



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's Office

(January-December 2014)

The Coordination Body's Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja presents its annual report on the activities carried out in 2014. During this reporting period, significant achievements and results were recorded:

a) In the field of infrastructure and economy – In 2014, the Coordination Body's Office invested 213, 666, 443.56 dinars in the infrastructure projects of the three municipalities.

In the municipality of Presevo, a total of 102, 572, 840.00 dinars were invested in the final phase of construction of an outpatient maternity ward, the construction of a kindergarten and health station in the village of Rajince and in building a sports facility in the village of Reljane. Doors and windows were replaced in the "Abdula Krasnici" elementary school and a gym and sanitary blocks were reconstructed in the secondary technical school. A fence in the backyard nursery for children was built and the yard of the community center in Presevo was tidied up. Of the above-mentioned sum, 81, 500, 000.00 dinars were invested in the reconstruction and paving of roads in the villages of Alidjerce, Reljane, Crnotince, Bukurevac, Rajince, Oraovica, Norca, Cakanovac, Slavujevac and in repairing sewage in the municipality of Presevo.

78, 569, 323.56 dinars were invested in the infrastructure of the municipality of Bujanovac. These funds were used to initiate the reconstruction of the town's square and continue the paving of Vardarska Street. The artificial insemination of cows was also supported.

32, 524, 280.00 dinars were invested in the infrastructure of the municipality of Medvedja. These funds were used for repairing and maintaining local roads and streets, cleaning up roads, landslides and mudslides, putting up defensive levees and for constructing a sewage system. The project of street lighting at several locations was done, as well as the main design of the municipal administration's building, the storm sewer project in the "Nikola Tesla" settlement, the sanitary sewer system in the "New" settlement, the project related to tidying up the center of Medvedja and the project of building a retaining wall. A mosque was adapted, the trim trail area was constructed and the area in front of the "Upper Jablanica" elementary school was tidied up. Street lights were installed at three locations in Medvedja.

With the aim of strengthening the economy and promoting the economic growth, grants amounting to 60 million dinars were allocated to businessmen from the three municipalities.

Recovery of the companies that used to be the leaders of economic development of the three municipalities is extremely important for the economic development of South Serbia. In 2014, the Coordination Body's Office was dedicated to undertaking the activities for reviving the former center of economic development in Bujanovac, which is the socially-owned enterprise "Gumoplastika".

b) In the field of integration – With the support of the British Embassy, the Coordination Body's Office organized a second cycle of the free "School of the Serbian language for Youth from the Albanian Community in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo". Also organized were the additional Serbian language classes for senior-grade students of the "Desanka Maksimovic" elementary school in the village of Biljaca (municipality of Bujanovac).

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and with the support of the British Embassy and the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Coordination Body's Office initiated and did a comprehensive "*Study on the Possibilities of Improving the Teaching and Learning of Serbian as a Second Language in the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja*". Based on the recommendations contained in the Study, initial steps were made in the sphere of teaching classes in Serbian as a second language in primary schools where the teaching is conducted in Albanian.

Interns from the Albanian community gain important knowledge and learn about the operation of the public administration bodies at the Coordination Body's Office in Belgrade. Thanks to the "Internship Program for Youth-Members of Minorities in the Institutions of the Republic of Serbia", three interns, who successfully completed the previous cycle of the program, currently work at the Coordination Body's Offices in Presevo, Bujanovac and Belgrade. In addition to the two new interns, two more persons from the Albanian community are currently hired by the CB's Office in Belgrade.

c) In the field of politics – In this period, regular communication was maintained with representatives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and institutions of the Republic of Serbia, local self-governments, the Albanian National Council and other stakeholders for the purpose of addressing the most important political issues.

d) In the field of education – School supplies and school bags were provided to 950 first-grade students from three municipalities, for which 1, 910, 151.70 dinars had been earmarked.

By a decision of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and in cooperation with the Albanian National Council, 88 textbooks and workbooks were provided for elementary school students who attend school in Albanian, as well as three textbooks for students of preschool educational institutions.

