named Adult Life Entry Network (ALEN) – Empowerment and Activation of Young People in Disadvantaged Situations is approved for financing within the EU PROGRESS Funds. The project was initiated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) – Deputy Prime Minister Office for European Integration – Republic of Serbia in partnership with Ministry of Health and Social Care – Republic of Croatia and Hungarian and Austrian Anti poverty Networks.

Project seeks to improve the situation of young people in disadvantaged situations by strengthening their capabilities to manage their own lives and become active citizens, through the development and testing of socially innovative approaches and exchange of mutual learning.

Project partners for ALEN in Serbia are: NGO Familia, NGO Sunce, Institute for Psychology and SIPRU. The project will last from October 2011 through April 2013.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit,  
Tel.: 011 311 4605, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

**CHILDREN'S WEEK 3RD–9TH OCTOBER  
Reducing Child Poverty**

At the Children's Week opening ceremony held at the Boško Buha Theatre in Belgrade, it was stated that poverty of Serbia's child population was growing twice as fast as that of the general population: in 2005, one in 14 children was poor, while today one in eight children, i.e. about 140,000 of them are below the poverty line. Of the 48,000 beneficiaries of soup kitchens, as many as 6,221 are children.

Reducing child poverty, enhancing the quality of education, improving their health and protecting them from neglect and abuse are priorities of the Serbian Government, which has earmarked RSD 39 billion for combating poverty.

A total of 373,000 children exercise the right to child allowance, 70,450 families receive parental allowances, and 33,000 recent mothers receive maternity leave benefits. Furthermore, the number of pre-school children enrolled in pre-school education has increased, and a significant step forward has been made as regards reducing child mortality and protecting children from abuse.

Contact: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  
Tel.: 011 311 34 32, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

**Human Rights Promotion and Protection**

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government has signed contracts with representative of 11 associations that have been awarded funds through a competition to implement projects aimed at human rights promotion and protection.

Project objectives include countering stereotypes of persons with disabilities, developing tolerance and respect for diversity, support for inclusive education, support for Roma children and returnees in education and integration. A total of RSD 5 million has been earmarked for project implementation.

Contact: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-Government, tel.: 011 21 429 74  
[www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs](http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs)

## Awarding Grants to Entrepreneurs' Associations

The National Agency for Regional Development announced a competition for the award of grants for 2011 as part of the Programme for the Support to Entrepreneurs' Associations whose members are small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs, as well as associations engaging in arts, crafts and old skilled trades.

The Programme is implemented by the National Agency for Regional Development in collaboration with a network of regional agencies/centres.

The awarded funding will be used for general development of the management and staff,

developing local-level entrepreneurship promotion projects, appearances at trade shows and exhibitions, promotional activities, organisation of workshops, trade shows, contests and conferences.

The funding available for Programme implementation totals RSD 11,300,000. Grants will amount to RSD 100,000–500,000 per entrepreneurs' association.

The competition was closed on 29 August 2011.

Contact: National Agency for Regional Development, Belgrade Office  
Tel.: 011 20 60 888, [www.narr.gov.rs](http://www.narr.gov.rs)

## NALED: For Less Red Tape

The National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) has appealed for business people to become involved in drafting the Grey Book of Procedures, vol. IV, by contributing information on the problems they face in doing business.

Since 2008, the NALED has collected proposals from entrepreneurs and citizens who have faced complicated and unnecessary administrative requirements. So far, 75 selected proposals have been presented in the Grey Book, of over 250 received by NALED.

The deadline for proposals was 30 September 2011.  
Contact: NALED, Belgrade, tel.: 011 33 47 634  
[www.naled-serbia.org](http://www.naled-serbia.org)

## Social Entrepreneurship Development Project

The European Movement in Serbia, supported by the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia, has launched the project titled Development of Social Entrepreneurship in Serbia.

The project is aimed at improving social and economic development through building capacities of employment services and social service providers at the local level in the interest of developing potentials for alternative economy.

The focus is on social entrepreneurship, improving the employability of socially vulnerable groups in the regions, promoting the concept of social entrepreneurship in local communities and creating a support network for future social entrepreneurs.

The activities are aimed at training all local stakeholders – representatives of municipalities, the National Employment Service, local economic development offices, chambers of commerce, social work centres, etc.

