



Government of the  
Republic of Serbia

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# 3 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.*

H.E. AMBASSADOR VINCENT DEGERT, HEAD OF DELEGATION  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

## Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion: an Investment in Europe's Future

The European Union is the biggest trading block in the world, the largest donor of humanitarian aid and one of the richest areas in the world. Still 17% of its citizens have such limited resources which often cannot even meet their basic needs. This means that 84 million people in the EU – out of which 19 million children – live on the brink of poverty.

People living in poverty face many difficulties. They might not have enough money to spend on food and clothes, they might not have adequate access to education or healthcare, they might live in poor housing conditions and even be homeless, all of which can lead to social exclusion. The EU's core values, such as solidarity and the recognition of our social rights that are now enshrined in the EU Charter for fundamental rights, push for effective action to be taken.

The EU has proclaimed the year 2010 the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The key objective of this year is to raise public awareness and renew the commitment of the EU and its Member States in this endeavour. It is also crucial to give voice to the people living in difficult conditions, and to

inspire every European citizen and other stakeholders to listen and help make the EU a true community that takes care of all of its citizens.

There are so many sides to fighting poverty and social exclusion. It includes not only fighting the exclusion of the poor, but also the exclusion of some 65 million Europeans living with disabilities, large or single-parent families, elderly people, immigrants, refugees and internally displaced people. Combating social exclusion also means combating child poverty, all forms of discrimination, over-indebtedness and poor housing conditions. It also involves facilitating access to the labour markets, education and training in order help people integrate back into society.

Although the EU has many challenges to tackle in its member states, we are committed to share our experiences and to assist in addressing these issues in Serbia as a perspective member country. Since the year 2000, the EU has already invested 2 billion Euros in view of preparing Serbia for accession and it is currently donating around 200 million Euros on a yearly basis.

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MILJENKO DERETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CIVIC INITIATIVES

## Facing the Reality

Poverty in Serbia?! Socially excluded groups in Serbia?! In the nineties, those phrases were virtually prohibited and only spoken by "public enemies", mainly people capable of taking an unbiased look at reality and boldly calling social phenomena by their real names. Even in the times of the most severe crisis, inflation and isolation, the official policy did not recognize the existence of poverty, which in turn meant it did almost nothing to reduce and overcome it. Back in 1993, I remember a campaign for soup kitchens that I had developed at the request of the Red Cross was banned from broadcasting "because it isn't the right moment..." to reveal the truth.

This is why I believe that observing and recognizing the mere fact that poverty and socially excluded groups do exist in Serbia is the first important step and an indicator of changes taking place in the Serbian society and policy on the route towards the European Union. It is a sign that the state is willing to leave behind the long adhered-to policy of simulating (non-existent) opulence and universal (fake) social equality. It is the inception of something that should actually go without saying – a socially responsible state.

To embark on the process of resolving this difficult

and complex problem requires absolute social and political consensus and relentless persistence inherent in dealing with a problem without a definite solution.

Continued policy for overcoming poverty and social inclusion of the excluded, marginalized groups is a challenge which, over time, integrates solidarity in the foundations of each society's set of values.

This process is impossible without a clearly defined role of each stakeholder in society and new communication and cooperation channels among them.

In this division, the role of the state is to ensure a legal framework to stimulate those measures which will contribute to progress in the spheres of education, employment, care for children and the elderly, etc. in a systemic way. That said, it is obvious that the state cannot and should not deal with individual cases, and "marginalized groups" are a cluster of destinies which often require tailored approach that no government can provide efficiently.

For this reason, civil society organizations (CSO) should take over the "field work", through direct contacts and work with marginalized groups and individuals.

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MILJENKO DERETA,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CIVIC INITIATIVES

## Facing the Reality

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After all, they have done so successfully since the early nineties, when they exhibited an outstanding capacity to identify, in a timely manner, the needs of society that sunk into poverty and demonstrated the knowledge and commitment to helping the vulnerable. The care for refugees and internally displaced persons, the care for children and the poor was almost completely left to the domestic and international non-governmental organizations. The state looked the other way.

Today, the situation has substantially changed for the better. The national strategy for inclusion has been developed in consultation with the CSOs. Social inclusion measures are implemented with a high degree of coordination of activities between the Government and CSOs. This model has been tried successfully and implemented in practice through the establishment of civil society focal points as part of Poverty Reduction Strategy implementation; each of the focal points has been in charge of a specific marginalized group. An intricate network of CSOs whose joint efforts have contributed significantly to the success of poverty reduction projects has evolved around these focal points.

In order to improve communication between state institutions and CSOs, the Government also established the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society. It is expected to act as an intermediary between ministries and CSOs in information exchange, inter-sector coordination and policy making with a view to ensuring an environment conducive to CSO development. This is because, to be fair, capacities and knowledge of CSOs for successful implementation of social inclusion policies are not sufficient for deep and complex problems faced by Serbia. Today, CSOs successfully contribute to the improvement of formal and non-formal education, assist in the strengthening and development of the Roma community, reposition women in society through the implementation of gender equality policies and protection from domestic violence. Implementing the policy of employment of persons with disabilities would not be possible without the support provided by CSOs in the process. However, I must reiterate that CSO capacities are insufficient to meet the existing needs. This is especially true as regards the issue of the so-called transition victims, people between 40 and 60 years of age who have lost their jobs and encounter great difficulties in retraining and finding new sources of livelihood.

Therefore, although it may seem as a "bureaucratic" issue, the institutionalization of cooperation between the Government and CSOs, in which the Government's Office should play an especially prominent role, is a prerequisite without which it will not be possible to manage the process of social inclusion in Serbia successfully.

### MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICY Investments into Improving the Status of Persons with Disabilities

On July 20th, the Serbian Minister of Labour and Social Policy Rasim Ljajić awarded the contracts on the funding of projects aimed at improving the status of persons with disabilities to representatives of their organizations. On this occasion, Mr Ljajić stated that 300 organizations applied for the competition of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and that 85 projects, worth a total of RSD 71 million, were approved.