309 scholarships were awarded to students from the three municipalities on the basis of the Coordination Body's Office's call for applications.

The Coordination Body's Office provided scholarships to the fourth generation of young people from the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo who study at the faculties of the University of Novi Sad. There are a total of 35 scholars who study at the faculties of the University of Novi Sad.



The fourth generation of students was enrolled in the Subotica Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac. For the needs of constructing the building of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac, donor funds were provided by the European Progress Program, while the Coordination Body's Office earmarked funds for this purpose in its 2015 budget.

e) In the field of health and social care – The second phase of construction of the outpatient maternity ward in Presevo was completed and the essential equipment for the operation of the institution was provided. The Coordination Body's Office thereby fulfilled its obligations when it comes to construction and equipping of the outpatient maternity ward. The European Progress Program provided the latest equipment.

f) In the field of international relations – 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 Embassy of the United States, the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, the USAID, the European Progress Program, as well as with the embassies and programs that support the development of South Serbia. Numerous meetings with international partners were organized. The President of the Coordination Body, Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, met with the Special Representative of the OSCE's Chairperson for the Western Balkans Ambassador Gerard Studman.

e) In the field of communication with the public – The Coordination Body's Office continuously informs the public about its work by posting reports and articles on its website (www.kt.gov.rs), by submitting reports on its work to the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the media and international partners, and by organizing press-conferences.

Activities of the Coordination Body in 2014 - presented in chronological order:

- **The Stakeholders' Committee** – At the proposal of the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities, *the Stakeholders' Committee* was established in October 2013, the task of which was to give recommendations for the improvement of the quality of education at the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac. The said body is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Coordination Body's Office, the Faculty of Economics from Subotica, the municipality of Bujanovac, the Albanian National Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities, the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. Maintaining a high quality of teaching at the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac is one of the priorities of all the stakeholders involved in the process of providing conditions for acquiring higher education in South Serbia.

Two meetings were held in 2014, one in Bujanovac in January and another in Belgrade in October. On both occasions, all those involved in the process confirmed their readiness to provide the necessary conditions for the smooth operation of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac and for quality studies of the students, primarily by providing a building for the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac. A *Feasibility Study* was presented at the meeting held in January, in which directions of the necessary development of the institutions of higher education and the potential for employment of graduates were highlighted. The Study was compiled by the European Progress Program, in cooperation with all the partners involved in the process of providing conditions for further development of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac.

- **Public discussion “Serbia on the EU's Path”** – In January, a public discussion “*Serbia on the EU's Path*” was held at the “Vuk Karadzic” community center in Bujanovac. That was the first public discussion that was organized to inform the citizens of the municipality, especially youth and students of the Faculty of Economics' Department, on the topic of European Integration of the Republic of Serbia, on the steps made in that direction and on the key issues that need to be solved in order for Serbia to join the family of EU countries.



Those who spoke on the topic included the President of the Coordination Body Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, the Director of the Office for Human and Minority Rights Suzana Paunovic, the Deputy Director of the European Integration Office Srdjan Majstorovic, the Head of the Border Police of the Republic of Serbia and the President of the Commission for Monitoring Visa-Free Regime Nenad Banovic, the Mayor of

Bujanovac Nagip Arifi, the President of the National Council of Albanians Galip Beciri and the Director of the "Youth Forum for Roma Education" NGO Kenan Rasitovic.

- **Outpatient maternity ward in Presevo was equipped** – The most important project in the field of health is the construction of an outpatient maternity ward in Presevo.



The first phase of construction works on the outpatient maternity ward was completed in late 2012, while the second phase was completed a year later. At the beginning of 2014, the outpatient maternity ward was fitted out with the most modern equipment necessary for its operation. Incubators, ultrasound machines and other medical devices were provided through the EU Progress Program and through the EU and Swiss Government's donations.