Another aspect involves raising awareness and disseminating information on the concept of social economy through three study visits to social enterprises.

Contact: European Movement in Serbia, tel.: 011 3640 174, [www.emins.org](http://www.emins.org)

## BRITISH COUNCIL: Social Entrepreneurship Programme

The British Council has published an invitation to apply for participation in the programme Think Social Act Business, through which 72 participants will be trained to develop their skills and knowledge in the sphere of social entrepreneurship.

Think Social Act Business is a programme implemented by the British Council together with the Youth with Disability Forum and supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

The programme includes education through both theoretical and practical work, support in the preparation of social business plans, selection of the best social-entrepreneurial idea, as well as a promotional media campaign.

The deadline for applications was 4 October 2011.

Contact: British Council  
[www.britishcouncil.org/serbia](http://www.britishcouncil.org/serbia)

## Support for SME Success

Support measures for small and medium-sized enterprises sector have been compiled and published in a brochure titled Support for Success. Subsidies, loans, guarantees/factoring, training-/mentoring, consulting, projects feature in 40 projects implemented by national-level institutions, as well as EU-funded ones.

The brochure has been prepared by the ICIP, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and National Agency for Regional Development. The brochure Support for Success is available for download on the portal of the Regional Development Agency of Eastern Serbia.

Contact: Regional Development Agency of Eastern Serbia, tel.: 019 426 376

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

## The Number of New Companies and Sole Proprietorships Drops by One Fifth Compared to 2010

In the first seven months of 2011, the number of newly established companies and sole proprietorships was about 20% lower than in the corresponding period of last year (5,088 versus 6,291).

The same trend has been observed among sole traders who have decided to start their own businesses – the Serbian Business Registers Agency has registered 18,590 new sole proprietorships, or one fifth fewer compared to last year's 22,454.

In 2010, for the first time, the number of closed sole proprietorships exceeded the number of newly registered ones by almost 2,000. As a result of enforcement of the Law on Bankruptcy Proceedings, which foresees automatic bankruptcy for firms whose accounts are frozen, in the first seven months of this year 8,490 companies – or four times as many as last year – were closed.

In the first seven months of this year, 20,132 sole proprietorships were closed, or about 1,000 fewer than in the corresponding period of last year.

Contact: SBRA, tel.: 011 20 23 350, [www.apr.gov.rs](http://www.apr.gov.rs)

## Start-Up Loans

In partnership with the National Employment Service and with support from the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Erste Bank has launched a competition for "supER-STEP" start-up loans, open to unemployed and educated young people with entrepreneurial ideas.

In the initial stage, ten loans amounting to a maximum of RSD 500,000 each will be granted, with a repayment period will be up to 36 months and a six months' grace period.

The competition is open until 31 October 2011.  
Contact: Erste Bank, [www.erstebank.rs](http://www.erstebank.rs)

## PHOTO STORY INCLUSION OF REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: Great Benefit to People and Nature

In late August, the first ecological cooperative in Zrenjanin (the third in Vojvodina) started operating and employed 11 refugees and internally displaced persons.

The project implemented in cooperation with the UNHCR, Provincial Secretariat for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons and local authorities foresees that after 12 months the Zrenjaninka should become sustainable in the market and recruit more workers.



Throughout the city, 92 containers, donated by the UNHCR, were installed for citizens to drop waste. For Zrenjaninka's workers, this is the first real job with regular pay and coverage by pension and health insurance.



## Serbian Farm Accountancy Data Network

The project "Establishment of the Serbian Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) is being implemented at the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management.

The project, funded by the EU IPA funds, should last two years. The budget allocated is EUR 2 million in grants.

The expected results of the project are: drafting the national plan for introduction of FADN system in Serbia and implementing a pilot project to test the methodology and establish structures, harmonisation of the domestic legislation with the EU acquis, educating and training staff and farmers for implementation of sampling methodology, data collection, establishment of an adequate IT system for processing, inputting, analysis and maintenance of data and efficient FADN implementation.

This will largely contribute to modernisation of agricultural production and better results because of the accessibility of relevant data about the farms that would help the policy makers in the agrarian sector design measures with best effects in the context of agricultural production development in Serbia.