A majority of the approved projects concern day care facilities and supportive housing for persons with disabilities, while the rest are aimed at removing architectural barriers to persons with disabilities and strengthening the organizations engaged in their protection.

"In the situation of a major economic crisis, the awarded funds constitute significant assistance and will contribute to the improvement of the status of persons with disabilities", stated Ljajić at the headquarters of the Niš City Association of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT

## Invitation to Participate in the Preparation of the National Report on Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) has invited civil society organizations, scientific and research institutions, as well as experts and academics to take part in the preparation of the First National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Serbia.

The Report shall provide an overview of the current status, as well as basic directions in which to resolve social inclusion and poverty reduction issues in the country.

The Report shall present the major measures to be undertaken by Serbia in view of realizing joint objectives on the EU level and to prepare the country for the development of the Joint Inclusion Memorandum.

The Report shall cover the period between 2008 and mid-2010. The preparation of the Report shall rely on the documents of the Government of Serbia, EU reports and documents, as well as the reports and analyses of civil society organizations, international organizations and independent experts. The main data sources for this purpose shall be provided by the Republic Statistical Office.

## The Document "Monitoring Social Inclusion in Serbia" Has Been Prepared

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) and the Republic Statistical Office (RSO) have prepared the document "Monitoring Social Inclusion – Overview and Current Status of Social Inclusion in Serbia Based on Monitoring European and National Indicators".

The Report indicates current potential for monitoring social inclusion indicators that are harmonized among EU countries, maps gaps in data sources for monitoring social inclusion and poverty trends and provides a framework of the current status of social inclusion and poverty in the country.

The social inclusion monitoring methodology should ensure the comparability of basic indicators with the status thereof in EU countries, as well as the accessing countries. It should also provide insight into specific issues of social inclusion on the transition road of Serbia.

The goal of the report is to identify the key social inclusion dimensions, suggest indicators against which to monitor the inclusion of specific groups, and to indicate the existing sources of data and recommend their integration in regular statistical data collection processes or appropriate researches.

Based on the qualitative analysis of data, a proposal of national social inclusion indicators has been defined.

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, tel: 31 14 605

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

## April Labor Force Survey Data

April Labor Force Survey data were published on the web site of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia on June 30, 2010.

According to these data, the unemployment rate, i.e. the share of the unemployed in the total active population (the employed and unemployed), in the Republic of Serbia in April was 19.2% (18.6% for men and 20.1% for women). The unemployment rate in Central Serbia was 20.6%, and in Vojvodina – 20.9%. In the City of Belgrade, the unemployment rate was 14.0%. In April 2008, the unemployment rate was 13.3%, and in October 2008 – 16.6%.

The employment rate is the percentage of the employed in total population aged 15 or over; it was 38.1% in April 2010, compared to 44.7% in April 2008. Men's employment rate was 45.5%, and women's – 31.4%. The highest employment rate was recorded in Belgrade – 39.6%, followed by that in Central Serbia – 38.9%, whereas it was the lowest in Vojvodina – 35.4%.

The unemployment rate in April 2010 increased by 3.6% against April 2009, while the employment rate declined by 3.5% over the same period. The unemployment rate in April 2010 increased by 2.6% against October 2009, while the employment rate declined by 2.7% over the same period.

Informal employment rate was 19.8% in April 2010. It declined by 0.8% against October 2009 and by 2.4% against April 2009.

H.E. AMBASSADOR VINCENT DEGERT, HEAD OF DELEGATION  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

## Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion: an Investment in Europe's Future

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Next to institution building and improving infrastructure, our aim is also to help Serbia reduce social exclusion to a minimum by providing a chance to the socially-excluded to improve their condition, get access to education, find work and become independent and self-sustainable citizens.

A few concrete examples of EU funded projects can be cited to show that our assistance has had a real impact on the lives of the most vulnerable in the Serbian society. Firstly, 54 million Euros have been invested to assist internally displaced people and refugees to either return to their home countries or integrate locally, thus allowing them to find stable housing solutions and jobs. Secondly, over 11 million Euros are being invested this year to make the education system more accessible to the marginalised groups. Thirdly, almost 7 million Euros are

being used to improve the housing conditions of disadvantaged children living in state-care institutions and to enable them to integrate fully into society. Finally, our assistance in the area of employment has helped 1500 disadvantaged people such as the long-term unemployed, vulnerable young people and people with disabilities to get vocational training, following which more than 30% of them found employment.

But there is no time for complacency! Together with the Serbian government, we must continue to support those 600.000 people living below the poverty line in Serbia, as well as other citizens which find themselves marginalised in one way or another. Helping the most vulnerable in our society, even in times of economic crisis, must not be seen as a cost but as an investment which does not only benefit the socially-excluded but the Serbian economy and society as a whole.

## The European Institute for Gender Equality Opened

A new EU agency, the European Institute for Gender Equality, has been established in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Institute is to support the Member States and European institutions, in particular the European Commission, in the activities towards promoting gender equality, combating discrimination based on sex and raising awareness of gender issues.

The Institute will collect and analyze comparable data on gender issues, develop methodological tools, in particular for the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas, facilitate the exchange of good practices, dialogue between stakeholders and awareness raising among EU citizens.

The Institute's bodies are the Management Board, the Experts' Forum (consultative body) and the Director (executive body). The Management Board 2010–2012 comprises 19 Member States' representatives on a rotating basis, guaranteeing representation of all Member States, and one European Commission member.

More details on the European Institute for Gender Equality can be found on the web page <http://www.eige.europa.eu/>

## Pension Insurance Debate in the EU

In July, the European Commission launched a public debate on the establishment of adequate, sustainable and safe pensions and the way in which the EU could support the Member States' activities in this respect.