- **Serbian classes for young people from the Albanian community**– With the support of the British Embassy, the Coordination Body's Office organized a second seven-month free *School of the Serbian Language for Young People from the Albanian Community in the Municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo*. Classes at the *School of the Serbian language* were organized from October 2013 to May 2014. Free books for learning the language were provided to all the students. Classes were organized in Bujanovac and Presevo twice per week - over the weekends. Three teachers of Serbian worked diligently on making the students develop the language skills, while local teaching assistants from the Albanian community helped them do the task.



Beneficiaries of the *School of the Serbian language* are mostly secondary school students, whereas a large number of students of the Faculty of Economics' Department and other faculties in Bujanovac is also noticeable, as well as of those who completed their education. The number of interested candidates exceeded our initial expectations this year, too. 260 persons applied for the *school*, while 187 of them passed the final test and obtained certificates from the Educational Center, a language school from Novi Sad that was selected by the tender for organizing

classes in Serbian. At the proposal of teachers of the "Desanka Maksimovic" primary school in the village of Biljaca, which is situated in the municipality of Bujanovac, the Coordination Body's Office organized additional classes in

Serbian for students of higher grades (from the fifth to the eighth one) from January until April 2014. The desire and willingness of young people from the Albanian community to learn the Serbian language was thereby once again confirmed, as well as the support of their teachers and parents in acquiring the necessary skills.

- **A meeting of the Presidency of the Coordination Body was held** – A meeting of the Presidency of the Coordination Body was held in Belgrade, which was, apart from the President of the Coordination Body, attended by the Mayors of the three municipalities and the Presidents of the Municipal Assemblies. The session was held in the presence of partners from the international community. On that occasion, a report on the governmental body's work in the previous year was adopted and funds for the infrastructure projects needed by the three municipalities were allocated. The funds were provided from the CB's Office's budget.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed** – The Mayor of Bujanovac Nagip Arifi and the Dean of the Faculty of Economics in Subotica Nenad Vunjak signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the sustainable functioning of the Subotica Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac. The signing ceremony was attended by the President of the Coordination Body Zoran Stankovic, the Minister of Education Tomislav Jovanovic, the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia Peter Burkhard and the Director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Graeme Tyndall.



The signing of the MOU is an important step in providing better conditions for quality studying at the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac. In that way, young people from the area, regardless of their ethnicity, will be able to acquire higher education, plan for the future in their town and develop their potentials.

Pursuant to the MoU, the Mayor of Bujanovac Nagip Arifi and the Dean of the Faculty of Economics in Subotica Nenad Vunjak signed a contract on lease without compensation, which regulates the rights, duties and responsibilities in connection with the building of the department in Bujanovac, the construction of which was planned.

The project of construction of the building of the Subotica Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac is a partnership undertaking of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Union, through the European Progress Program and the municipality of Bujanovac.

- **Study on the Possibilities of Improving the Teaching and Learning of Serbian as a Second Language in Primary Schools in the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja** – The Coordination Body's Office initiated preparation of the *Study on the Possibilities of Improving the Teaching and Learning of Serbian as a Second Language in Primary Schools in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja*. The strategically important document was developed in

partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and in cooperation with all the stakeholders at the local and national levels dealing with the issue of education and the learning of Serbian as a second language.

The first step in the development of the document included a tour of 16 primary schools in the three municipalities in which classes are held in Albanian. The data, which were the basis for finding the best modality for learning the language, were collected. In each school, students of the fourth and eighth grade did tests by which their language skills were determined. Opinion polls among students and school principals were conducted, while school teachers were interviewed and parents from the school board were put into focus groups.

During the fieldwork, the Mayors of the three municipalities were interviewed, as well as the President of the Albanian National Council, the MP, the Educational Advisor at the responsible Ministry, representatives of the state and business sector, the local self-government, the media and NGOs. The experience gained from the project “*School of the Serbian Language*”, which was conducted by the Coordination Body’s Office, and from the project “*Improving Language Skills of Minority Population in South Serbia*”, which was implemented by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, was also taken into consideration.



