

REPORT
ON ACTIVITIES OF THE COORDINATION BODY
OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
FOR PRESEVO, BUJANOVAC AND MEDVEDJA MUNICIPALITES
FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2005

Belgrade, December 2005

INTRODUCTION

Since its establishment, the Coordination Body of the Council of Ministers of S&M and of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve has set an open and clear direction and is aware that the common future of all citizens of municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve and the future of their children is in their hands and an opportunity to show jointly that we are ready for integration into the family of European nations.

In line with such approach, the Coordination Body, after its reorganization, continued its activities in the first half of 2005 and has achieved certain results.

1. MEASURES UNDERTAKEN AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE WORK OF EXPERT TEAM AND THE COORDINATING GROUPS

The reorganization of the Coordinating Body, which was implemented in the first half of 2005, created new – more favorable conditions for its functioning.

Depending on the actual conditions in municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve and the attitudes of the international community, the Coordinating Body was constituted as a multi-ethnic institution of the Council of Ministers and of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The Presidency of the Coordinating Body consists of the president and six vice-presidents of whom three are the mayors of municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve. This fulfilled the requirement for equal participation of Serbs and Albanians in the management of the Coordinating Body. An integral part of the Coordinating Body is the Expert Team, consisting of managers of coordinating groups which, in line with recommendations made by the international community – OSCE (thanks to the efforts by Ambassador Maurizio Massari) and pursuant to the decision by the President of the Coordinating Body, is most directly responsible for the implementation of the Program of Economic-Social and Political-Security stabilization in these municipalities. The Coordinating Body includes eight Coordinating Groups, in charge of direct assessment of situation and resolution of problems from within the scope of their competences. The composition of Coordinating Groups is multi-ethnic, consisting of representatives of the Albanian, Roma, Turkish and Serb community. Managers of all eight Coordinating Groups have developed action plans with details of their planned activities. Action plans for each group include activities and measures that the groups plan to implement in their scope of integration in the period from 2005 to 2007.

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR ANALYSES AND PROJECTS (KGAP) makes assessments and performs analyses of security situation in the Ground Security Zone (GSZ) and in the municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa. Apart from assessment of the security situation in its territory and proposing measures in line with the assessments, the plan for KGAP also includes its participation in projects of socio-economic development. During the first half of 2005, KGAP held 5 sessions.

Apart from regular monitoring of the security and general situation in the municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa, the group continually initiated through the Coordinating Body the resolution of issues within its competences. Within this, the group developed an initiative to open cross-border crossings on the state border with FYR Macedonia; through the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the ministry of the Interior it initiated the modernization and equipment of administrative border crossing «Konjaci»; it intensified the work and cooperation with OSCE and the Working Group for Police, the local police training continued; there is regular monitoring of all security entities in the region and the degree of their security; KGAP is active in respect to the construction of the «Cepotina» complex, and is continually engaged in clarifying the intended objectives and the need for its completion.

The Coordinating Group for Analyses and Projects plans in the future to develop cooperation with state authorities in terms of recommending measures to be taken and forwarding such proposals to relevant authorities to be resolved at local administrative level by local authorities and citizens of municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa. The plan of KGAP includes continued cooperation with other coordinating groups and bodies of the Coordinating Body and other authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the State Union Serbia and Montenegro. The Group submits its regular reports to the manager of the Expert Team and the President of the coordinating Body (CB).

In accordance with the Program of the Republic of Serbia Government and SaM Council of Ministers, Tasks assigned by Coordination Body President at the meeting of 6 September 2005, Group's Action Plan till 30 October 2005, the Coordination Group for Analytics and Projects – Security has held nine working meetings. In keeping with their competences and assigned tasks, Group members have held several separate meetings with citizens, local communities, state institutions and international organizations, as well.

During the report period, regardless of frequent absence of individual members, the Group has been working with a quorum (more than 50% members present).

In consideration of the assignments that have been accomplished, the Coordination Group has justified its existence. This assessment is confirmed by the rendered almost complete evaluation of security situation, security accessibility and citizens' rights in the territory of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja municipalities. In the report period, the Coordination Group for Analytics and Projects – Security has additionally analyzed problems in other spheres as well (economic and political) which have indirect impact on

security situation and proposed adequate measures (to improve infrastructure in the border area to R. Macedonia and roads in GSZ, among others).