The project will be implemented by the consortium headed by NIRAS consultants from Denmark. Contact: Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management  
Tel.: 011 36 12197, [www.mpt.gov.rs](http://www.mpt.gov.rs)

## Volunteering at Organic Farms

wwoof Serbia – an organisation linking volunteers from all around the world with organic produce growers from Serbia has been established. In return for their work, the volunteers get food and accommodation.

wwoof is an acronym for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms.

The volunteers of wwoof have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills required in organic production through working and stay on the farms.

On its website [www.wwoofserbia.org](http://www.wwoofserbia.org), the organisation publishes a list of owners of organic farms in Serbia who wish to host international volunteers during a certain period of time.

Volunteers choose a farm they are most interested in and directly contact the host in order to agree where and when to come.

Volunteers help their hosts in duties related to organic farming, work up to six hours a day, five days a week. Contact: World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms Serbia, [www.wwoofserbia.org](http://www.wwoofserbia.org)

## UN Launches a Call for Rural Tourism Development

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the UN World Tourist Organisation (UNWTO), UN Fund for Children (UNICEF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) have launched a call for project proposals related to sustainable tourism in the function of rural development in the four regions: Central Serbia, Donje Podunavlje, South Banat and Eastern Srbija.

The project proposals aimed at development of tourist destinations through advancement of quality of services and facilities, enhancement of competitiveness and partnership development towards diversification of rural economy through tourism as well as the projects related to educational tourism will be supported.

The funds for the successful projects will be ensured by the MDGF of the Spanish Government and the deadline for applications expired on 26 September 2011. Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, tel.: 011 2855 231, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)

## 7th International Conference on Financing SME Innovations

The 7th International Conference on Financing SME Innovations organised by the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development was held in Belgrade on 04 October 2011. It is part of the EC initiative "European Week of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises 2011".

The aim of the Conference was to advance the dialogue between the Government representatives and the representatives of economy through exchange of ideas and experiences related to the measures and instruments available for facilitating access of this sector to funds. More than 300 participants from Serbia, the countries in the region and EU discussed "Micro Financing and Guarantee Schemes", "EU Support to SME Funding", "Role of Commercial Banks in SME Funding", "New Instruments for Funding Innovative SMEs".

The Ministry of Economy will use the conclusions and recommendations of the conference as well as the presented best practices as guidelines for improvement of the SME policy development and for advancement of measures and programmes of support to this sector.

The participants were addressed by the high Government representatives, representatives of the EU institutions, the banking sector and the industry.

Contact: Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, tel.: 011 285 5000, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)

## 5th Call for VIRTUS Award Nominations

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) published a 5th call for 2011 VIRTUS award for corporate social responsibility nominations to the most accountable companies.

The awards will be presented in four main categories: the Main Award for Contribution at the National Level, Award for Contribution to the Local Community in which the company does business, Award for SMEs and the

Award for Long-Term Partnership between the Business and the Non-Profit Sector. Three special awards will also be presented: for support to the most innovative project of the year, for volunteering and the Special Award for Media Contribution.

The deadline for applications was 7 October 2011.

Contact: BCIF, tel.: 062 865 98 42  
[www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## Delta Holding Sets Aside 10% of Revenues as Community Aid

The Delta Holding company has decided to donate 10% of its revenues for the implementation of significant socially responsible projects in Serbia. The decision comes into force in 2012 and will apply to the 2012 fiscal year, and the funds for the implementation of approved projects will be available as of the first quarter of 2013.

Delta Holding is also launching the establishment of a new humanitarian foundation aiming to implement some projects of strategic value for Serbian society, in various areas of life.

Delta will be the first financier of the new fund, and other Serbian companies that support this type of corporate social responsibility to get involved.

The new foundation will involve a wider public, the representatives of Serbian institutions and renowned public persons. Public persons will establish an independent body to ensure impartiality in the work of the foundation, as well as expertise and understanding of wider social needs and circumstances.

Contact: Delta Foundation  
Tel.: 011 201 2655, [www.deltafondacija.rs](http://www.deltafondacija.rs)

## Call for the participants of "YouthBuild" in South Serbia

The Association of Citizens "Civic Initiatives in Bujanovac and Preševo" is implementing the project "YouthBuild" – capacity building for employment and activism in local communities. The project shall involve 40 participants aged 15-30 who will receive 6-months scholarships for the duration of the training.