Based on the research, recommendations for improving the quality of learning Serbian were made. For the purposes of determining directions of the research and primary analysis of the results, a task force was set up, which consisted of all stakeholders involved in education at the local and national level. The Study is the result of a partnership enterprise of all parties interested in improving the learning of the official language. Preparation of the Study was supported by the British Embassy and the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities.

- **Scholarships for studying in Novi Sad** – The Coordination Body’s Office has been providing scholarships to the young from the three municipalities who wish to study at the University of Novi Sad’s faculties for four years. The program encourages young people from South Serbia to acquire higher education in their country. Of the 41 applicants, 14 of them were selected for scholarships. The selected candidates passed the entrance exams and became students of the faculties of philosophy, medicine, natural sciences, law and agriculture. 35 students from the three municipalities receive scholarships from the Coordination Body’s Office.
- **The fourth generation of interns are trained at state institutions** – The Office for Human and Minority Rights organized the fourth cycle of the Internship *Program for Young People - Members of National Minorities in State Institutions of the Republic of Serbia*. Two interns from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Medvedja were part of the Coordination Body’s Office’s team in Belgrade for six months. Following a six-month work with a mentor, they gained important knowledge for their further professional training and personal development.

- **The Study on the Possibilities of Improving the Teaching and Learning of Serbian as a Second Language in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja was presented** –The results of the Study were presented in late August. Only five percent of Albanian students from the three municipalities have satisfactory knowledge of the Serbian language. The low level of knowledge is brought into direct connection with significantly diminished chances for members of the Albanian community to use the opportunities related to education, applying for jobs and to being, to a larger extent, involved in the decision-making process.



The presentation of the Study was attended by the President of the Coordination Body Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, the Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Srdjan Verbic, the High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors, the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, the British Ambassador to Serbia Denis Keefe, the President of the Albanian National Council Galip Beciri and the MPs Riza Halimi and Saip Kamberi, while on behalf of the Mayors of the three municipalities, Nagip Arifi, the Mayor of Bujanovac, addressed the attendees of the event.

- **Free school supplies for elementary school students** – The Coordination Body's Office has been providing school bags and school supplies to first-grade students from the three municipalities for five years. The Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Srdjan Verbic and the President of the Coordination Body Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, handed out free textbooks and backpacks with school supplies to first-grade students of "Branko Radicevic" and "Naim Fraseri" elementary schools in Bujanovac. The Coordination Body's Office invested 1, 910, 151.70 dinars in the purchase of school bags and school supplies for 950 students.
- **Anniversary of Subotica Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac was marked** – The enrollment of the fourth generation of students in the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac was officially marked this year, too. The freshmen were greeted by the President of the Coordination Body Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development Zoran Masic, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics Nenad Vunjak, the Rector of the University of Novi Sad Miroslav Veskovc, the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia Peter Burkhard, the Mayor of Bujanovac Nagip Arifi, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tetovo Arber Celiku, the President of the Albanian National Council Galip Beciri and the Manager of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the European Progress Program Graeme Tyndall.



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It was once again confirmed at the event that the work done by that institution was extremely important for developing opportunities for young people, the economic development of the region and for building mutual trust. This year, 82 students enrolled. There are 69 students whose studying is funded from the budget of the Republic of Serbia. Teaching at the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac is done in two languages, while the professors are from Subotica and Tetovo.

- **Scholarships for secondary school students** – The Coordination Body's Office awarded scholarships to secondary school students from the three municipalities, which are in the monthly amount of 6,000 dinars per student, this year, too. The scholarships, which are social in character, were received by 309 secondary school students, of whom 224 are from Presevo, 71 from Bujanovac and 14 from Medvedja.
- **“Nisville” in Bujanovac** – “Nisville” is one of the best-known and most popular jazz festivals in the region, which features the world’s famous musicians and brings together the audiences from different countries. This year, the Nisville Foundation included the project “*Jazz – A Multicultural Expression*” in its program, which implied working with young musicians from Bujanovac, Bosilegrad, Leskovac, Nis, Vladicin Han and Vranje.