At the meetings held in local communities in all the three municipalities, and at Group's meetings, several individual cases of citizens' dissatisfaction related to security issues were discussed and examined.

Based on the assessments of LC Presidents, Group's members and gathered data and information, our assessment is that the security situation in the territory of Bujanovac, Medvedja and Presevo municipality is stabile. Slow resolution of individual problems and slow implementation of certain decisions contribute to creation of a latent threat to a relatively relaxed security situation.

After eight meetings representatives of Bujanovac Municipal Assembly (Jonuz Musliju and Goran Taskovic) have stepped out of the Group, which does not jeopardize Group's further operation.

Less active in Group's work was also Serb representative from Presevo, Goran Stojanovic.

Referring to this, at its last meeting of 25 October 2005, the Coordination Group for Analytics and Projects – Security passed a resolution to request through Presidents of Bujanovac and Presevo co-option of new members instead of the referred ones, as well as of a Roma representative from Bujanovac municipality.

Group's activities in the period till 15 November 2005 included the following:

1. Started initiative with the Foreign Ministry to address the issue of border traffic regulation at the border to Macedonia, against the territory of Presevo municipality;
2. Gathered concrete data on objective reasons and citizens needs for the opening of a local border crossing Miratovac – Lojane – Slavujevac – Katarinovac and Strezovac - Sopot;
3. Elaborated feasibility study – functional analysis related to the need to regulate border traffic at the border to Macedonia, with the assistance of the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia and citizens living in the border area. Based on this study, Republic of Serbia Government passed a decision regarding traffic regulation on the border to Macedonia;
4. Drew a proposal for the Decision of the Republic of Serbia Government regarding border traffic regulation and opening of a border crossing, and proceeded it to the Legislative Committee of the Republic of Serbia Government;

5. Meeting with the DFID representatives and starting the initiative in keeping with the OSCE proposal on the establishment, start-up and support to Security Board of Local Communities (MZ) and municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja;

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES (CGIPUS) held its first session on 22 April 2005 and drew up the draft of its development program which it presented to higher instances. This five-year program is planned to be implemented in three stages, as follows:

- the stage 2005 – 2006 in which it is planned to resolve the issue of old debts and obligations to contractor under all projects implemented in the period 2003-2005, and the commencement of new projects whose implementation would continue in the subsequent stages of the program;
- the stage 2007 - 2008. This stage would include the continuation of project for the construction of the secondary school „Mihajlo Pupin“ in Bujanovac, regulation of sewerage in Veliki Trnovac and construction of the regional road: Trnovac – Breznica – Muhovac – Zarbince. Some projects of lower investment value are also planned;
- the stage 2009 - 2010. This stage will include some new projects of significant importance and finalization of the project of construction of the secondary school in Bujanovac and the regional road: Trnovac – Breznica – Muhovac – Zarbince.

CGIPUS has developed a proposal for resolving the problems of infrastructure in all fields in the municipality Preševo. It has also received for its information and for its competences the report on work performed and the financial status of projects that are implemented in the municipality Medveđa. The group has held two sessions in Bujanovac with the presence of mayors. At the first session they were informed on infrastructure and public utility services related problems in the three municipalities PBM. On this occasion it was agreed that a list of needs (wishes) be made 3-2 years (2005-2010) relevant to the rehabilitation of the existing and construction of new infrastructure and public utility services in municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medveđa. Representatives of all three municipalities submitted their plans. At the second session it was agreed that during the year 2005 all outstanding debts be covered resulting from completed contracts amounting to Dinars 59,406,661.33 in favor of municipality Medveđa to avoid litigation and default interests.

Under these obligations and according to the decision made by the Government of the Republic of Serbia number 401-3972/2004-001 of 27 May 2004, the Republic Directorate for Roads has made the payments in full and thereby covered the debt.

Mr. Riza Halimi insisted that the works on construction of road Priština – Gnjilan 25,2 be continued, which has so far been constructed by the Land Fund Preševo in the length of 1,250 meters without the tear layer. Regretfully, the Program for 2005 of the Republic

Directorate for Roads does not have funds provided in the amount of 220 million Dinars, which would be needed to continue with the works. At the last meeting, the manager of CGIPUS proposed to organize a meeting with the Ministry of Finance in order to get information regarding the funds that could be available for the year 2006 for the purpose of construction and rehabilitation of the existing road network and in line with that to develop a Program for 2006. He believes that this would be better than to propose funds for the year 2006 from the long-term Program which most probably could not be provided and would have a negative effect.

