Europe Supports the Expansion of the Landfill for Cleaner Pčinja

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia Michael Davenport handed over the Main Design for the Expansion of the Sanitary Landfill Meteris to Vranje Mayor Zoran Antić and the agricultural machinery to Vladičin Han Mayor Goran Mladenović. These two projects have been funded by the European Union through the European Partnership with Municipalities Programme EU PROGRES.

During his visit to South Serbia, the head of the DEU met with the Vranje Mayor, with whom he discussed the development projects in the city that are funded by the EU.

More Sports in the Warm “Pendik” Sports Hall

Following the meeting with the Novi Pazar Mayor Meho Mahmutović, the delegation of the Government of Serbia for European Integration, led by the Minister without Portfolio Branko Ružić, put into operation the new heating system in the Sports Hall ”Pendik”, installed with the financial support of the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, through the European Partnership with Municipalities Programme - EU PROGRES. The Delegation also comprised Head of the Negotiating Team for Serbia’s EU Accession Tanja Miščević and Deputy Director of the Serbian European Integration Office Ognjen Mirić.

Delegation of the European Union is strongly involved in the South Serbia and by joint efforts we want to improve the living conditions for the common people. That is why we will continue realization of our big project EU PROGRES, whose results are impressive.

Michael Davenport
Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia
Over 370 fruit producers participated in the practical training on modern ways of planting fruit trees using drip irrigation systems and anti-hail protection, organised within the regional project Improving Fruit Production in Pčinjski District funded by the European Union and Government of Switzerland through European Partnership with Municipalities Programme EU PROGRES with EUR 280,000. Fruit producers from Vranje, Vladičin Han, Surdulica, Bosilegrad, Preševo, Bujanovac and Trgovište, who have throughout the year participated in trainings within this project, will be given 202,000 free apple, plum and cherry seedlings in early November 2013. Expert speakers from agricultural advisory service Agrozem and Centre for Development of Jablanički and Pčinjski Districts held training on how to treat the seedlings properly before and after planting and how to protect the fruit trees during the winter. So far nine different modules have been organised within the education of agricultural producers on the topics of fruit production techniques, fruit orchard management, standardization and business planning.

“I have learned a lot about modern close planting of fruit trees, as well as the systems of protection against precipitation. When I compare my fruit orchard with the experimental one, I am able to see where I have failed so far, and I wish to implement modern technology on my land too,” Nevena Kostadinova, fruit producer from Bosilegrad said.

The present marketing system of fruits and vegetables in Serbia does not adequately address the complex problems of producers. It is characterized by a long, fragmented supply chain, high post-harvest wastages and it does not foster competitiveness. The system is also deficient in providing a fair share of consumer price to the producer and in ensuring high quality and hygiene of the produce.

Goran Radovanović, Expert for Business Planning

New Knowledge for Better Fruit Growth

Ensuring Fairer Prices for Agricultural Producers
"Our home has been built 20 years ago and for years we had filled buckets and canisters with water in our neighbour’s house, because there was no water pipeline in our settlement. One had to bring at least two bottles of water when going to toilet. We washed our laundry at our parents’ home, as otherwise we would have to hand wash. Finally, we got our faucets running in December 2012 and now we have a washing machine of our own. There is no life without water”

Nazenta Ćerimović (32)
from the Coška Settlement

Water supply system in the Roma settlement Coška in Vranje

Water Brought Better Life

The construction of the water supply system in the Roma settlement Coška in Vranje brought fresh water to 30 households. This project, funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland through EU PROGRES with 40,530 Euros, instigated Vranje Public Utility Company for water supply to install pumps of greater capacity than initially planned and to construct another street pipeline creating pre-conditions for another 25 households to be connected in the near future.

Highlights of the period
July – October 2013

Employment
112 full-time jobs
opened through two kindergarten projects, distant business incubation for Roma entrepreneurs, and the Citizens’ Involvement Fund initiatives.

Gender
The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation provided additional 402,850 Euros for gender activities.

Environment
The designs for the Banjica and Meteris Regional Landfill and the Feasibility Study for the National Park Kopaonik create a basis for investments of 17.5 million Euros.

Water Supply
Replacement of asbestos pipelines in Sjenica and Vladičin Han provided more stable and safer water supply for 3,500 people.

Support to vulnerable communities
Distant business incubation for Roma entrepreneurs enabled launch of 17 businesses and employment of 29 persons.
We are planning to...

- **Start**
  - construction of the water supply system in the Roma settlement Blaževo in Novi Pazar
  - projects implemented by the local Gender Equality Mechanisms and those supporting female entrepreneurship

- **Open**
  - regional Centre for Agriculture Development in Sjenica
  - medical laboratory in Kuršumlija

- **Complete**
  - construction of the Green Market in Kuršumlija, water supply systems in Blace, Surdulica and Prokuplje
  - reconstruction and furnishing of the local community offices in Novi Pazar to provide outreach for Citizens’ Assistance Centre
  - installation of Electronic Register for Property Inventory in 24 municipalities
  - preparation of General Regulation Plans for Jošanička Banja and Prolom Banja and Detailed Regulation Plans for Radan Mountain, border crossing Kalovo in Trgovište, Kušići in Ivanjica and Stara Ćaršija in Novi Pazar; five main designs for in the residential area Erozija in Novi Pazar, as well as of the diagnostic centre as part of the Health Centre

- **Handover**
  - main Design for Banjica sanitary landfill for Nova Varoš, Prijepolje, Priboj and Sjenica
  - equipment for the newly constructed Kindergarten “Poletarac” in Tutin, equipment for the School of Textile and Leather Design to create vocational education training of textile, clothing and footwear industry centre and Regional Centre for Mentally Challenged Persons in Novi Pazar, Special Hospital for Pulmonary Diseases in Surdulica
  - X-ray Machine to Leskovac Outpatient Health Clinic
  - 202,247 apple, plum and cherry seedlings to fruit producers in Pčinjski District
  - ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) certificate and ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) certificate to Surdulica, Novi Pazar, Bujanovac, Ivanjica and Prokuplje

- **Promote**
  - 2014 EU PROGRES Calendar
  - preliminary results of Competitiveness Study conducted in 34 municipalities

- **Organize**
  - 13th Programme Steering Committee in Nova Varoš
  - seminars about environmental protection for small and medium enterprises.