Towns and Municipalities from South and South West Serbia in the “Europe, That Is You” Campaign

Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia, the Serbian European Integration Office and the European Partnership with Municipalities Programme - EU PROGRES informed mayors and presidents of municipalities in South and South West Serbia that the level of donations to be granted in the coming period depended on their capabilities, and that it was necessary therefore to upgrade the capacities of the administrations to offer the best response to EU integration challenges.

Mayors and presidents of municipalities from 25 towns and municipalities gathered during a working lunch, on the occasion of launching the “Europe, That Is You” campaign.

EU PROGRES Activities to Go On Until March 2014

European Partnership with Municipalities Programme EU PROGES, implemented in 25 municipalities in South and Southwest Serbia with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, will continue with implementation until March 2014 as announced at the tenth Programme Steering Committee Meeting. The factors which influenced the short-term extension of the Programme are poor quality of planning and technical documentation, land ownership issues, municipality co-funding, as well as slow public procurement processes.

The seventh Quarterly Report was also presented during the meeting, covering the period October – December 2012. By the end 2012, EU PROGRES issued contracts for the implementation of 187 projects.

New Main Design for the Reconstruction of Bora Stanković Theatre in Vranje

For Better Reporting on the Process of Serbia’s Accession to the European Union

Novi Pazar Prepares Main Construction Designs for Development of the New Residential Area

Vranje Residents Grateful for EU and Swiss Support

Blace Obtained Its First Tourist Info Centre

New Water Supply System in Jelašnica

The Programme is funded by the European Union, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Serbia and is implemented by UNOPS, in partnership with 25 municipalities of the South and South West Serbia.
Business Friendly Environment as a Condition for Attracting Investors

The City of Vranje is implementing a local development policy fully complying with all development complexities and with a special emphasis on the importance of partnership. Creation of a business friendly environment includes a series of measures and interventions, whether it is about planning, investment in infrastructure, improvement of legal framework and relaxation of procedures, promotional activity, strengthening of partnerships or transparency of operations.

Certificate of a Business Friendly City was awarded in recognition of prior activities in a process implemented by the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED). The project, worth 84,350 Euros, was one of the priority projects in the Bojnik Development Strategy as it was expected to support farming development in this part of the Jablanica District.

Another investor is opening a production line with a plan to employ over 600 workers in the next phases. It is a well-known furniture factory “Ditre Italia”.

Green by the book

When the Bojnik Public Utility Company (PUC) “Jedinstvo” approved the Decision on Market Rules and the Decision on Provision and Use of Market Stands at the end of February 2013, they became the first PUC in this Jablanica town to introduce good governance principles into its work.

“Discussions with the Bojnik officials on the good governance part of the “Strengthening Institutional and Infrastructure Capacity of the Bojnik Green Market” project began almost immediately after the proposal was approved. At the time, the Green Market did not have adequate related regulatory framework”, said Dragan Mladenović, the EU PROGRES Good Governance Component Manager. “The adopted documents address issues such as the procedures and pricing for renting the Market stalls, internal organizations of the Market, internal pricing policy and other operational matters”, he added.

The new buildings of the dairy market and market administration in Bojnik, built with the European Union and the Swiss Government support through European Partnership with Municipalities Programme – EU PROGRES, were opened in October 2012 by Jean-Luc Oesch, the Swiss Embassy Deputy Head of Mission in Serbia and Ivan Stojanović, the Mayor of Bojnik. This South Serbian municipality thus received its first planned market facility for the sale of dairy products.

The project, worth 84,350 Euros, was one of the priority projects in the Bojnik Development Strategy as it was expected to support farming development in this part of the Jablanica District.
MARGINALISED AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Assistance was provided to some 2,500 people from vulnerable groups to obtain personal documents, access health services, pension, education and employment.

EDUCATION

Four kindergartens and four schools have been built or reconstructed, so 5,500 children have better conditions for education.

WATER SUPPLY

Implementation of five local projects and one inter-municipal project improved water supply for 32,500 of citizens.

EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENTS

Part of Programme’s efforts is to attract investments worth of over 35 million Euros and open some 3,000 jobs in the next two to five years.
We are planning to...

- **Start**
  - construction works on flood protection objects on the Raška River Basin, regulation of Stražavački pond in Prokuplje, development of design and setup of waste water treatment plant in Trgovište
  - instalment of heating system in sports hall “Pendik” in Novi Pazar
  - production of the main designs for collectors system in Tutin, strategic tourism marketing plan for part of South West Serbia – Zlatibor and Zlatar mountains, Competitiveness Baseline Study, nine plans of general and detailed regulation for Raška, Prolog Banja, Trgovište, Novi Pazar, Bojnik and Lebane
  - support to the municipalities to establish Inter-ethnic Councils
  - awareness campaign promoting environmental protection, recycling and energy efficiency

- **Continue**
  - supporting Gender Equality Mechanisms by providing funds for the projects
  - awareness campaign “Europe That Is You”, promoting European values

- **Open**
  - One Stop Shops in Vranje and Leskovac
  - Citizens’ Assistance Centre in Bosilegrad

- **Complete**
  - main designs for water supply system in village of Donji Stajevac in Trgovište, bypass to Industrial Zone “Bunuševac” in Vranje, sewerage system in Jošanička banja in Raška
  - plans of general regulation for Sijarinska banja and detailed regulation for borders crossing Ribarci in Bosilegrad, Industrial Zone, Kukavica Mountain and Lake Jovac in Vladičin Han, Deviči settlement in Ivanjica
  - Quality Management System implementation process in Ivanjica and Surdulica

- **Promote**
  - Green Zone in Leskovac
  - Novi Pazar as the city of youth with rich cultural and historical heritage
  - Vranje as the investment friendly city