



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

Information on the Coordination Body's Activities

(January – December 2011)

In compliance with set priorities and goals, the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja achieved in 2011 considerable success in:

a) The field of politics – The second anniversary of signing the Agreement on the Principles of Reconstruction of the Coordination Body, whereby representatives of the Albanian community were re-involved in the operation of this governmental body, was marked. The re-involvement of representatives of the Albanian community in the Coordination Body's work enabled a better representation of the Albanian community in the governmental bodies.

b) The field of economy – A meeting between businessmen from Bujanovac and Presevo and representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and the Development Fund was organized with the aim of providing information to the businessmen about the possibilities of getting non-refundable financial resources and about the ways of applying for the Development Fund's loans. Open competitions for positions at the governmental institutions were announced for members of the Albanian community.

c) The field of infrastructure investment – With the aim of strengthening the economy of the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, the Coordination Body, in 2011, invested **232,855,683.00** RSD in infrastructural projects.

In the municipality of Presevo, 104,059,817.00 RSD were invested in the asphaltting and reconstruction of roads in the „Zeleznicka stanica“ settlement and in those in the villages of Oraovica, Norca and Miratovac, in the asphaltting of the Zujince-Bustranje and Miratovac-Cakanovac local roads, in reconstruction of „Braca Fraseri“ street, in adjustment of the river bed in the village of Rajince, in renovation of the “Abdula Krasnica” community center for the needs of the RTV Presevo and faculty, as well as in the second phase of the building extension of the secondary technical school “Presevo”, in construction of a gym at the “Skenderbeg” grammar school, in extension of sewage in the municipality of Presevo and in improvement of power-supply in the village of Cukarka.

In the municipality of Bujanovac, 87,996,510.00 dinars were invested in the asphaltting of roads in the villages of Konculj (from the highway to the school), Kustica, Rakovac and Baraljevac, local roads Nesalce-Vrban, R125B-Gornja Breznica - Donja Breznica, in the asphaltting of pavements in Bujanovac, in resumed construction of the secondary technical school „Sezai Suroi“ (Block C), in renovation of the „Desanka Maksimovic“ elementary school's playground in Samoljica, in renovation of the „Muharem Kadriu“ elementary school in Veliki Trnovac and in replacement of wood joinery at the „Naim Fraseri“ elementary school, in adjustment of the community center for the needs of a department of the Faculty of Economics, in construction of sewage in the village of Bozinjevac, in resumed construction of the water-supply system in the villages of Letovica and Gramda, and in artificial insemination of cows.

In the municipality of Medvedja, 38,100,000.00 dinars were invested in the construction of local Petrilje-Mrkonje, Petrilje-Cokotin, Cucki breg-LC (local community) Retkocer, Reka-Miksici, LC (local community) Retkocer-Vujovici and Bukici roads, in the maintenance of small local roads, in the construction of „Marici“ street in Medvedja and „Svetoiljska“ street in Sijarinska Spa, in the maintenance of local roads in the local communities in the municipality of Medvedja, in the improvement of a landslide on the local Meda-Retkocer road, as well as in the improvement of parquet floor in the sports hall.

Agreement on the construction of an out-patient maternity ward in the building of the health center in Presevo was reached and a public procedure for adopting a part of the health center was launched.

d) In the field of integrations – The Coordination Body announced three public competitions for granting the funds for the civil society projects. The project selection board included a representative from each of the three municipalities, as well as three representatives of the Coordination Body's Office. In 2011, the Coordination Body approved 13,723,027.00 dinars for the projects of the associations of citizens. A total of 27 projects were supported.

In July 2010, at the initiative of the Coordination Body, the Government of the Republic of Serbia reached a decision on changing the decision on the maximum number of employees at the governmental bodies, public institutions and organizations for obligatory social insurance, which enables an increase in the number of employees in the said bodies in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. Upon conducting the open competitions, vacancies in the Customs Administration were filled (following the announcement of two open competitions, persons for 24 positions were hired), as well as in the Tax Department (following the announcement of four open competitions, persons for 9 positions were hired) and in the Ministry of Environment, Mining and Spatial Planning (1 post).

The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development announced an open competition. It is expected that the selection procedure would be conducted in January 2012. In 2012, the other ministries shall bring into line their rules on job classification, and shall also provide vacancies and announce open competitions accordingly.