The green paper on which the consultation process is based considers the following issues: longer working life, internal market for retirement products, pension mobility at the EU level, legislative shortcomings, the future of pension funds, the risk of employer insolvency, informed decision-making and management at the EU level.

The European Commission has invited the interested parties to take part in the debate by contributing their ideas and views on the issue of pensions, one of the greatest challenges for Europe ([europa.org.rs](http://europa.org.rs)).

According to forecasts, by 2060 the number of retired persons in Europe will be twice the number of those from whose contributions the pensions will be funded. Ageing population in all Member States puts the pension systems under great strain, further aggravated by the economic crisis.

## The Europe 2020 Strategy Adopted

In Brussels, the EU leaders adopted the Europe 2020 strategy, the new European strategy for job creation and economic growth, which builds on the Lisbon Strategy (2000–2010).

The aim of the strategy is to achieve the annual economic growth of at least two percent with a significant reduction in unemployment through investments in high technologies and environmentally-friendly energy generation and use. The decision on the improvement of budgetary and macroeconomic control was also adopted on this occasion.

The principal objectives of the European strategy are:

- \* To increase the employment rates of men and women between 20 and 64 years of age to 75% through various activities, including higher participation of youth, older workers and low-skilled workers, as well as better integration of legal migrants;
- \* To improve conditions for research and development, especially in view of the target to improve the overall public and private investments in this sector to 3% of the GDP;
- \* To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% against the level recorded in the 1990's;
- \* To increase the share of renewable energy sources in total energy consumption to 20%;
- \* To increase energy efficiency by 20%;
- \* To upgrade the quality of education, focusing especially on reducing the rate of early school-leavers to below 10% and increasing the share of persons between 30 and 34 years of age in tertiary or equivalent level of education to at least 40%;
- \* To improve social inclusion, in particular through poverty reduction, in order that at least 20 million people escape poverty and exclusion.

The EU is committed to achieving a massive worldwide reduction of pollution by harmful gases, with the targets to reduce EU emissions by 30% in relation to the 1990 level by 2020. To this end, the EU will provide EUR 2.6 billion in short-term assistance to poor countries worldwide in order that they fund the technology change needed to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions.

## THE EU: Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

The Ninth EU Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty called "Starting Point for a New Deal" adopted priorities in five points that the EU should address in order to reverse the current trend of abolishing public services.

It was stated at the conference that abolishing public services would not end the crisis; instead, it would only aggravate the difficulties faced not only by the poor, but also by millions of persons at risk of poverty.

It was concluded that the EU should commit to ensuring the participation of the poor in decision-making processes at all levels, accountability of decision makers, securing the basic rights as regards the access to affordable, good quality and safe housing, social services, food, work and education for all, family protection, as well as banking sector control.

The conference was held in Brussels in June and was organized by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, with the support of the European Commission and the European Anti-Poverty Network.

## RESOLUTION OF THE EPSCO COUNCIL: **Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

At the June meeting of the EPSCO Council, the Resolution on a New European Disability Framework was adopted. The Resolution foresees strengthening social inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families by prioritizing the issue of disability and launching initiatives in the fields of education, employment and social affairs, and international development.

This year, the European Commission should adopt a new strategy for the support to persons with disabilities for the period 2010–2020, to replace the 2004 strategy, whose aims are out of date. The new strategy will largely be based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The text of the Resolution may be downloaded at:

[http://www.europolitics.info/pdf/gratuit\\_en/273917-en.pdf](http://www.europolitics.info/pdf/gratuit_en/273917-en.pdf)



## CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

**Social Enterprises – a Sure Road to Reducing Poverty and Social Exclusion**

It is necessary to develop an integrated model of sustainable social economy in Serbia and to promote social entrepreneurship, with technical and financial support and clear legal framework, it was stated at the international conference on social entrepreneurship held in Belgrade in April.

Social entrepreneurship offers an opportunity to reduce poverty, unemployment and social exclusion of marginalized groups, as well as to ensure more balanced regional development.

Research has shown that the economic crisis has contributed to the deteriorating status of almost all categories of hard-to-employ persons. For this reason, the state conducts active employment policy through career development and counseling, training, employment subsidies and public works. A problem lies in the amount of funding

earmarked for these programs, totaling 0.11% of GDP annually.

For the first time in Serbia, the Law on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities has introduced the possibility of organizing a social enterprise as a form of employment of persons with disabilities.

The meeting was organized by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the European Movement in Serbia and Group 484, and the participants included representatives of Italy, Bulgaria, Poland and United Kingdom, who presented the experiences of their respective countries and the different models of social entrepreneurship.

European Movement in Serbia, tel.: 011 36 40 174, [www.emins.org](http://www.emins.org)  
Group 484, e-mail: [office@grupa484.org.rs](mailto:office@grupa484.org.rs), [www.grupa484.org.rs](http://www.grupa484.org.rs)

**GROUP 484: Social Enterprises: Good Practice Examples**

Group 484 became involved in the field of social entrepreneurship two years ago, when – as part of a project of support to refugees and internally displaced persons, it was awarded funding by Unidea Unikredit Group to establish a social enterprise employing persons belonging to these groups.

Since October 2009, when the social enterprise Bizian Group was established and, within it, the company Green and Clean, engaging in the provision of cleaning, gardening and minor repair services, three people found regular sources of income.

Fifteen more refugees, internally displaced persons, single parents and long-term unemployed Roma were trained in the provision of these services by attending adequate training programs.

Beside cooperation with the National Employment Service, Bizian Group involved students of the Faculty of Political Sciences in the project.

Student volunteers were present at all stages of the birth of this social enterprise – from market research to business plan development and staff training.

The project “Social Enterprises Forum” foresees developing the concept of social entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans region. The project objective is to build a network of social enterprises in Serbia by March 2011. A needs analysis of organizations with the characteristics of social enterprises will also be conducted as part of the project.