The future activities of this working group will depend on the proposed and available financial resources.

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR STATE ADMINISTRATION AND JUDICIARY (CGSAJ) has so far held to meetings in Bujanovac with representatives of relevant state authorities and OSCE. This Group has developed a Plan of Activities which assessed the actual situation on the judiciary, public administration and inspection services. Based on this assessment, a Plan was developed indicating deadlines and entities in charge of implementation of activities aimed at resolving issues relevant to human resources, registry books and election lists and equipment necessary for the operation of such authorities.

In order to resolve the problems in the field of human resources in the judiciary an advertisement was published for appointment of officials in judiciary, but no persons of Albanian nationality applied for these posts. The announcement is still open.

With respect to inspection services, preparations are underway to publish an advertisement for hiring a certain number of inspectors, and previous experience indicates that Albanians did not apply for these posts in the past.

Over the past five months the Ministry of Justice provided Dinars 2,680,985.00 for procurement of computers and better office space of the judiciary.

Works has commenced in the municipality Bujanovac on the review of election lists and so far 37 persons have been deleted as they have deceased and 20 requests have been filed for inquiry to the Municipal Public Attorney against closest relatives who did not report the fact of death.

In terms of bi-lingual litigation and criminal processes, Presidents of Municipal Courts in Preševo and Bujanovac are obliged to print bi-lingual forms according to the enclosed samples used by the Municipal Court in Subotica, they are also obliged to place on the court buildings bi-lingual plates (in the Serbian language and Cyrillic script and in the Albanian language the Latin script), and this obligation refers also to Public Attorney offices in Bujanovac and Preševo.

In order to provide for equal representation of national minorities, presidents of courts have been made obliged by the Ministry of Justice to propose amendments and increase of systematization of posts in order to hire persons of Albanian nationality, provided that they meet the legal requirements and that they wish to work in the judiciary. In the selection and appointment of staff, close cooperation was established between presidents of courts and public attorneys and the Ministry of Justice in order to select the most adequate staff.

However, it has been noticed that so far there has not been any major interest on behalf of persons of Albanian nationality to work in the judiciary, and this was confirmed once again during the ongoing advertisement for judges, which is ongoing, as only one Albanian applied, and he applied alternatively for judge in Municipal Court in Preševo and Municipal Court in Bujanovac.

There are activities under way at present to provide office conditions for the Municipal Litigation Court in Preševo, which would include also the court and the attorney office. Work is becoming more intensive in terms of arranging the election lists. Activities will continue in the coming period, in line with the Action Plan for this Group.

Deputy Head of the Coordination Group visited on 3 and 4 November 2005 all the three municipalities and corresponding judiciary bodies, was briefed on the current situation and reached agreed referring to certain activities to be taken. Thus, it was agreed with the President of Medvedja municipality to make effort to resolve the problem of offices for the Municipal Misdemeanor organ, and with the President of the Court in Lebane to make effort to provide two vehicles for the Court.

Question of the offices for judiciary bodies was once again discussed with the heads of all judiciary bodies and with the President of the Municipality. This question shall remain high on the agenda in future as well.

As regards appointment of judges, the procedure for the appointment of one Albanian judge to Municipal Court in Bujanovac is in process (elected by the Assembly of Serbia, and the procedure before the High Judiciary Council has been completed).

After the Ministry of Justice has allowed to expand job classification in the courts of Presevo and of Bujanovac, and engage new personnel in order to practically introduce bilingualism to court's work, the courts have taken adequate measures to this effect: thus court in Bujanovac announced vacancies and one Albanian was recruited as a trainee. It has announced other vacancies as well, much the same as the Presevo court.

With the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy, Labor Inspection Sector, Vranje Labor Inspection Unit for the Pcinjski District, an Albanian was appointed as labor inspector and he started working on 21 November 2005. Measures have been taken as well to recruit one forestry and one veterinary inspector of Albanian nationality.

Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy has provided for the Labor Inspection Unit two PCs and one printer.

In the municipal court in Bujanovac lack of funds for the due announcement in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, referring to appointment of ex officio legal counsel, brought about delays in proceedings in cases related to death ascertain. Huge amount of announcements, submitted by the court, are still at the Official Gazette, not announced because corresponding payments were not effected. Referred cases are important for subsequent entry in Registers of Death, and thereafter for deleting the deceased from electoral rolls. Measures have been taken to resolve this through the deputy president of this CG working in the Ministry of Justice.