In March 2011, the Ministry of Interior announced an open competition for filling 50 positions - 10 in the Police Department in Leskovac and 40 in the Police Department in Vranje (20 working places in Bujanovac, 20 in Presevo and 10 in Medvedja). By the Interior Minister's decision, 21 candidates qualified to be selected. 18 selected candidates started the basic police training in October 2011, while the Coordination Body organized a three-month course in Serbian for three candidates. The said three candidates will start their basic police training in January 2012.

Owing to the support of the British Embassy in Serbia, a four-month internship course for a person from the Albanian community, who had acquired new working experiences at the Coordination Body's Office, was made possible.

The Coordination Body prepared two brochures for residents of these three municipalities. In order to make it possible for applicants to better prepare themselves for applying and to submit the appropriate documentation when applying for the positions in the governmental bodies, the Coordination Body produced a brochure in which the application procedure is described in detail.

In addition, the Coordination Body produced a booklet on asylum, which provides to the residents a lot of information on the issue. The booklet was done in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia and with the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Public Administration and Local Self-government.

e) In the field of education – The Coordination Body provided to the young of the municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac scholarships for studying at Novi Sad University.

In this period, the Coordination Body and the Albanian National Council resumed their successful cooperation in the solving of educational issues.

A department of the Subotica-based Faculty of Economics was opened in Bujanovac, which is an important step towards the integration of ethnic minorities into social life.

In cooperation with the Albanian National Council, the Embassy of the Republic of Albania in Serbia and the Ministry of Education and Science, the Coordination Body made it possible for the first-formers from the Albanian community to get 1,000 free primers in their mother tongue.

A working group for resolving the issue of textbooks in Albanian was set up. The working group includes members of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Coordination Body, representatives of the Institute for the Advancement of Education and the National Council of Education. The working group was dealing with resolving the issue of textbooks for the pupils of the first, second, third and fourth form. Thanks to the working group's efforts, a larger number of textbooks were provided to the aforementioned pupils.

The Coordination Body provided one-off scholarships to 36 students that had enrolled in the second year of studying at the departments of the Faculty of Economics and Law in Medvedja, amounting to the total of 252,000.00 dinars.

The Coordination Body has been providing scholarships to secondary school students from these three municipalities for three years. The Coordination Body granted 233 scholarships in 2011, which is by 27 scholarships more than in 2010. The Coordination Body is going to put efforts into increasing the number of scholarship holders in 2012.

The Coordination Body provided free school equipment to first-formers from the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja in 2011, too.

f) In international relations – The High Commissioner on National Minorities' Office from The Hague (OSCE), the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the British Embassy in Serbia particularly supported the work of the Working Group for providing conditions for the opening of institutions of higher education in Presevo and Bujanovac, as well as the Coordination Body's efforts in the field.

The cooperation with the PBILD Program, which is implemented by various UN agencies, was resumed. The PBILD approved to the Coordination Body the funds for organizing a training course in cultural and educational policies for the Coordination Body's employees. Thanks to the PBILD Program's funds, the Coordination Body organized a training course for representatives of the non-governmental sector from the three southern Serbia's municipalities. Also, funds were provided for the non – governmental organizations' projects on the topics of culture, education and gender and minority rights. The PBILD Program granted to the Coordination Body the funds for equipping a computer lab at the Faculty of Economics' department in Bujanovac.

The Coordination Body and the EU Progress Program developed cooperation in 2011. The EU Progress Program provided to the Coordination Body the funds for organizing strategic planning and for conceiving activities in the next year.

g) In communication with the public – At the beginning of the year, Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body, addressed all residents of the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja by a letter, in which he informed them of the Coordination Body's activities and work results in their mother tongues. That was the second time that Minister Markovic addressed residents

of the three municipalities for the purpose of informing and pointing out to them the most important results of the Coordination Body in 2011.

The Coordination Body's Office continuously informs the public of its work by posting its reports and texts on the Coordination Body's website (www.kt.gov.rs) and by submitting reports on its work to the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the media and international partners.

The Major Activities of the Coordination Body in the Past Period that are Presented in Chronological Order:

- **Scholarships for studying in Novi Sad** – In compliance with the set goals and priorities of



the Coordination Body, which increasingly focuses on working with the young, a public competition for granting scholarships to the young of Bujanovac and Presevo, who wish to study at the faculties of Novi Sad University, was announced at the beginning of 2011. For the purpose of providing information on the Coordination Body's new activity to as many young persons as possible, the Coordination Body produced booklets containing important and detailed information on the requirements for receiving scholarship in both Serbian and Albanian. Simultaneously,

the Coordination Body organized meetings with students and their parents at the schools in Bujanovac and Presevo and it prepared a media campaign, so that everyone aged between 18 and 22 could learn about scholarship requirements.