The third project – ALTEKO – aims to provide economic support to refugees and internally displaced persons resident in collective centers in Vranje by establishing an agricultural social cooperative which will employ at least 10 internally displaced persons in the manufacturing and sale of homemade food and sweets. The project is supported by the Fund for an Open Society Serbia.

Social Enterprise Bizian Group, tel.: 011 66 56 822, [www.biziangrupa.rs](http://www.biziangrupa.rs)

**Youth with Disabilities Forum Develops Entrepreneurship**

The organization Youth with Disabilities Forum is implementing the project “Forum EKO Inclusive”, aimed at establishing mechanisms to build capacities of organizations involved in environmental protection, which is a key factor for defining the business standard in this field where marginalized groups are concerned.

Youth with Disabilities Forum has realized two projects so far, “Social Entrepreneurship of Persons with Disabilities” and “Forum Info Inclusive”. The aims of these two projects were to explore the potential for social entrepreneurship in organizations of persons with disabilities, sheltered workshops and private enterprises of persons with disabilities. Among the aims was also to explore the possibility of deinstitutionalization in the field of social welfare through a form of social entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities.

Though its activities, the organization aims to develop entrepreneurship and realize economic benefit for its members, as well as to raise the level of social inclusion of marginalized groups.

Youth with Disability Forum  
tel.: 011 322 06 32, [www.forum-osi.org](http://www.forum-osi.org)

**YUROM CENTER: Trade Union of Collectors of Recoverable Materials Established**

The Trade Union of Collectors of Recoverable Materials has requested the Government and the National Assembly to draft and adopt a new Law on Cooperatives under the accelerated procedure, in response to the situation in the field of collecting recoverable materials, as well as in other fields of economic activity in which the workforce is deprived of all labor rights.

The Trade Union of Collectors of Recoverable Materials is a non-governmental and not-for-profit association of citizens aiming to protect the collective interests of collectors of recoverable materials without employment contracts.

The aims of the association include strengthening solidarity and mutual assistance, improving the social status, labor status and involvement of the collectors in social dialogue at local and national levels.

Through dialogue with local government representatives, the Trade Union will seek to participate in developing the local waste management plans, development of utility services, designing local economic development, initiating and stimulating the development of cooper-

atives, developing local employment policy proposals in the field of recycling through the Employment Council, defining local criteria for approving waste collection, transportation and disposal, in conformity with law.

The members of the Trade Union of Collectors of Recoverable Materials are faced with numerous problems. Average life expectancy of workers collecting recoverable materials is about 46 years. Their average working day lasts 11 hours. For 200 kilograms of paper collected, which requires walking about 19.7 kilometers, the worker will receive 500 dinars.

Although last year alone street collectors collected nearly two million tons of recoverable materials, or 95% of total materials collected, and Serbia earned about EUR 150 million from exports of recoverable materials, the collectors' status in the supply chain has not improved, since the purchase price of recoverable materials has not increased in proportion with the growth of other product and service prices in years.

The Trade Union's work is administered by the Niš-based YUROM Center.  
YUROM Center, tel.: 018 51 14 58;  
[www.yuromcentar.org.rs](http://www.yuromcentar.org.rs)

**CDSE – a Partner in the Field of Recycling**

The Center for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship (CDSE), in collaboration with the Environmental Association Helix, is implementing the project “Public Advocacy of the Social Entrepreneurship Model in the Recycling Sector as an Instrument of Poverty Reduction and Socio-Economic Integration of the Collectors' Community”.

The project is supported by the Institute for Sustainable Communities.

CDSE is an organization aiming for partnership with the civil sector, public sector (local self-governments), business sector (socially responsible business) in the establishment of small social cooperatives, primarily in the field of recycling.

CDSE has come into existence and designed its programs on the basis of experiences of the first social enterprises (cooperatives) in the field of recycling in Serbia and the region – Eko Servis cooperative of collectors of recoverable materials and Valjevo Eko Plus cooperative of collectors of recoverable materials.

Center for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship, e-mail: [info@crsp.rs](mailto:info@crsp.rs)

### REGULATORY REFORM: The “Regulatory Guillotine” Saved EUR 40 Million

The 51 recommendations of the “Regulatory Guillotine” Unit put into practice so far enable annual savings of nearly EUR 40 million to the economy.

Extending the validity of travel orders from seven to 30 days from the date of issue saves EUR 21 million. Introducing the one-stop shop for registration of employees for mandatory social insurance will save nearly EUR 15 million, and the newly-established legal entities will save about EUR 335,000 by abolishing the mandatory auditing of financial statements for the year of establishment.

A recommendation that saves about EUR 150,000 is the possibility of registering mandatory health insurance and termination thereof for staff working out of the employer’s principal place of business and staff resident out of the place of work at the Health Insurance Bureau’s branch office in the employer’s principal place of business.

Abolishing the obligation to report the performance of capital works abroad saves about EUR 73,000, abolishing the obligation to report the representation of foreign legal entities in the country saves about EUR 30,000, while abolishing the obligation to report the acquisition and disposal of industrial property rights and know-how will save further EUR 2,000.

Another 132 recommendations are being acted upon.  
Comprehensive Regulatory Reform Unit  
tel.: 011 28 55 042, [www.srp.gov.rs](http://www.srp.gov.rs)

### Support to Balanced Socio-Economic Development

Regional Socio-Economic Development Programme II (RSEDP II) has announced a competition for project proposals aiming to support more balanced socio-economic development.

The support to ensuring balanced development is manifested in creating new employment opportunities and maintaining the existing employment, raising companies’ competitiveness in Serbia and the region and upgrading the business infrastructure in Serbia and the region.

The competition is open to legal entities, regional development agencies, municipal offices for local economic development, chambers of commerce, public utilities, local employment offices, tourism development bodies, clusters, industrial and professional associations.