COORDINATING GROUP FOR HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (CGHCSPHA) has drawn up its action plan including measures to be implemented from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

Priority activities in the work of this group are activities in the field of epidemiology (health control and protection aimed at prevention and eradication of diseases of great

socio-epidemiological significance: children's palsy, tetanus in newborns, hepatitis C, rubeolla, TBC, meningitis, venereal diseases etc.), hygiene (providing for health safety of foodstuffs, provision of hygienic drinking water supply, hygienic disposal of solid and liquid waste, improved collective food, and improved sanitary-hygienic conditions in premises used for collective care of children and youth, in health care institutions and in workers canteens), rodent control for high priority locations and in the field of health-care education.

In the field of social protection, since 1 September 2004, when the amended Law on Social Protection and Benefits for Vulnerable Citizens came into effect, the situation of vulnerable citizens who are entitled to receive material benefits has improved significantly. The law introduced the instrument of single financial assistance benefits as a form of social-protective protection in emergency and urgent situations for the vulnerable population.

The inherited situation:

The assessment of the inherited situation identified the most severe problems and emphasized the need to implement medium term and long term plans according to the set time frames.

- To resolve the problem relevant to **nostrification** of diplomas from Tirana and the issue of employment of doctors from Kosovo and Metohia.
- To accept certificates of **Professional examinations** issued by UNMIK administration.
- To resolve the problems of space and medical equipment (obsolete or lacking equipment; **out-patients delivery hospital** in Preševo and Bujanovac and strengthening of human resources).
- To resolve the problem of **medical specialization**.
- The Problem of access to health care services (**multi-faceted and patronage service**).
- **Access to data** on health status for the PHI Vranje which are not relative, since we do not have feedback concerning treatment in Kosovo and Metohia.
- Payment of **+50%** for staff engaged from Kosovo and Metohia.
- Engagement relevant to **employing** new staff.
- **Lack of communication** at the level Health Care Center Vranje and individual health care centers.
- Problems relevant to **water supply**.

- **Disposal** of solid and liquid waste (discrepancy between present activities and the needs).
- Increase the level of access to information regarding risks of staying in areas contaminated with depleted uranium including retrospective and prospective assessment of malignant diseases.

Long-Term Objectives

1) Projects planned for implementation

- „Monitoring the state of population health in municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa after the NATO aggression in 1999“.
- „From Trauma to Stable Peace in Southern Serbia“ – proposal by Society for Protection of Mental Health of War Veterans and Victims of War.
- „Establishing laboratories to monitor radiological adequacy of foodstuffs and products for general consumption – Institute of Public Health Vranje“.

2) The **multi-ethnicity** concept to be implemented in practice and not only declaratively.

3) Active participation of management in health care which is to be implemented as idea.

Nostrification of diplomas

After the first meeting of the Coordinating Group for Health-Care, Social Protection and Humanitarian Assistance held in Bujanovac on 17 March 2005, emphasis was made concerning the problem of nostrification of diplomas received from the medical and Dentistry faculty in Tirana (MD Bećir Bećirović, coordinator from Preševo).

After contacts with the Medical Faculty in Belgrade, Students Service, Ljiljana Marković, Associate, provided the following data:

Doctors of medicine who have graduated from the Medical Faculty in Tirana and who ask for nostrification of diplomas should provide the following:

1. the original Diploma,
2. three certified copies of translation of the Diploma,
3. three certified photocopies of Diploma,
4. original Curriculum (date of enrollment, number of classes per subject, marks received for all examinations passed),
5. three certified copies of translated curriculum,
6. three certified photocopies of curriculum.

Candidates who have graduated from the Medical Faculty in Tirana are obliged to pass the additional examination in forensic medicine.

The costs of nostrification for citizens of Serbia and Montenegro are Dinars 10,000 (including the additional examination in forensic medicine) and the equivalent of USD 250 for foreign nationals.

In the period from 1 July 1999 to 21 December 2004 there were 13 (thirteen) requests for nostrification of diplomas received from the Medical Faculty in Tirana and all were resolved positively, i.e. all diplomas were nostrified.