In cooperation with the Government of the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities and the Rectorate of Novi Sad University, the Coordination Body organized a visit of secondary school students from Presevo and Bujanovac, as well as of their parents, to Novi Sad. With the aim of making it possible for them to get to know the city and the University and learn everything about study requirements, a two-day visit to Novi Sad was organized for 88 youths from South Serbia. They were extended a warm welcome by Bojan Pajtic, Prime Minister of the AP of Vojvodina, Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body and Zoltan Jeges, Provincial Secretary for Education, Administration and National Communities.

23 youths from Bujanovac and Presevo signed up for the open competition. The scholarship-granting board selected 13 youths from Bujanovac and Presevo, out of whom 6 are from the Serbian and 7 from the Albanian community. The Coordination Body organized a three-month intensive course in Serbian for all those whose mother tongue wasn't Serbian.

At the end of July, all the students selected for receiving scholarships were to pass entrance exams at the faculties of Novi Sad University, while 11 scholarship holders passed them and were, thereafter, received to study at the chosen faculties as students funded from the state budget.

The project was implemented with the support of the Government of the AP of Vojvodina, the Provincial Secretariat for Education, Administration and National Communities and the Rectorate

of Novi Sad University. This initiative of the Coordination Body was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science, too.

• **The marking of two years of signing the Agreement on the Principles of Reconstruction of the Coordination Body** – On March 28, 2011, the second anniversary of signing the reconstruction of this governmental body was marked by holding a formal session of the Coordination Body's Presidency. The signing of the said agreement is of great importance for South Serbia's municipalities, since representatives of the Albanian community were thereby re-involved in the Coordination Body's work.

In addition to Minister Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body, and members of the Coordination Body's Presidency, the formal session was attended by Ivica Dacic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Nebojsa Ciric, Minister of Economy and Regional Development, Zoran Kostic, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Predrag Petronijevic, Director of the Customs Administration, Dragutin Radosavljevic, Director of the Tax Department, Vladan Cvetkovic, Director of the Privatization Agency and Nenad Djurdjevic, Director of the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights.

Also present at the session were the international partners that support the Coordination Body's work, such as Dimitrios Kypreos, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Vincent Degert, Head of the EU Delegation in Serbia, Mary Warlick, the US Ambassador to Serbia, Michael Davenport, the British Ambassador to Serbia and William Infante, the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia.

• **Funds granted through the Coordination Body's open competition** – In March 2011, the Coordination Body announced an open competition for implementing projects of the associations of citizens in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. A total of 49 project proposals were submitted, while the funds amounting to 5,461,815.00 dinars were approved for the implementation of 10 projects. The approved funds were to be used for the projects dealing with the environment, education (courses in Serbian in Bujanovac and Presevo) and inclusion of the Romany children in the obligatory pre-school system, as well as for the organization of cultural events and media workshops for the young.

• **Courses in Serbian** – As regards the Coordination Body's open competitions related to projects, two organizations, one from Bujanovac and the other one from Presevo, organized courses in Serbian.



The "International Human Center" from Presevo organized a course in Serbian for secondary school students from the territory of Presevo. 90 of them, who were split up into two 45 course beneficiary groups, attended the course each weekend over a three months' period. The classes were held on the premises of the "Abdula Krasnica" community center. Minister Milan Markovic, President of

the Coordination Body, presented the course beneficiaries with the certificates at the end of May 2011.

The "Center for Tolerance and Integration of South Serbia" organized a three-month course in Serbian for 30 young persons from Bujanovac. Learning of the language was based on the interactive approach.

Following the mastering of the fundamentals of Serbian, the course beneficiaries learned about the forms of communicating in everyday situations. The course beneficiaries had an opportunity to use the acquired knowledge in practice, which was done at various institutions in Bujanovac.

The fact that a great number of young Albanians in the municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac are interested in learning Serbian proves that it is advisable to organize such activities. At the same time, this is an indicator of their wish to be integrated in social life.

- **Serbian-Albanian Dictionary of Legal Terms** – At the end of March 2011, a promotion of the Serbian-Albanian Dictionary of Legal Terms was held at the Faculty of Law in Nis. Thanks to the said dictionary, the quality of classes at the Faculty of Law in Medvedja will be improved. The dictionary will also provide important assistance to judges and prosecutors in the branch courts of law, prosecutor's offices and magistrates' courts in Bujanovac and Presevo.