Financial support amounting to EUR 75,000–250,000 per beneficiary, or EUR 250,000–1,000,000 for large-scale projects is provided.

A total of EUR 2 million has been provided from the IPA for small-scale projects and EUR 8.8 million for large-scale ones.

RSEDP II is a technical assistance program aiming to support regional development agencies (RDA) in Serbia.

Regional Socio-Economic Development Programme 2  
tel.: 011 36 40 044, [www.rsedp2serbia.eu](http://www.rsedp2serbia.eu)

### EUR 150 Million for the Infrastructure

In the next two years, EUR 150 million will be invested in the development of local and regional infrastructure in Serbia as part of the project “Building Together”.

One half of the required funds will be provided from a European Investment Bank loan. In the first stage, 14 projects are foreseen; their implementation will cover investments in local and regional transport routes, cultural and health facilities, schools, child care facilities and gyms. Refurbishment and modernization of public administration and local self-government facilities are also foreseen.

The European Investment Bank loan amounting to EUR 75 million has been obtained under very favorable terms – 15 years’ repayment period, five years’ grace period and the interest rate equal to Euribor plus 1%. The remaining EUR 75 million will be provided from the budgets of the Ministry for the National Investment Plan (NIP) and other line ministries, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and local self-governments.

According to estimates of the German Development Bank (GTZ), local and regional infrastructure revitalization and development require investments of EUR 17.6 billion.

Ministry for the National Investment Plan  
tel.: 011 3617 583, [www.mnip.gov.rs](http://www.mnip.gov.rs)

### INVITATION BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SIEPA Job Creation Grants

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and the Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) have published an invitation to apply for investment support grants for each new job created.

If the investment is in manufacturing, EUR 2,000–5,000 is awarded for each new job, while investments in devastated areas and areas covered by the “Program for the Revitalization of Industrial Centers” (Niš, Kraljevo, Novi Pazar and Zaječar) are eligible for grants amounting to EUR 4,000–10,000.

For investments in automotive, electronic and ICT industries in the areas covered by the “Program for the Revitalization of Industrial Centers”, grants amount to EUR 5,000–10,000, whereas for investments in the service sector the grants amount to EUR 2,000–4,000.

This is the eleventh cycle of awarding grants.

The Program has enabled the creation of over 17,000 jobs and direct investments totaling over EUR 635 million.

So far, a total of 114 programs have been launched and the state awarded about EUR 47 million for this purpose. For each euro invested from the national budget through the Program, EUR 13 of direct investments have been provided; in addition, a significant proportion of the invested funds are recovered by the state through taxes and social insurance contributions.

The Program promotes investments which, in addition to creating jobs, result in the transfer of know-how and technology, balanced regional development, revitalizing devastated areas and areas of particular interest and stimulating the development of automotive, electronic and ICT industries.

Ministry of Economy and Regional Development  
tel.: 011 2855 231, [www.merr.gov.rs](http://www.merr.gov.rs)  
Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency – SIEPA  
tel.: 011 33 98 550, [www.siepa.gov.rs](http://www.siepa.gov.rs)

### NALED: Business Environment Certificates for Five Cities and Municipalities

The cities of Subotica, Vranje and Leskovac and the municipalities of Bujanovac and Pirot have been awarded favorable business environment certificates as part of the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) program.

The Minister of Economy Mladjan Dinkić stated that all five municipalities and cities that received the certificates were located along Corridor 10 and expressed his conviction that municipalities with less bureaucracy and faster procedures for issuing licenses would attract more investors. Dinkić highlighted the example of Bujanovac, which proved that even the poorest municipalities were able to improve the business environment.

The project of awarding favorable business environment certificates is implemented by NALED in collaboration with the Serbian Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Local self-governments wishing to obtain the certificate must fulfill 12 requirements, including the quality of service, information, infrastructure, utility services and the environment, and must possess the organizational capacities and strategic plans. Last year, favorable business environment certificates were awarded to Kragujevac, Loznica and Indjija.

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

### EXCHANGE 3: Strengthening Local Governments

The Delegation of the European Union to Serbia has published an invitation to submit project proposals aimed at strengthening the capacities of local governments to upgrade service provided and to stimulate local development in line with their own development priorities.

The projects will be funded as part of the program Exchange 3, implemented by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

Specific objectives of the invitation to submit project proposals are to upgrade local governments’ capacities for good governance, management and service provision, to improve the quality of life at the local level and to protect the environment through sustainable utilization of resources.

Main project implementers may only be local governments – municipalities, cities or metropolitan municipalities. Grants for approved projects range between EUR 100,000 and EUR 300,000 over an implementation period between 12 and 15 months.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is September 20th, 2010.

Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia  
tel.: 011 30 83 200, [www.delscg.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delscg.ec.europa.eu)



### A NEW COMPETITION BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY OF SERBIA: "Kindness" Program

The National Lottery of Serbia (NLS) has launched a new competition as part of the program "Kindness" (Dobrota), administered by the Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF).

Projects submitted must target persons over 65 years of age and priority will be given to those offering something new in comparison to the activities already conducted by the institutions and to projects involving the community – citizens, volunteers, cultural, social and educational institutions, etc.

The aim of the competition is to promote the quality of life of the elderly through launching activities to stimulate their involvement in various forms of social and cultural life and promotion of social care in municipalities, especially in places without such form of support.

Eligible for participation are local not-for-profit organizations (except in Belgrade, Niš and Novi Sad) engaged in improving the quality of life of the elderly. Maximum grant per organization is RSD 800,000.

National Lottery of Serbia, [www.lutrija.rs](http://www.lutrija.rs)  
Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF), [www.bcif.org](http://www.bcif.org)

### An Alternative View of Belgrade

A group of alternative Belgrade guides, including persons with disabilities, introduce tourists to Kalemegdan, the confluence of the Sava and the Danube, as well as the Old Fairground and Block 45 in New Belgrade – spots off the beaten tourist track, telling a different story about the city. Last summer, eight persons with disabilities led the first groups of domestic and foreign guests on organized tours of Belgrade.

