



Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo
Bujanovac and Medvedja

Information on the Activities of the Coordination Body

(January to December 2012)

The Office of the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja presents its annual report on the activities undertaken in 2012.

In accordance with its defined priorities, the Coordination Body's Office, in the past period, established a record of significant achievements and results:

a) In the economic field – The Coordination Body's Office directly invested in the economic and infrastructural development of the three municipalities. With the aim of strengthening the economy of the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, the Coordination Body's Office awarded grants amounting to 40 million dinars to the entrepreneurs in the three municipalities. 222, 080, 840.33 dinars were invested in Infrastructural projects in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.

b) In the field of integrations – With the support of the British Embassy in Belgrade, the Coordination Body's Office organized a free seven-month "School of Serbian for the young from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo".

Interns from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo gain at the Coordination Body's Office the knowledge and experience that is important for finding jobs.

During this period, the Coordination Body's Office announced three competitions for grants for projects supporting civil society and the media. The project selection committee consisted of one representative from each municipality and representatives of the Coordination Body's Office. In three competitions, the Coordination Body's Office approved 7, 789, 880.00 dinars for 21 projects of civil associations and the media.

The municipality of Bujanovac gave the approval for the location on which the building of Subotica's Faculty of Economics' Department is going to be constructed in Bujanovac. The said department was opened in October 2011. The Coordination Body's Office funded the urban development project, the development of conceptual and architectural design and the project of demolition of the existing building. Together with the EU Progress program and the municipality of Bujanovac, the Coordination Body's Office will finance the construction of a building for the needs of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac.

c) In international relations – For the purpose of improving all aspects of life in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, the Coordination Body's Office achieved excellent cooperation with the following international partners: the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, the British Embassy, the US Embassy, the OSCE's Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the USAID, the EU Progress and PBILD programs and many others.

d) In the field of education – A second generation of students enrolled in Subotica's Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Albanian National Council, 77 textbooks were provided to elementary school pupils who attend classes in the Albanian language.

The Coordination Body's Office has been providing scholarships to young people from Presevo and Bujanovac municipalities for studying at the University of Novi Sad for two years.

231 scholarships were awarded to secondary school students from the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.

The Coordination Body's Office provided one-off scholarships for students of two Departments of the Faculty of Medvedja.

School bags and school supplies were provided to 1,050 first graders.

e) In communication with the public – The Coordination Body's Office informs citizens of its work by posting its reports and articles on the Internet (www.kt.gov.rs), and it also submits its reports to the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the media and its international partners.

In early November 2012, Prof. Zoran Stankovic, PhD, was appointed President of the Coordination Body. In late December, Prof. Stankovic, PhD, sent to the home addresses of all the citizens of the three municipalities letters by which he informed them of the results achieved by the Coordination Body in 2012 and of the activities planned for the coming year.

The major activities of the Coordination Body's Office in 2012 are presented chronologically:

- **Funds awarded in the Coordination Body's Office's competition** – The first call for applications for projects implemented by civil associations and the media was announced in March. The Coordination Body's Office awarded a total of 5, 051, 380.00 dinars to organizations and the media for the implementation of their projects. The Coordination Body's Office received a total of 37 project proposals, while the funds for the implementation of 13 projects were approved.

Funds were allocated for the projects dealing with organizing sporting events, in which young people from the three ethnic communities are involved, ecology, education, the learning of the Serbian language, the education of children from the Roma community and the organization of cultural events.

- **Scholarships for young people from Presevo and Bujanovac to study at the University of Novi Sad** – In February, the Coordination Body's Office announced a competition for young people from Bujanovac and Presevo that wish to study at the University of Novi Sad. This is the second year of the scholarship program that encourages young people from South Serbia to acquire university education in the Republic of Serbia. 21 out of 48 applicants were selected for scholarships. For candidates from the Albanian community, the native language of whom isn't Serbian, a three-month course in the Serbian language was organized to help them pass their entrance exams. The selected candidates passed the entrance exams and became student of the

Faculties of Law, Economics, Natural Sciences, Philosophy, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Sports and Physical Education, the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Fine Arts. This year, two female scholarship holders from the Albanian community are studying the Serbian language and literature.

