



EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

FACT SHEET

EU EXCHANGE 4 PROGRAMME

Exchange Programme aims to support the introduction of the European standards in the work of local self-governments in Serbia. In the period 2004 - 2013, three phases of the program with a total value of €22 million have been implemented by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (SCTM) with the support of the European Union. 116 municipal projects were conducted under the programme and capacities of local self-governments were considerably improved in the field of project management, strategic planning and financial management process.

The fourth phase of the programme with the total value of €5.8 million began in May 2013 and has been implemented in the period of two years. Over 80 towns and municipalities are directly supported through programme activities aiming to enhance the implementation of key reforms at the local level, as well as the implementation of sector policies of importance for local economic development and European integration process (public finance, property management, environment, social welfare and agriculture). Activities of the **EU Exchange 4** programme are divided into three components:

EU exchange 4

Stalna konferencija
gradova i opština

Savez gradova i opština Srbije



Component 1: MUNICIPAL PLANNING and SLAP IS SUPPORT - 20 cities/municipalities have been supported in strategic planning (development of sector and action plans) contributing to the better planning of resources at local level and facilitating the implementation of projects in the field of energy, waste management and environment protection. SLAP information system supported under this Component is the first and unique online database of municipal infrastructure projects.

Component 2: MUNICIPAL FINANCE SUPPORT – 10 cities/municipalities have been directly supported in the process of programme budgeting and linking the program budgeting with the strategic planning. SCTM provided support to all LSGs in order to build their capacities in program budgeting through the standardization of the methodology for the development of required documents – unique list of goals and indicators for all programmes and programme activities is set out, models for budgetary decisions are given and continuous support and organization of trainings is provided. Further, an important aspect of raising investment capacity of the LSGs relies in finding alternative mechanisms for supporting local economic development. Since January 2015, SCTM has been assisting the City of Šabac in the emission of municipal bonds through public placement, with the total value of 400 million RSD and generated funds will be used for the construction of an indoor swimming pool.

Component 3: EU EXCHANGE 4 GRANT SCHEME SUPPORT – Within Grant Scheme, 32 municipal projects are implemented with a total value of approximately €5 million, out of which the European Union donated an amount of €4.5 million. The projects are implemented in accordance with the following sector priorities: ENVIRONMENT - Waste Management (seven projects), LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Property management (13 projects) and Agricultural Business Cooperation (five projects), SOCIAL PROTECTION - Social services for the elderly population (seven projects). Through implementation of these projects, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia works directly with SCTM helping municipalities to improve their capacities in managing EU funds, but also going a step further in facilitating a strategic change at municipal level within national policy frameworks by providing strategic advice in order to unblock policy bottlenecks, maximize results and standardize services.





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Significant results have been achieved at the local level:

Waste management: support is provided to ensure sustainability of already established regional waste schemes (Duboko, Srem Macva and Pirot), also financed by EU, by establishing the system of the primary waste separation in 15 participating LSGs leading to reduction of amount of deposited waste to regional landfill, controlling number of wild (unsanitary) dumps and amounts of waste by supporting public awareness and education of citizens. The results of this support in the selected LSGs have been measurable already in the first year of implementation: in 2014, 6 LSGs have established systems of primary waste separation; the number of households covered with the primary separation has increased by 30 %; the number of containers delivered for Duboko regional waste scheme has doubled.

Property management: in the area of property management, we are directly working on the implementation of the Law on Public Property that is essential precondition for investments and overall local-economic development - increase of budget revenues and investments and better local competitiveness. 32 LSGs units, (including some of the regional centers like Novi Sad, Nis, Kragujevac, Pozarevac) are currently working on improvement of organizational capacities for property management, property inventory and data analysis and creating real-estate database software in line with defined standards and procedures.

Agricultural cooperation: Support is being provided to LSGs to improve their capacities in preparing economic policy measures and financial incentives to encourage cooperatives, as well as to improve their management capacity.

Social services for the elderly: EU Exchange 4 is addressing the needs of the elderly population through improvement of the home care service delivery at local level. In total 18 LSGs are working on improving standards for sustainable homecare service delivery, licensing and accreditation of the service providers. Thanks to EU support, the number of home care users is doubled (in small and underdeveloped municipalities like Zabari and Zagubice), but also in the rural areas where 66% of home care users are from rural population. The number of homecare givers has increased by 72% comparing to 2013.

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