In addition to well-known landmarks, this year they are offering visits to the confluence of the Sava and the Danube, the Old Fairground and Block 45, accompanied by a personal impression of the sites and an introduction to the culture of disability in the environment.

The intent of the project authors has been to approach the citizens and draw attention to the issue of inclusion in addition to the tourism aspect, as the problem of inaccessible streets, institutions, libraries, hospitals is prominent in Serbia.

The project is implemented with the support of the Tourist Organization of Belgrade, the Museum of Contemporary Art and the Telenor Foundation.

Tourist Organization of Belgrade  
tel.: 011 30 61 314, [www.tob.co.rs](http://www.tob.co.rs)

### Employment of Persons with Disabilities

Since May 23rd, the provisions of the Law on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities encouraging employers to become involved in the improvement of the social status of persons with disabilities have been in force. According to these provisions, enterprises with more than 20 employees are under the obligation either to recruit persons with disabilities or to contribute to the fund for their vocational rehabilitation.

Employers with up to 49 employees are obliged to recruit one person with disability, those with 50 or more employees – two, i.e. one person with disability per 50 employees. Employers unable to find a person with disability with a suitable occupational profile may choose to contribute to the wages of employees in an enterprise for vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities or to purchase products from enterprises employing persons with disabilities.

Enterprises are also offered the possibility of paying the penalty amounting to three times the minimum monthly salary per person with disability that they are obliged to recruit but fail to do so. The Tax Administration will supervise the fulfillment of this obligation on a monthly basis.

Employment may be sought by all persons with disabilities whose disability status was recognized under any of the previously applicable regulations.

### MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL POLICY

### Social Inclusion of Children with Disability

Promoting social inclusion of marginalized groups of children and youth is the principal aim of the projects "A Hundred Languages of Diversity" and "Support to the Families of Children with Developmental Impairments", implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and UNICEF with the financial support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The aim of these projects was to ensure as many children in institutional care as possible be placed in family care within three to five years. In Serbia, there are over 1,000 children with disabilities living in social welfare institutions and homes, whereas only 15% of children with special needs attend school. Conditions in social welfare institutions are poor and adults and children are often housed together.

The project comprises two components. At the national level, it involves cooperation between all relevant institutions to provide support to families, as well as raising awareness of the importance of addressing these issues, in order to enable children with developmental impairments to remain with their biological families or to assist these families in caring for children through a system of day care facilities. The other component foresees direct support to 20 municipalities in Serbia, of which 14 are among the least developed ones. Those municipalities will receive funding to establish day care facilities with a view to promoting and developing special foster care.

The project "Support to the Families of Children with Developmental Impairments" is worth a total of EUR 990,000, whereas the project "A Hundred Languages of Diversity" is worth EUR 500,000.

As part of the project "A Hundred Languages of Diversity", assistance will be provided to Kragujevac, Novi Sad and Loznica to develop local social welfare services.

Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

UNICEF, tel.: 011 36 02 100, [www.unicef.org/serbia](http://www.unicef.org/serbia)

### Developing Local Services for Children with Developmental Impairments and Their Families

The overall aim of the project "Developing Local Services for Children with Developmental Impairments and Their Families" is to strengthen the policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities for the development of local support services for children with developmental impairments to respond fully to the needs of these children and their families.

The project is implemented by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in collaboration with UNICEF through the European Commission Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. The financial package totals EUR 2,222,222. The project was launched in April 2010 and is expected to conclude in April 2013.

The project will be implemented at the national and local levels, and the expected results are: 1) upgraded capacities of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy to monitor, evaluate and supervise decentralized social welfare services, as well as 2) upgraded institutional capacities of local municipal governments, social service providers, social work centers and civil society activists with a view to providing accessible local social support services compliant with standards to families of children with developmental impairments. Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

### UN GLOBAL COMPACT: The Serbian Network in the Top Three

The Global Compact Network in Serbia was selected as one of the top three in 2009, together with those of Japan and Ukraine.

The best networks were selected at the Eighth Annual Meeting of Local Leaders, held in New York, at the same time as the Global Compact Leaders' Summit to mark the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Global Compact.

The United Nations Global Compact is the most massive voluntary association of companies committed to aligning their business activities with the ten universal principles of socially responsible business in the field of human rights, labor rights, environmental protection and combating corruption. The Compact involves all relevant stakeholders in society: governments, companies, trade unions, civil society organizations and the United Nations.

The Global Compact has more than 5,200 members in more than 130 countries, including 53 members from Serbia.

Global Compact Serbia  
[www.unglobalcompact.rs](http://www.unglobalcompact.rs)

### Farmers' Pension Insurance

The Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies and USAID have presented the publication Farmers' Pension Insurance.

The publication analyzes the existing legal solutions, gives an overview of system performance and problems and proposes reform options for the Farmers' Pension Fund, which has encountered problems with payment of pension contributions since its foundation.

In earlier legislative analyses, this issue has not received sufficient attention; therefore, there have not been comprehensive analyses of the problem or recommendations on improving the legal solutions. Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies, tel.: 011 32 46 666

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

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PROJECT: Education for All

At the first international conference of the project "Education for All", the project team and experts presented various activities which would enable equal access to and better quality of education for children from marginalized groups.

The project was launched by the Ministry of Education in order that as many children as possible from marginalized groups – Roma children in rural areas, children with developmental impairments, children from poor families – be integrated in the preschool and primary education system. Only two percent of Roma children are covered by the preschool education system, under 40% – by the primary education system, whereas between 70% and 90% of them do not succeed in completing primary school.