In the first generation, 11 students enrolled in the department. Nine of them enrolled in the second year of study.

President of the Coordination Body, Prof. Zoran Stankovic, PhD, met in December with 30 scholarship freshmen and second – year students , and while talking with them, Miroslav Vesković, the Rector and the deans, he was informed about the experiences of young people, their studying conditions and their integration into the new environment.

Scholarships for young people to study in multiethnic Novi Sad will contribute not only to improved relations between the ethnic communities in South Serbia, but also to their professional development

We believe that thanks to gaining knowledge, these young people will improve the communities from which they come.

- **Visit of students from the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac to the home faculty**



– In March, the Coordination Body's Office organized a two-day visit of students of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac to their home faculty. The visit of students of Bujanovac Department to Subotica is another activity aimed at providing the necessary conditions for obtaining quality education and exchanging experiences between Bujanovac students and their peers from Subotica and Novi Sad. During the visit, the students met their fellow students, talked

with them about their joint initiatives in the future and saw how classes in Subotica were organized.

During the second day of the visit, students from Subotica and Bujanovac jointly attended a lecture in philosophy. Their colleagues from Subotica showed them around the faculty's building, while members of the Student Parliament showed them the ways of organizing student bodies, which will contribute to the improvement in student standards and in the conditions for acquiring higher education. After socializing with their colleagues from the home faculty, students from Bujanovac visited their colleagues who study at Novi Sad University's Department of Economics.

The Coordination Body remains committed to working to improve study conditions and to providing opportunities for quality higher education in South Serbia.

- **The new amphitheater in the village of Klenike** – The village of Klenike, which is situated in the municipality of Bujanovac, has a new amphitheater, which was opened in March 2012. The Coordination Body's Office helped with the construction of an amphitheater in the "Bora Stankovic" elementary school, where celebrations and the school-related events will be held.

The amphitheater is worth 12 million dinars. It is a project of great importance for development of social life of all citizens of Klenike, as well as of those living in the vicinity of the village. The amphitheater was opened to mark the 165 anniversary of the school, which is, apart from students from the village of Klenike, attended by students from 9 surrounding villages.

- **The second generation of interns trained in state institutions** – The Office for



Human and Minority Rights, with the support of the British Embassy, organized for the second time "The Internship Program for Minority Communities in State Institutions of the Republic of Serbia". The program aims to increase the participation of national minorities or of members the Roma, Bosniak and Albanian communities in public life and to get them involved in state bodies. In the period between November 2011 and April 2012, the interns familiarized themselves with the governmental administration's bodies that are of major importance

the majorities' exercising of collective rights, including the the Coordination Body's Office in Belgrade.

During the six months, the interns got involved in a number of activities, which included an interview with the British Ambassador HE Michael Davenport, a visit to the National Assembly, an extensive training and visits to cultural institutions. During that period, they also established firm friendships.

Two interns from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo spent six months at the Coordination Body's Office in Belgrade. In addition to being provided mentorship, they also familiarized themselves with the way in which the state administration operates and gained valuable knowledge for their further education and personal development.

- **Funds awarded in the Coordination Body's competition** – In September, the Coordination Body's Office announced a second competition for projects of civic associations and the media from the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. A total of 1,254,000.00 dinars was awarded for the implementation of four projects.

- **School supplies for first graders** – The Coordination Body's Office provided school



supplies and school bags to first graders from the three municipalities this year, too. Director of the Coordination Body's Office, Danijela Nenadic, President of the municipality of Presevo, Ragmi Mustafa, and Chief-of-Staff of the municipality of Bujanovac, Arber Pajaziti, delivered them to the elementary school "The 9th. of May" in the village of Reljan, which is situated in the municipality of Presevo, and to those of "Muharem Kadriu" and "Branko Radicevic" elementary schools, which are

situated in the municipality of Bujanovac. The Coordination Body's Office earmarked 3,800,000.00 dinars for this year's fourth activity, while 1,050 first graders received the gifts.