The Stomatological Faculty in Belgrade provided the following information:

) The person requesting nostrification shall submit a request with justification of reasons and the following documents:

1. Original or second copy of diploma, in line with regulations of the issuing country and the original for insight.
2. photocopy of diploma (two copies)
3. three copies of translation of the diploma (translated and certified by court interpreter)
4. certificate of examinations passed
5. three copies of translation of examinations passed (translated and certified by court interpreter)
6. curriculum and program (original and translation)

b) In the period from 1999 to 25 May 2005, one request was filed for nostrification of university education at the Faculty of Stomatology in Tirana. During the process of nostrification the applicant withdrew his application

The letter is signed by Dean for Education, Professor Vladimir Ivanovi .

Professional state examination

During the first meeting of the Coordinating Group for Health-Care, Social Protection and Humanitarian Assistance, through the analysis of the present situation and identification of major problems, there surfaced the problem concerning the acceptance of professional state examination passed in Priština for medical doctors and doctors of stomatology from Preševo and Bujanovac who are permanently employed (certain doctors have been employed since 2001, and the management is aware that they became permanently employed although they had only the "License" issued by UNMIK).

Since the Minister, Prof. Tomica Milosavljević, insisted during this meeting with mayors of municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa in the Ministry of Health and attended by Assistant Minister Prof. Aleksandar Živanović, Tatjana Rajović and representatives of NGOs, insisted on the need to respect the Law, Article 14, para 1 of the Book of regulations regarding internship and professional state examinations for health

care professionals („The Official Gazette of RS“, number 89/93), the existing „Licenses“ as the Coordinating Group for Health Care, Social Protection and Humanitarian Assistance shall cease to be relevant and adequate solutions will be sought to resolve this situation.

At the insistence of Professor Aleksandar Živanovi, during the future activities of the Coordinating Body, a concession was made in terms of taking the professional state examination after the expiration of all deadlines stipulated by the law, with relevant documentation. By analyzing the required documentation, it was determined that nobody has the internship logbook “for objective reasons,„. The essence of the whole story is that they performed their internship in Priština where it lasts 6 months instead of 12 months stipulated by the Law. In contacts with Natalija Popov, working precisely on the issue of taking the professional state examinations, and at insistence by Prof. Aleksandar Živanovi, Assistant Minister of Health, another concession was made which included the possession of an official document for each applicant separately, issued by an official institution, as certificate that the applicant has fulfilled internship in an adequate institution in a time period stipulated with the law.

On 8 September 2005, the Director of the Health Center Preševo, Dr. Mithat Sahit, submitted the necessary documents for the September examination period (Health Center Bujanovac and Health Center Preševo) for the following applicants:

Number	Name of applicant	Title	Permanently employed since
1.	Ajeti Bejtula	medical doctor	18 February 2005.
2.	Bekim Arifi	medical doctor	18 February 2005.
3.	Lokman Ahmeti	doctor of stomatology	1 February 2002
4.	Džemail Fejzulahu	medical doctor	1 July 2003
5.	Azem Spahiu	medical doctor	5 January 2004
6.	Aferdita Mustafi	medical doctor	14 November 2001
7.	Fljoriije Halili	medical doctor	14 November 2001

Number	Name of applicant	Title	Permanently employed since
1.	Ljatif Arizi	doctor of stomatology	16 January 2002
2.	Ramilj Azizi	doctor of stomatology	1 February 2002
3.	Sebahate Nasufi	medical doctor	1 February 2002
4.	Hiljmi Mustafa	doctor of stomatology	18 February 2002
5.	Ali Aliju	medical doctor	1 May 2002
6.	Bujar Zulfaju	medical doctor	2 April 2003
7.	Ljuan Ljimini	medical doctor	17 June 2003
8.	Arbenita Zeneli	medical doctor	17 June 2003
9.	Betim Seljmani	medical doctor	17 June 2003
10.	Driton Mustafa	medical doctor	17 June 2003
11.	Jeton Sahiti	doctor of stomatology	14 July 2003
12.	Driton Saliju	doctor of stomatology	14 July 2003
13.	Kadrije Ahmeti	medical doctor	13 October 2003
14.	Agim Sabedini	medical doctor	8 March 2004

15.	Fatljum Aliju	medical doctor	4 January 2005
16.	Besim Abdulahu	medical doctor	23 February 2005
17.	Fitore Sadiku	medical doctor	11 March 2005
18.	Naser Ahmeti	medical doctor	

After the problem of passing the professional examination was identified, the regional health Centers were sent a letter disabling any further discrepancy and relativisation of the Law, Article 14, para 1. of the Book of regulations regarding internship and professional state examinations for health care professionals („The Official Gazette of RS“, number 89/93, enclosed.)

