



# EU AND SERBIA AT WORK

## FACT SHEET

### IMPROVEMENT OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION IN SERBIA (IMPRES)

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia and the European Union from **February 2011 until April 2014** implemented the joint project **Improvement of preschool education in Serbia (IMPRES)**, which the EU funded with **€3,75 million**. **This was** the first project in the field of preschool education in the country and it focused on improvement in the quality of preschool programmes and expansion of the capacities of preschool institutions.

15 pilot municipalities were included in the project activities - Pozarevac-Kostolac, Petrovac na Mlavi, Arandjelovac, Leskovac, Krusevac, Razanj, Surdulica, Gadzin Han, Bela Palanka, Uzice, Tutin, Ruma, Beocin, Sabac and Mali Zvornik.

Main beneficiary, and a partner, was **Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development**, while the list of other beneficiaries and target groups included: Institute for Improvement of Education, Centre for Development of curricula and textbooks, Department for pre-school, primary and secondary general and artistic education, Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation, Department for Standards and Evaluation, local self-governments, local preschool institutions, Parents' Councils and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

The project produced **special and specialised programmes** for the pre-schools in order to give greater variety of programmes, tailored for different needs of children and parents. Furthermore, it provided **nine mini-vans** and **one bus-mobile school** which are transporting children from the rural and remote area to the pre-schools. Some of those children attended kindergarten for the first time. Safe and cosy transport, coupled with the well-trained pre-school teachers meant a lot to the children and their parents. They become part of the wider community and are better prepared for the school. IMPRES project also financed the mounting of **seven prefabricated houses** which are now kindergartens in Sabac, Ruma, Uzice, Krusevac, Leskovac and Tutin. The waiting lists for the pre-school attendance have been eliminated or diminished. Parents were given the possibility to enroll on time their children to the pre-school, and to provide them with better education.

**SUCCESS STORY:** In the bus - mobile kindergarten which Preschool Institution "Ljubica Vrebalov" from Pozarevac received as European Union donation within the IMPRES project, children from Roma families are attending the preparatory preschool program. Accompanied with preschool teacher Ivana Vratonjic they spend four hours per day in this mobile kindergarten. "The children were quickly adapted. We are playing, improving language and physical education, hygiene habits", says Ivana Vratonjić, preschool teacher who works with children.

#### CONTACT

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