Project activities will aim to ensure that children and pupils attend class in line with their developmental and educational characteristics and needs, that they be accepted and socially included and that they get an opportunity for intercultural learning. Beside teachers, teaching assistants will also be involved in the work with children in 80 primary schools and 48 preschool institutions in the Republic of Serbia.

The EU has provided EUR 1,800,000 for project implementation and EUR 1,200,000 for the procurement of equipment and teaching materials.

The second project component is focused on the professional development of preschool and school teachers and school management, for whom training will be organized. In addition, procurement of the equipment required for the teaching of children with developmental impairments is foreseen.

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

## Regional Cooperation Program in Education, Science and Research

This year, Serbia participates in the Mobility Programme for Capacity Building in Regional Cooperation in Education, Science and Research for the first time, as the host country.

The aim of the Program is to strengthen partnerships and ensure continuity of the regional cooperation network in South-East European countries. The Program foresees short-term visits of civil servants from education, science and research institutions to other relevant institutions in the region.

The Program, launched in 2008, is being implemented by the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital, established by the Regional Cooperation Council.

Serbia's participation has been made possible through partnership between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technological Development and Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital  
[www.taskforcehumancapital.info](http://www.taskforcehumancapital.info)

Ministry of Science and Technological Development  
tel.: 011 26 88 047, [www.nauka.gov.rs](http://www.nauka.gov.rs)

## CONFERENCE "RESEARCH AND EDUCATION POLICY" The Ministry and Researchers' First Encounter

The conference entitled "Research and Education Policy", organized by the Ministry of Education, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Team and the DILS project, is the first formal encounter between the Ministry of Education and research institutions in the field of education.

The conference was attended by representatives of research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Education, united by the common interest to produce scientific results which will have an impact on the development of education policy.

The aim of the conference was to present the results of research into education and to identify any obstacles to the dialogue between researchers and decision-makers.

Ministry of Education, e-mail: [kabinet@mp.gov.rs](mailto:kabinet@mp.gov.rs), [www.mp.gov.rs](http://www.mp.gov.rs)  
DILS project – Delivery of Improved Local Services, [www.dils.gov.rs](http://www.dils.gov.rs)

## NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL AND THE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT Education Development Directions in Serbia

The expert commission has been established and become operational under the auspices of the National Education Council (NEC) and will be defining national education indicators against which the NEC shall report on the status of education to the National Assembly and the public.

As there are no clearly defined national education indicators in place in Serbia, and most EU indicators are not monitored in our country, the NEC members have investigated into education monitoring mechanisms in the EU. The definition of national education indicators shall enhance the supervision mandate of the NEC and the harmonization of reporting mechanisms with the European trends, as well as the harmonization of education system levels with European principles and values.

The Education Development Directions in Serbia are being drafted, as a framework for the future Education Development Strategy and a part of the overall development policy of Serbia by 2020.

The development of the Education Development Directions is one of the basic functions of the NEC. The expert commission treats the Education Development Directions and the Education Development Strategy as two stages in the development of a long-term education development policy. These two closely linked documents shall define the strategic objectives and priorities in the development of education.

The Education Development Strategy in Serbia is one of the key factors in the overall development of the country and shall be linked with other national strategic documents.

The NEC aims to have the Education Development Directions analyzed against all requirements that various Government policies have in terms the education sector, as well as international obligations and EU standards.

The work of the NEC regarding the development of the Education Development Directions and the definition of indicators is closely supported by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

National Education Council of the Republic of Serbia, tel: 011 31 30 965  
[www.nps.gov.rs](http://www.nps.gov.rs)

## EDUCATION POLICY STUDY PROGRAMME A Project Worth EUR 857,000

The implementation of the Tempus project "Education Policy Study Programme in Serbia and Montenegro" has started, aiming to introduce modern and internationally recognized master and doctoral studies, which will respond to national needs and be in line with the Bologna process.

The project has been initiated by the Ministry of Education, as part of a wider education reform process currently taking place in the region, and is coordinated by the University of Belgrade. The project will last three years and is funded with about EUR 857,000 from the EU Tempus program. During the first project year, new curricula of education policy studies will be developed for master and doctoral studies, as well as new teaching materials and quality assurance mechanisms.

The implementation of post-graduate programs is expected as of the year 2011 at universities of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and the University of Montenegro.

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

## Primary and Secondary Education Examination System

Quality assurance system development will be an area of special attention for the Ministry of Education in the coming years. An important segment of this system comprises the primary and secondary school-leaving examinations and baccalaureate examinations.

School-leaving examinations will be taken by pupils leaving primary school, as well as students leaving three-year vocational secondary schools.

Baccalaureate examinations will be taken by students leaving four-year general secondary education (general baccalaureate), vocational secondary education (vocational baccalaureate) or secondary education in art and design (art baccalaureate).

Prior to introduction in all schools, the system will be developed and tested through an IPA-funded project. Standards developed in this way will also contribute to establishing close cooperation between the education system and the labor market, as well as to increasing the employability after leaving the education system.

The EU has provided EUR 2,000,000 for project implementation. The project is expected to conclude in 2012.  
Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation  
tel.: 011 20 67 021, [www.ceo.edu.rs](http://www.ceo.edu.rs)



## YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: **Junior Vision from Arilje Voted the Best at the Trade Fair**

At the Student Company Trade Fair held in Belgrade, the Arilje-based company Junior Vision was selected as the best in 2010. The company manufactures environmentally-friendly waste disposal containers and special chewing gum disposal tissues, especially attractive to hospitality industry business owners. Students have signed agreements with two local self-governments to supply them with waste disposal containers.

Junior Vision reinvests its profit in manufacturing, but also earmarks some of it for fundraising activities for children with special needs in Arilje.