Nine young people from the municipality of Bujanovac’s Albanian, Roma and Serbian communities participated in the project. Workshop participants presented themselves to the Bujanovac audience in October 2014. Apart from entering the world of jazz, participation in workshops provided them a new experience, the opportunity to travel and socialize, while for some of them that was an additional opportunity to improve their Serbian by socializing with their peers.

The Coordination Body’s Office supported the activities in which the young from Bujanovac were involved.

- **Work on improving the position of the socially vulnerable population** – The Minister of Labour, Employment, Veterans’ and Social Affairs, Aleksandar Vulin, and the President of the Coordination Body, Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, visited Presevo in November 2014. On that occasion, Minister Vulin and Professor Stankovic visited a nine-member family that was included in the social protection system and delivered the Ministry’s donation to the family.

Minister Vulin and Professor Stanković talked with representatives of the municipality of Presevo, the Governor of Pcinj district, the Director of the Center for Social Work in Presevo, the Head of the National Employment Branch Office in Vranje and the Head of the Pension and Disability Insurance Fund’s Branch Office in Vranje. While staying in Presevo, talks with the local authorities were held on the ways of providing assistance to vulnerable people, including the proposal of establishing a soup kitchen for about 500 people. Also discussed was the need of providing better treatment for children with special needs and setting up institutions for the elderly, for which there is a great need.

- **Non-refundable funds for the economic development of the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja** – The Coordination Body's Office earmarked in its budget funds amounting to 60 million dinars to finance economic projects.



The program provides the support and encourages the development of businesses in that part of the country. Through a call for applications, a total of 49,756, 286.30 dinars were awarded for boosting and developing 20 companies from the three municipalities. In the municipality of Presevo, funds in the amount of 11, 864,

806.00 dinars were allocated for the development of five companies. In the municipality of Bujanovac, the amount of 34, 891, 480.30 dinars was allocated for the development of 14 companies, while one company from the municipality of Medvedja received a grant in the amount of 3,000, 000.00 dinars.

The CB's Office has been awarding grants to enterprises from the three municipalities for three years. From the beginning of the program that encourages economic development and employment, the Coordination Body's Office has invested 149, 338, 418.10 dinars in 57 companies, including a projection of over 150 new jobs over three years.

- **Construction of the building of the Subotica Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac** – The project of constructing the building of the Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac is one of strategic objectives of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in the field of development and accessibility of higher education to young people from the southern part of the country. This is a partnership project of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the municipality of Bujanovac, the Faculty of Economics from Subotica and the European Progress Program.

By providing the building, at which students from the Albanian, Roma and Serbian communities will study together, an opportunity was be given to the current and future students to receive education in a modern and well-equipped facility.

The location where the facility is to be constructed, for the purpose of which the Coordination Body's Office funded the urban and main projects, was visited by the President of the Coordination Body Professor Zoran Stankovic, PhD, the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, the Mayor of Bujanovac Nagip Arifi, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics Nenad Vunjak and the Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia Peter Burkhard.

The launching of construction works was announced during the said visit. On that occasion, Professor Stankovic, Ambassador Davenport, Dean Vunjak and Mayor Arifi met with the students and talked with them about the plans of the European Union to support employment and achievement of better living conditions for young people in that part of the country, as well as about the importance of European integration for young people.



The European Union provided funds for the construction of the building through the European Progress Program, while it was planned that the municipality of Bujanovac and the Government of Serbia, through the Coordination Body's Office, support the project with additional funds. Completion of the construction is expected by the end of 2015. Students of the Department in Bujanovac have the opportunity to attend classes in the following three accredited study programs: marketing, finance, banking and insurance and agri-business and agro - economy.

So far, four generations of students have successfully enrolled in the Department's study programs, while a total of 302 students from the Albanian, Serbian and Roma communities attend classes in Serbian and Albanian.