Out-of-the-hospital delivery service

The need for this kind of delivery service and the initiative by municipal authorities and representatives of the Health Center Prešovo dates back to the year 2000-2001.

After receiving the approval by the Ministry of Health dated 7 June 2001, design documents were developed by CIP Belgrade.

At that time, due to disputes concerning adequate location and potential contractors, the said Project was not implemented (enclosures: approval by Ministry of Health to set up the obstetrics department within the Health Center Prešovo, number: 022-04-51/2001-02 of 7 June 2001; The Municipal Council of municipality Prešovo on 17 June 2003 made a decree (number: 352-13) rejecting the tenders submitted under public tender for reconstruction works in Health Center Prešovo and reconstruction into out-of-hospital delivery ward.

Within the activities of the Coordinating Body, and activities of the Coordinating Group for health care, social protection and humanitarian assistance, the Project of out-of-hospital delivery ward is current again.

The Ministry of Health expects a constructive, professional and efficient approach to resolving the issue along with cooperation and possible support of both the Coordinating Body and municipal authorities and humanitarian organisations.

To that purpose, an **Action Plan** was developed, adopted at the constitutive session of the SV at the end of June in Bujanovac which essentially implies provision of accessible health care in the territory of municipalities Prešovo, Bujanovac and Medveđa. Restructuring of primary health care in line with the accepted standards and the principle of multiethnicity.

At the same time, **we emphasize that the implementation of the project of the out-of-hospital delivery ward is related to the adoption of the new Law on health Care, which has been submitted to the National Assembly for adoption.**

The said proposed Law stipulates that primary health care is under **the competences of local self-government.**

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Its establishment will demonstrate the need to hire 3 gynecologists and at least 6 obstetrician technicians.

Also, it will need anesthesiologists, transfusiologists, neonatologists and biochemists.

Specializations

- During six months of activity of the group of the Coordinating Body for health care, special protection and humanitarian assistance, **the problem of allocation of specializations was defined as a consequence of unacceptable criteria used for allocation of specializations developed by the Ministry of Health.**

- After consideration of the prevailing criteria and needs, during the activity of the group of the Coordinating Body for health care, special protection and humanitarian assistance it was concluded that the true solution would be to **change the prevailing Book of Regulations on specializations and sub-specializations** for health professionals, whereby the situation would be avoided that regional health centers approve specializations and the specialist doctors, after completing the specialization, leave for bigger health care centers, and the original health centers are left without the needed specialist human resources.

It should be noted that the Director of the health Care Center in Vranje approves specializations on the basis of length of study, average mark received during studies, and that previously there was an obligation for specialists to remain for 10 years after passing the specialist examination in the institution which approved the specialization.

- It is proposed that the Rule Book of Specializations and Sub-Specializations for health professionals and associates should include also the **place of residence as a criterion**, and such a proposal should be submitted to the Managing Board at the time when the Rule Book is amended to avoid discrepancies between approved specializations and the available number of specialists.

- It is necessary to clearly define the problem of **attending inappropriate specializations** and to resolve this problem in line with the Law.

- It is necessary that requests for specializations should be harmonized with the fields and activities of the health care institutions as set out in the Law, and in the Decree on the network of health care institutions and the Statute of the health care institution.

- During the above activities it is necessary to keep in mind the **application of standards** to human resources in primary health care all along the principles of continued **application of the principle of multiethnicity.**

Payment of incentive bonus for staff engaged from Kosovo and Metohia

On the basis of the Decision made by the Government on 18 December 2001, number 121-14226/2001, stipulating that salaries to health professionals employed in health care institutions in municipalities of Prešovo, Bujanovac and Medveđa be 10%, as proposed by the Ministry of Health, and such salary payment started as of the July salary for staff from Kosovo and Metohia who are employed in the said municipalities. In agreement with the head of office for Kosovo and Metohia, Dr Ljubiša Nedeljković, the Director of RZZO Branch Office Građac, Slobodan Denić, the payment shall be made retroactively until payment of incentive bonus since the year 2005.

The purpose of the above engagement regarding the payment of incentive bonus for staff from Kosovo and Metohia is to provide equal treatment of employees.

Employment issues

Work is underway on development of plan documents (standards) for hospital capacities and employees in health care services. The performed assessment identified the present situation and came up with approximate needs for human resources in primary health care, in hospital and polyclinical practice.

These needs are set out in Standards for specific districts.