"YouthBuild" was implemented in 15 countries for 30 years. 94,000 young people took part in it.

The Project "YouthBuild" is supported by the Youth Build International, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Kingdom of Holland and the Coordination Body of the Republic of Serbia for Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa.

Contact: Civic Initiatives, tel.: 011 26 23 980, [www.gradjanske.org](http://www.gradjanske.org)

## The Best Entrepreneur Receives the Prize

The winner of the call for awards launched by the Opportunity Bank "A Woman for A" for selection of the female entrepreneur of the year is Tanja Petkovic from Niš, who received an award of RSD 500,000. She started growing of flowers in 2005, and has grown to produce some 100,000 pots of different seedlings nowadays.

The founder is the association of flower growers "Cvet Juga" whose members will use the prize money to build a glasshouse which will serve as an exhibition and sales area.

The call "A Woman for A" was published in late June in cooperation with the National Agency for Regional Development". Contact: Opportunity Bank, [www.obs.rs](http://www.obs.rs)

## RARIS: Project to Boost Tourism in Timočka Krajina

The title of the project implemented by the Regional Agency for Development of Eastern Serbia (RARIS) and the tourist organisations in this part of Serbia is "Towards the EU Standards in Rural Tourism of Timočka Krajina".

The project is to support enhancement of rural tourism of Timočka Krajina through trainings, workshops on EU experiences and study trips. The beneficiaries of the project are

100 households and entrepreneurs engaged in rural tourism, as well as tourist organisations, LED offices and regional centres, Rural Development Networks, etc.

The project was partly supported by the Fund for Open Society and the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development.

Contact: RARIS, tel.: 019 426 376  
[www.raris.org](http://www.raris.org)

## BCIF: Call for Programmes for Local Community Development

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) has published a call for project proposals within the "Active Communities" programme.

The aim of this programme is improvement and development of local communities through stimulating active involvement of citizens into resolution of problems. "Active Communities" targets local associations and informal groups of citizens with the maximum budget of RSD 350,000.00.

The initiative should bring benefits to communities using local potentials and resources.

The projects for the "Active Communities" may be submitted throughout the year. The Donations Board will decide on the project awards three times a year.

Contact: Balkan Community Initiatives Fund  
Tel.: 011 26 22511, [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Anti-Corruption Agency for CSO support

The Anti-Corruption Agency has published a first call for proposal for allocation of funds to civil society organizations, having perceived them as strategic partners in combating corruption and strengthening social integrity.

RSD 2 million have been earmarked for project implementation. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 10 October 2011.

Contact: Anti-Corruption Agency, tel.: 011 31 16 606  
[www.acas.rs](http://www.acas.rs)

## Vojvodina Awards for Gender Equality

The Government of Vojvodina has published a call for nominations for the annual Awards for Individuals and Organisations in the domain of gender equality for 2010. The winners will be decided by the Government of AP Vojvodina at the proposal of the Council for Gender Equality.

The deadline for nominations expired on 16 September. Contact: Provincial Secretariat for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality, [www.psrzrp.vojvodina.gov.rs](http://www.psrzrp.vojvodina.gov.rs)

## "Place in Heart" Fund Grants Local Initiatives Awards

The Fund "Place in Heart" granted awards to organizations which conducted projects with the most positive effects in their local communities, for the sixth time at the ceremony held on October 11, 2011 in the Belgrade City Assembly.

With support and in cooperation with the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations (TACSO), an award was granted for the best local partnership between civil society organizations and the public and business sectors.

The companies supporting the work of the Fund provided a fund totaling RSD 1,150,000 for monetary awards for winners in both categories.

Erste Bank provided RSD 500,000 for the first prize to the "Remizijana" Scouts (Bela Palanka).

The Association for the Protection and Advancement of the Position of Children and Youth "A Step Forward" from Kruševac, as winner in the best local partnership category, was granted RSD 300,000 by Telenor company and Telenor foundation, including a modem with free Internet for a year.

Contact: Fund Place in Heart, tel.: 011 32 88 723  
[www.mestausrcu.org](http://www.mestausrcu.org)

## New Regional Database on Civil Society Organizations

The regional database of the TACSO office in English that will keep information on civil society organizations from the Western Balkans and Turkey has become operational.

All the interested organizations may enter data about their organization into it via TACSO Internet presentation page.