- **The grants for the development of economy in the municipalities Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja** – The Coordination Body's Office, in 2012, provided for the first time funds from its budget for financing economic projects to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, private entrepreneurs and agricultural co-operatives in the amount of 40 million dinars. With the support from the British Embassy, and in co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia, the Coordination



Body's Office organized a research of economic potentials of the economic entities in the three municipalities. Representatives of the municipalities and of the Offices for the Local Economic Development participated in all stages of the research, as well as in drafting of the documents.

The research resulted in "The Analysis of Economic Potentials" and in "The Program of Measures for the Allocation and Usage of Funds for Subsidizing Private Companies in 2012".

In the contest, 15 projects received grants for the development of economic potentials, seven of them from Bujanovac, five from Presevo and three from Medvedja.

The contracts were delivered to the businessmen by the Coordination Body's President Prof. Zoran Stankovic, PhD, President of the municipality of Presevo Ragmi Mustafa, President of the municipality of Bujanovac Nagip Arifi, President of the municipality of Medvedja Slobodan Draskovic and Director of the USAID Susan Fritz.

- **The Serbian language school for young people from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac** – "The school of the Serbian



language", which is organized by the Coordination Body's Office, began operating in late November. The Serbian language classes are attended by 310 young people, who are from 15 to 30 years old, from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo. The language school is free and it will last seven months. The Coordination Body's Office provided for all school beneficiaries the highest quality textbooks for learning Serbian as a non-mother tongue. The classes are organized twice

per week, over the weekends, on the premises of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac and the secondary technical school in Presevo.

Four teachers of a language school from Nis, which was selected to organize classes for the beneficiaries of "The School of the Serbian language," will try their best to advance the school beneficiaries' knowledge of the Serbian language. Local assistants from the Albanian community will help them to achieve their goal. A large number of persons interested in learning Serbian as a non-mother tongue suggests that there is a need, desire and willingness to learn the language of the environment in which they live.

Most beneficiaries of “The School of the Serbian language” in both municipalities are secondary school students, but there also a lot of students of the Faculty of Economics’ Department in Bujanovac, as well as those who have completed their education. After seven months of attending the school, all students will improve their knowledge of Serbian and will receive certified diplomas.

The Coordination Body’s initiative, by which young Albanians gain knowledge of the official language of their country, was supported by the British embassy in the Republic of Serbia.

- **The first anniversary of Subotica's Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac marked** – In mid-October, the Coordination Body's Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja and Subotica's Faculty of Economics marked the formal beginning of the second year of operation of Subotica's Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac.

Last year, 69 budget students enrolled in the first year of study. This academic year, the same number of students that are funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia enrolled, 34 of them from the Serbian, 33 from the Albanian and 2 from the Roma community. Throughout the year, the Coordination Body’s Office and the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities organized the Serbian language classes for students of the Albanian nationality, so that they could easily attend their classes and pass their exams. The Coordination Body’s Office fitted out the classrooms in which the second-year students would attend classes and provided the translation of textbooks for the first and second - year students from the Albanian community. The municipality of Bujanovac and the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities funded the rental of the premises on which the Department’s second – year classes would be held.

The classes of the Faculty of Economics’ Department in Bujanovac are held in two languages. During four years of university studies, students from the Albanian community will attend the classes in 14 subjects in their mother tongue, with the possibility of doing their graduation paper in Albanian. The professors are from Subotica and Tetovo. Success with the establishment and thus-far successful operation of the Faculty of Economics’ Department was jointly achieved by the Faculty of Economics from Subotica, the University of Novi Sad, the state university from Tetovo, the Ministry of Education, the Coordination Body, the municipality of Bujanovac, the Albanian National Council, the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the AP of Vojvodina.

Partners and friends in this extremely important project from the very beginning were the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. A large contribution and support to the project were provided by numerous embassies and international organizations.