- **A new generation of interns in Belgrade** – The Belgrade-based Coordination Body's Office has been supporting and participating in the *Internship Program for Young People - Members of National Minorities in State Institutions in Serbia* for four years. Two interns from the Albanian community in the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo will be working in the Coordination Body's Office in Belgrade from December 2014 until May 2015. A mentor will be assisting them with acquiring the necessary knowledge in the field of public administration and the operation of that governmental body. Apart from the Coordination Body's Office, ten interns from the Albanian, Bosnian and Roma communities will participate in the internship program at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society and the Ministry of Health. The project is implemented by the Office for Human and Minority Rights, with the support of the Embassy of Great Britain.
- **Working Group for improving the learning of Serbian as a second language** – Based on the recommendations contained in the *Study on the Possibilities of Improving the Teaching and Learning of Serbian as a Second Language*, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development established a working group responsible for the implementation of the selected recommendations from that strategically important document.

The working group consists of all the stakeholders involved in education, which are as follows: the Ministry of Education, the Coordination Body's Office, the Institute for the Improvement of Education, the Institute for Evaluating the Quality of Education, School Administrations of Leskovac and Vranje, the Albanian National Council and the three municipalities. According to need, school teachers, school representatives and experts in specific fields will take part in the body's work. Partners from the international community that financially support the implementation of the selected recommendations were invited to take part as observers in the working group's operation: the British Embassy, the Office of the High Commissioner for National Minorities and the European Progress Program. The OSCE Mission to Serbia also participates as an observer in the working group's operation.

The first meeting was held in December, when the work plan and implementation of the recommendations were agreed upon and when the working group's rules of procedure were adopted. The initial activities related to provision of the existing textbooks to junior-grade students and to capacity-building of the teaching staff were discussed, so that classes could be organized as well as possible and quality work with students carried out.

- **The Coordination Body's fourteenth anniversary was marked** – Zoran Stnkovic, the President



of the Coordination Body, marked in Bujanovac the fourteenth anniversary of that governmental body. On that occasion, a press-conference was held at the Coordination Body's Office in Bujanovac, at which Zoran Stanković, the President of the Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, spoke. The President of the Coordination Body said that, over the past 14 years, the Government of Serbia invested, through that body, around 6.3

billion dinars in the three municipalities, and international donors around 35 million euros. During 14 years, a total of one billion and 778 million dinars in transfer funds were allocated from the state budget for the municipality of Presevo, two billion and eight million dinars for the municipality of Bujanovac and one billion dinars for Medvedja.

During the discussion, the President of the Coordination Body devoted special attention to the state of the media in the three municipalities. He spoke with reporters about their working conditions and about the upcoming privatization of the media.

It was planned for the Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja to work more, in the coming year, in the field of economy, providing investors and reducing the number of the unemployed.

- **Damage caused by floods in the municipality of Medvedja was reimbursed** – The area of the municipality of Medvedja was affected by floods in August 2014. In accordance with the obligations established by the law, the municipal administration of Medvedja formed a committee that established on the spot which households had suffered damage and the individual amounts for reimbursing damage.

On the basis of the decision on awarding financial aid, the Coordination Body's Office transferred to the municipality of Medvedja 1,503,600.00 dinars for repairing the damage caused by the floods in 19 households.

- **A successful past year and the activities planned for the coming one** - The Coordination Body's Office analyzed the work done and the results achieved in 2014. and prepared a draft plan of activities for the coming year.

In 2015, works on the construction of the building of the Subotica Faculty of Economics' Department in Bujanovac will be launched. The Coordination Body's Office will continue boosting the economic development of the three municipalities by awarding grants to the businessmen. In 2015, we will continue undertaking activities in the field of education, primarily those in the sphere of learning Serbian as a second language, as well as those relating to the acquisition of higher education by young people from the three municipalities. We have also come up with a series of activities in the field of culture.

*The Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic
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