Two young women and one young man, as managers of the best student company, are to take part in the European best student companies' competition on Sardinia. The Trade Fair is a part of the "Junior Achievements" program, supported by USAID through its Economic Security Strengthening Program. Junior Achievements programs have been attended by over 4,700 secondary school students. Junior Achievements, tel.: 011 33 45 691, [www.ja-serbia.org](http://www.ja-serbia.org)

## Tender to Procure Studies on Trafficking Prevention

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Belgrade has published a tender to conduct studies on prevention of trafficking in human beings. In addition to trafficking prevention, the studies' topics may include existing services for trafficking victims in Serbia, as well as the criminal law system and court cases in the field of combating trafficking in human beings in Serbia. The tender is open to organizations, institutes, firms, individuals.

The tender is launched under the auspices of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and funded by the Government of Belgium, Government of Switzerland and UNODC on behalf of UN.GIFT.

IOM Belgrade has launched the tender on behalf of the Joint Program of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Serbia. International Organization for Migration tel.: 011 382 17 03, [www.iomntfserbia.org](http://www.iomntfserbia.org)

## Four Rural Tourism Development Pilot Projects

The implementation of four pilot projects aimed at supporting rural tourism development in South Banat, Podunavlje, Central and Western Serbia will start in 2011.

The projects will be launched in the municipalities of Ljig, Mionica, Kosjerić and Valjevo, as well as in Eastern Serbia, in the territory stretching from Zaječar to Dimitrovgrad. The projects are focused on training rural households and range from learning foreign languages to running a reception desk and working with guests, to advertising and selling rural household accommodation capacities. Plans include visits of rural tourism operators to international centers such as Tuscany or Rioja to attend training and meet foreign colleagues. The initial steps in rural tourism development have already been taken: in villages in the Divčibare area and around Kragujevac and Čačak, there are groups of households involved in rural tourism, with about a hundred household in each group.

According to estimates by the Chamber of Commerce, rural tourism accommodation capacities total about 5,000 beds and this sector employs 1,250 people.

The President of the European Federation of Farm and Village Tourism – Eurogites Klaus Ehrlich stated that Serbia had considerable potential for the development of this branch of tourism, primarily owing to rich cultural heritage, tradition and the environment.

Serbian Chamber of Commerce, tel.: 011 3300 900  
[www.pks.rs](http://www.pks.rs)

## THE FIRST STREET PAPER **Liceulice**

The first issue of the activist magazine Liceulice (The Face of the Streets) has appeared.

The project aims to assist the youth living and/or working in the streets by contributing one half of the sale revenue (RSD 50 per copy), while the remainder will be used for further development of the magazine.

According to plans, the magazine should become available throughout Serbia. Liceulice tel.: 011 244 00 96

## School of European Integrations

The European Movement in Serbia is organizing the School of European Integrations with the aim to build capacities of local and regional administrations, civil society organizations and the media for European integrations.

EMINS has designed the School of European Integrations as a model to be implemented in response to needs and requirements of specific groups, funds or donors.

Training is focused on topics ranging from EU history, description of competences of its institutions, decision-making methods, enlargement policy and regional cooperation to practical issues pertaining to specific policies, on-line databases and EU search engines, the role of local self-government in the integration process, accessibility of funds and training in how to apply for programs and funds.

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

## THE OMBUDSMAN: A Guide to Non-Discriminatory Language

A Guide to Standardized Non-Discriminatory Language and Conduct has been published on the Ombudsman's website.

Through this Guide, the Ombudsman recommends, encourages and requests all institutions and participants in public communication to observe the rules of non-discriminatory conduct and verbal expression.

In his view, in building institutional identity, it is necessary to make efforts to recognize and combat discriminatory mechanisms of misogyny, able-bodyism and homophobia, widely present in our society.

The Guide contains three chapters: the first on non-discriminatory language and conduct in relation to women, the second in relation to LGBT persons, and the third in relation to persons with disabilities.

The Ombudsman, tel.: 011 20 68 100  
[www.zastitnik.rs](http://www.zastitnik.rs)

## Civil Society Organizations' Fair

Non-governmental organizations and foundations presented themselves on over 60 stands at the Civil Society Organizations' Fair, held in Belgrade on June 10th and 11th.

The aim of this year's fair was to promote the role of non-governmental organizations in the European Union accession process, as well as to build and promote the partnership between the civil, business and public sectors. Furthermore, the event was organized to improve the image of civil society organizations, considering that few citizens are familiar with their efforts to promote European values.

Beside the presentation in the official show space, the auxiliary program included conferences, round tables and workshops.

## Top 100 Students Travelling to Europe

One hundred best students have been selected in the competition "Travelling to Europe 2010" to spend one month travelling through European Union countries.

This is the sixth consecutive year that the project has been realized; so far, a total of 1,000 students have had an opportunity to visit EU countries. The aim of the competition is to enable the best-performing students from Serbian public universities to spend the summer of 2010 exploring European cities and peoples.

The competition winners receive InterRail tickets, Hypo Bank Visa cards with pocket money, Delta Generali travel insurance, EURO26 and ISIC student cards.

The project is implemented by the European Movement in Serbia in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Austria.

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

## Workshop on Gender Statistics Held

The National Workshop on Gender Statistics, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and UNDP, was held in Kovačica.

In addition to presenting the importance of gender statistics, its development and reasons for it, the time use surveys in the EU and Serbia were presented, as well as the data on violence

against women and results of the research into reconciliation of work and family life in the EU and Serbia.

The objective of the workshop was to introduce the Serbian stakeholders to these issues and to improve the process of data collection and processing in the field of gender statistics. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, tel.: 011 2412 922, [www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)

## Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

Palace of Serbia, Office 122  
Bul. Mihajla Pupina 2, 11 070 Beograd

Tel: (+381 11) 311 46 05, 311 47 98

Fax: (+381 11) 213 97 54

e-mail: [sipru@gov.rs](mailto:sipru@gov.rs)

[www.inclusion.gov.rs](http://www.inclusion.gov.rs), [www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)