- **The new generation of interns in Belgrade** – The Coordination Body's Office in Belgrade participated for the second year in the "Internship Program for Young People from Minority Communities". In the period from November 2012 to the end of April 2013, two interns from the Albanian community will acquire new knowledge and skills.

The project is implemented by the Office for Human and Minority Rights, with the support from the British Embassy and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

- **Funds awarded in the Coordination Body's Office's competition** – The third competition of the Coordination Body's Office for the implementation of the associations' projects was launched in November. 1,484,500.00 dinars were awarded then for the implementation of four projects.

- **The Coordination Body's Office grants scholarships to 231 secondary school students** – 477 secondary school students applied in the competition for scholarships launched by the



Coordination Body's Office. 231 secondary school students received scholarships, 129 of them from Presevo, 78 from Bujanovac and 24 from Medvedja. Scholarships were received by students without one or both of the parents. In addition, the criteria for awarding one-off scholarships were the social position of parents or custodians and school marks in the previous school year. The amount of each scholarship is 6,000.00 dinars per month, and the students shall be receiving the scholarships awarded in this competition

until the end of the school year.

The secondary school students from Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, who had received the scholarships, paid a visit to Belgrade. Scholarships were delivered to them at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia by the Coordination Body's President Prof. Zoran Stankovic, PhD, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Zarko Obradovic, and by Chairman of the National Assembly's Administrative Board Zoran Babic.

Following the visit to the National Assembly, the scholarship holders were the guests of the City Assembly, where they were welcomed by City Secretary for Child Care and Social Welfare and Education, Ljiljana Jovicic. During their stay in Belgrade, the scholarship holders saw the exhibitions displayed at the "Museum of the History of Yugoslavia" and at the "House of Flowers" and they also visited the White Palace.

- **The first phase of the construction of an out-patient maternity ward in Presevo completed** – The first phase of the completion of construction works on the out-patient maternity ward in Presevo was marked in mid-December. The gynecology ward will be on the ground floor of the building, while two delivery rooms and a stationary block will be on the first floor. The Coordination Body's Office invested 15, the Ministry of Health 20 and the municipality of Presevo 10 million dinars into the facility. 50 million dinars are needed for completion of the second phase of the out-patient maternity ward, out of which the Coordination Body provided 10 million dinars from its next year's budget.

• **The twelfth anniversary of the Coordination Body's work marked – The**



Coordination Body celebrated 12 years of its foundation and work. A documentary on the most important results achieved over the past two years was shown to the attendees of the event in Bujanovac Spa. The granting of scholarships to secondary school and university students, the school of the Serbian language for young Albanians, the opening of the Faculty of Economics' Department in

Bujanovac, as well as of the Faculties of Law and Economics' Departments in Medvedja, the financing of economic projects through grants given to small and medium-sized enterprises, are only part of the Coordination Body's work in the territory of the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, which was shown to the attendees of the event.

The Coordination Body's President, Prof. Zoran Stankovic, PhD, said that the body had a key role in reconciliation of ethnic communities and in improvement of the economic situation. Mr. Stankovic pointed out that the economic development of the three municipalities was a precondition for the stability of the region. He also said that the Coordination Body, over a 12-year period, invested 75 million euros in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, while the international community supported the three municipalities with 35 million euros.

The Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja was formed in Bujanovac on December 16, 2000, at a joint session of the Government of the FR of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

• **The successful past year and the activities planned for the coming one – The Coordination Body's Office analyzed its work and the results achieved in 2012 and prepared a draft plan of activities for the next year.**

In 2013, the construction and fitting out of the out-patient maternity ward in Presevo will be completed, as well as the building of Subotica's Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac. The Coordination Body's Office will continue to encourage the economic development of the three municipalities. Grants amounting to 60 million dinars will be allocated next year.

In the course of 2013, all textbooks for third and fourth-year students of the Faculty of Economics' Department will be translated into Albanian, while the provision of textbooks for pre and primary school education will be continued.

These are just some of the activities by which the Coordination Body's Office will improve the quality of life of citizens of the three municipalities, which the Coordination Body's Office is responsible for.

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