Contact: TACSO-Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations – Serbia Office  
Tel.: 011 21 29 372, [www.tacso.org](http://www.tacso.org)

## CALENDAR of Important Dates

### OCTOBER

- 01–05 Children's Week
- 01 International Day of Older Persons
- 02 World Housing Day
- 03 International Children's Day
- 05 World Teachers Day
- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 14 World Organ Donors Day
- 15 Day of the Blind and the International Day of Rural Women
- 16 World Food Day
- 17 International Day for Eradication of Poverty
- 22 International Stammering and Speech Impediments Awareness Day
- 24 UN Day, Accessibility of Information Day
- 25 Voluntary Blood Donors Day
- 30 World Savings Day

### NOVEMBER

- 07 European Day of Science
- 08 Teachers' Day
- 09 International Day against Fascism
- 11 International Day of Science and Peace
- 14 World Diabetes Day
- 15 World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- 16 World Tolerance Day
- 17 International Day of Students
- 20 World Children's Day
- 23 International Humanitarian Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

## Republic Institute for Geodesy Gets Involved into Development of e-Government

The project "Support to Development of e-Government" is funded within 2010 EU IPA programme. It is aimed at supporting the reform of public administration in line with the EU requirements through strengthening inter-operability and the necessary human and technical resources for ensuring efficient e-services.

The project has four components: legislation, e-Government infrastructure, institutional and capacity building and e-services.

The project was launched in February 2011 and will last 18 months.

The Republic Institute of Geodesy is involved in the e-service provision in relation to the provision of construction permits. The aim is to stimulate the implementation of the Strategy on Information Society through a development of priority e-services.

Contact: Directorate for Digital Agenda  
Tel.: 011 2020 111, [www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs](http://www.digitalnaagenda.gov.rs)

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS: "We are Online!"

The Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) published a call for the programme "We are Online!".

All the associations of citizens dealing with youth issues and youth groups are eligible for the programme. The maximum budget is RSD 200,000.

The initiatives should refer to use of new media, social networks and information technologies to promote youth activism and participation, focusing on local problems and topics and motivating people to take an active part in their implementation.

The key aim of the programme "We are Online!" is to empower young people to use new media, social networks and IT as a tool for promotion of activism.

The deadline for submission of project drafts is 29 October 2011.

Contact: BCIF, tel.: 062 865 98 42  
[www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

## CHANCE: Feeding the Poor

CHANCE is a project implemented by 17 partners from nine European countries, with the aim of addressing the issues of poor nutrition among all groups of population at risk of poverty, by developing affordable and nutritious foods through low-cost technologies and traditional ingredients. The project is funded by the European Commission.

Contact: Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade, tel.: 011 303 19 97, [www.srbnutrition.info](http://www.srbnutrition.info)  
CHANCE, [www.chancefood.eu](http://www.chancefood.eu)

## EURRECA Project Research

The results of the research conducted under the EURRECA project (Network of Excellence, EUROpean micronutrient RECommendations) in Central and Eastern Europe do not indicate any significant differences in the intake of micronutrients compared to other regions in Europe. Harmonisation of the recommendations for micronutrients, with special emphasis on disadvantaged groups, is the substance of the project implemented by 35 partners in 18 countries, funded by the European Commission.

The objective is to develop the tools which will help policy-makers formulate appropriate nutrient recommendations across Europe.

One of the EURRECA project priorities has been to assess dietary habits of the low-income population and immigrants.

Contact: Centre of Research Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism, Institute for Medical Research, University of Belgrade, [www.srbnutrition.info](http://www.srbnutrition.info)  
EURRECA, [www.eurreca.org](http://www.eurreca.org)

## Hyporehabilitation Center

The first Regional Hyporehabilitation Center, for the treatment of children and persons with disabilities through therapy with horses, was established at the beginning of September in Zubci close to Trebinje.

The founders of the center are the Serbian Solidarity Foundation of Belgrade, the Belgrade Center for Hyporehabilitation, Trebinje Social Work Center, the Eparchy of Zahumlje and Herzegovina, Foundation "Center for the Development of Physical and Spiritual Culture" of Trebinje and the New Chance in New NGO from Herceg Novi. [www.bgdhiporehabilitacija.org.rs](http://www.bgdhiporehabilitacija.org.rs)

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