Minister Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body, and Snezana Malovic, Minister of Justice, attended the said promotion event. The development of the dictionary was funded by the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.

- **Training in Subotica** – At the beginning of April 2011, the Coordination Body organized in Subotica a four-day long training for its employees, representatives of the Albanian National Council and municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac. The said training was in cultural and educational policies with the aim of improving work in these fields.

The training program was organized as part of the UN PBILD programs.

- **Meeting with businessmen from Bujanovac and Presevo** – In mid-April 2011, the Coordination Body organized a meeting between businessmen from Bujanovac and Presevo and representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and the Development Fund. Dragijana Radonjic-Petrovic, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development and Sladjana Boskovic, Director of the Development Fund, pointed out that the meeting was aimed at making businessmen from South Serbia interested in both the Ministry of Economy's grants and the Development Fund's loans.

- The Ministry of Economy and Regional Development planned to assist successful companies with the grants amounting to 193 million dinars in 2011. Dragijana Radonjic-Petrovic said that the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development was looking for a way of decreasing income taxes and dues, in order to facilitate businessmen's activities.

- **Youngsters from Bujanovac and Presevo visiting Belgrade** – 50 youngest basketball-players of



the BSK "Junior" basketball club from Bujanovac, aged from six to ten, visited the capital city in mid April 2011 and also attended the training of the juniors of basketball club "Partizan" in Belgrade's sports hall. Following the training of young "Partizan" basketball players, the juniors from Bujanovac visited the "Red Star" and "Partisan" football stadiums, as well as trophy rooms of our two greatest clubs. While making a tour of Partizan's stadium and the trophy room, they associated with the former Partizan basketball

player of Serbia's national basketball team Zoran Stevanovic. The young basketball players from Bujanovac spent the afternoon with Minister Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body, at the McDonald's restaurant. At the end of the eventful day, which made the children from Bujanovac take back home the best possible impressions of Belgrade, they visited the zoo.

In May 2011, the BSK "Junior" basketball club organized a mini basketball tournament for the youngest basketball players, which was opened by Minister Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body. He said that the participation in and socializing at such and similar events was the most important thing, while the results achieved were less important. Therefore, all participants were somehow the winners at the mini basketball tournament, so that Minister Markovic, along with representatives of the municipality of Bujanovac and the international EU's "Progress" project, handed over cup to the team captains.

The visit to Belgrade and mini basketball tournament were organized as part of the project "Let's Live Better", which was supported by the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja and the EU "Progress" project.

• **The opening of the Youth Center** – At the end of May 2011, Minister Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body, opened a youth center. The center is located in the building of the municipality of Bujanovac, on the premises of the Coordination Body's Press Center.

Minister Markovic pointed out that the Coordination Body, in compliance with its priorities, provided some room for the young, where they could feel good, socialize, be creative and devise their own activities and projects. The center is also available to the non-governmental organizations wishing to work for the young, organize workshops and seminars, present their activities to the center's beneficiaries and encourage them to get involved in those activities.

• **Funds granted through the Coordination Body's open competition** – In July 2011, the Coordination Body announced an open competition for implementing projects of the associations of citizens from the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja. The funds amounting to 4,316,130.00 dinars were approved for implementing seven projects. The funds were granted for the projects in the spheres of the environment and protection of the environment, the strengthening of specific skills of the young and in the field of making the young more active in solving concrete problems in their communities.

• **Training for non-governmental organizations and the funding of associations of citizens' projects** – In the first week of July 2011, the Coordination Body, in partnership with the PBILD program implemented by a few UN agencies, organized a four-week long training for representatives of non-governmental organizations. The training was focused on the organizations dealing with the solving of youth issues.



The training was aimed at building the capacities and improving the knowledge and skills of the youth organizations working on the programs in the fields of cultural and educational policies and minority and gender rights. A portion of the training was dedicated to the topics including project cycles, team work and team roles.

In July 2011, the Coordination Body and the PBILD announced an open competition for granting funds to non-governmental organizations' small projects, which should induce youth organizations to implement projects in the field of educational and cultural policies or projects addressing gender and minority rights.

Upon completion of the competition, support was provided to the "Environmental Society" organization from Bujanovac, which gathered together primary and secondary school students for the purpose of raising the awareness of the youngest residents of this municipality about the environment. The implementation of the project was completed by an exhibition of students' works on the environment.

• **Providing support to students in Medvedja** – The Coordination Body granted one-off scholarships amounting to 7.000,00 dinars to all students who had enrolled in the second year of studying at a department of Nis University's Faculties of Economics and Law in Medvedja. A total of 36 students, out of whom 12 are students of economics and 24 students of law, received the one-off scholarship.

• **ABC books for children from the Albanian community** – Minister Milan Markovic, President of the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, Spetim Causi, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Serbia, Dimitrios Kypreos, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Galip Beciri, President of the Albanian National Council, presented in Bujanovac ABC books for schoolchildren from the Albanian community.



The ABC book and the workbook resulted from the efforts of the Albanian National Council to provide to the schoolchildren textbooks in their mother tongue, which was achieved owing to the excellent cooperation with the Coordination Body, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to Serbia and the OSCE Mission to Serbia. This is the beginning of systemic solving of the issue

of textbooks in Albanian language.

Minister Milan Markovic pointed out that the use of the ABC book and workbook was in compliance with the Law on Textbooks of the Republic of Serbia. According to him, the said textbook was imported from Albania pursuant to the approval of the Ministry of Education and Science, and it was printed in Serbia at the recommendation of the Albanian National Council

Minister Milan Markovic, Dimitrios Kypreos, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Spetim Causi and Galip Beciri, President of the Albanian National Council, visited a form-one classroom at the "Naim Fraseri" elementary school and delivered the spellers and workbooks to the schoolchildren.

• **Internship program at the governmental bodies of the Republic of Serbia** – Ten young persons from the Albanian, Roma and Bosniak communities are going to spend six months on doing internship at the bodies of the Republic of Serbia, where they will, in the period from November 2011 to April 2012, get an insight into the ways of reaching decisions and the functioning of state administration. The internship program is implemented at the Coordination Body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, the Directorate for Human and Minority Rights, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science.

Two interns from the Albanian community, who are from the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo, have been with the Belgrade-based Office of the Coordination Body since November 2011. As in the other governmental bodies where the internship program is implemented, the Coordination Body delegated a trusted counselor, who shall, over a six-month long period, work with them for the purpose of advancing their knowledge and skills.

The internship program was financially supported by the British Embassy in Serbia, while it is implemented by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, in partnership with the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

• **Scholarships for 233 secondary school students** – The Coordination Body has been granting



scholarships to secondary school students from South Serbia's three municipalities for three years so far. 233 secondary school students from Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedjareceived from the Coordination Body scholarships amounting to 6,000 dinars per month, which they will be receiving until the end of the school year. In 2011, 27 more scholarships were granted than in 2010. The Coordination Body organized for all scholarship holders a one-day stay in Belgrade and a visit to the National Assembly, where they met with Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic, the Speaker of

the National Assembly, and Minister Milan Markovic, the President of the Coordination Body. They also met with Boris Tadic, the President of the Republic of Serbia.

“The granting of scholarships is aimed at promoting integration, peace and stability in South Serbia's municipalities”, said Minister Milan Markovic, the President of the Coordination Body, pointing out that the Government of Serbia intended to go on with the practice of granting scholarships in the following year, too.

The Coordination Body gave as a gift an MP3 player to every scholarship holder.

• **Funds granted at the Coordination Body's open competition** – In November 2011, the Coordination Body announced, for the third time, an open competition for projects of the associations of citizens. The funds amounting to 3,945,082.00 dinars were granted for implementation of ten projects dealing with the promotion of healthy living and multi-ethnicity through sports, organization of workshops on investigative reporting for the young, promotion of cultural activities with various age groups of the population living in rural places that are a long way away from urban environments, as well as other cultural activities.

• **A session of the Coordination Body's Presidency** – On Wednesday, December 21, 2011, a session of the Coordination Body's Presidency was held. The report on the Coordination Body's activities in 2011, the 2011 budget expenditures and the 2012 budget, which had been adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, were presented to all members of the Presidency.

• **Scholarship holders, who study at Novi Sad University, visited the Coordination Body** – On Wednesday, December 21, 2011, eleven scholarship holders, who study at Novi Sad University, visited the Coordination Body. The scholarship holders, who are the first beneficiaries of the scholarship program, talked with Danijela Nenadic, the Director of the Coordination Body's Office, about their

thus far experiences in Novi Sad. All of them managed to get used to the new environment, make new friends and pass first tests at their faculties. Students from the Albanian community, whose mother tongue isn't Serbian, managed to master the language of the environment, which facilitates their communication with fellow students and makes it possible for them to easily follow the classes and pass the exams. In 2012, the Coordination Body shall endeavor to provide as many scholarships as possible to the young from the municipalities of Bujanovac and Presevo, who are interested in studying at Novi Sad faculties.

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