When by-laws are adopted in line with the said standards for individual districts, this will include the Pinguš and Jablanički district and will result in the plan of activities and development of capacities for the period 2006-2010.

This document will identify the manner of dealing with human resources issues, both in terms of lack or surplus, and it will set out the time schedule and manner of resolving these problems. Among other things, this implies that there may be secondment of surplus staff from certain regions or fields to other regions and fields where staff is missing.

Having in mind the fact that the new proposed Law on Health Protection has already been submitted to the National Assembly for approval, and since it stipulates that primary health care will be under the competences of the local self-government, it is important to **emphasize that in such a case the state will set standards for Health centers and the local self-government will implement them.**

In line with the rationing of staff and the introduction of said standards, there will be discussion on employment of staff in health care centers in municipalities of Prešovo, Bujanovac and Medveđa and this will commence as of beginning of year 2006. This is at the same time a response to complaints that have been received over the past period regarding mostly the said issues. In this, **we emphasize that during 2005 in the Health Center Medveđa 1 doctor was employed for a definite period of time, a total of 17 staff were employed in the health care center in Bujanovac, 12 for a definite and 5 for an indefinite period of time, and that the health care center in Prešovo has employed 6 staff for an indefinite and 4 staff for a definite period of time.**

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR CULTURE AND MEDIA (CGCM) has already begun to implement projects in the field of culture and media in municipalities Prešovo, Medveđa and Bujanovac. The political-security situation and social-economic development programs, as programs of highest priorities in these three municipalities

have identified the following goals: investment in infrastructure and institutions relevant to culture and public information, procurement of vehicle for Radio Medveđa, support to the rehabilitation of cultural-art societies and events in the field of art amateur work, events relevant to literature, scenic arts and sport events, which contribute to inter-ethnic tolerance, cooperation with NGOs, international institutions and local self-management bodies.

Apart from these activities which are already under way of in the implementation stage, plans are made for projects in 2006 and 2007, creating an incentive atmosphere for inter-ethnic tolerance, closer cooperation among the existing cultural institutions and exchange of experience for the purpose of broadcasting joint news, educational and cultural-art programs.

The Coordinating Group for Culture and Media held its third session on 22 July 2005. Invitations for this meeting were sent to the members of the CG. Representatives of cultural and media institutions from three municipalities and municipal management in charge of culture. The meeting was fully open to the media and it was attended by a great number of journalist who, after the work part of the meeting asked questions of members of the CG. All attending guests were asked at the meeting to fill in a survey prepared by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, aimed at better allocation of budget funds for this and the coming year.

It is worthwhile to note that work has commenced on a capital project for capacity building for TV Bujanovac, which started in the second half of September.

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR EDUCATION, SPORT AND CHILDREN'S PROTECTION (CGESCP) has started with the implementation of plans from within its scope of activities right after it was established.

Since it was established, on 16 March 2005, in line with the proposed projects and requests from the ground, the Ministry of Education and Sport allocated Dinars 7,500,000.00 for investment and current maintenance of schools in municipalities Preševo, Medveđa and Bujanovac.

In terms of financial issues relevant to the activities of this CG, activities were initiated for increase of salaries for employees in education, according to the protocol signed with trade unions in education, and work commenced on allocation of secondary school and

university students scholarships and loans under criteria valid in the relevant service of the Ministry of Education and Sport.

Currently activities are under way to organize technical-pedagogical examinations, seminars and other forms of training and testing for all participants in the teaching process. There are plans to continue the work and cooperation on development and improvement of programs and curricula, with special emphasis on conceptual and systematic solutions for textbooks in the Albanian language. There are activities relevant to education of workers required by the economy, changes and additions in the system of qualification profiles and education of staff needed by the local self-government and the Albanian community. This CG has set as one of its priorities the initiation of work on strengthening inspection and administrative supervision over educational institutions aimed at providing legally prescribed conditions for the operation of all entities and individuals according to the prevailing regulations of the republic of Serbia.

There is a strong need for cooperation with international organisations, continued information of their representatives of all issues and problems encountered in practice and application for active mediation, donor and other forms of support.

The activities of the Coordinating Group for Education, Sport and Children's Protection in municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa are in line with the adopted action plan, takes place in the following aspects:

I The financial aspect of activities of the CGESCP

1. Providing funds in the budget of the Republic of Serbia for implementation of investment projects and assistance in the functioning of institutions;
2. Investment maintenance and equipment of preschool institutions
 - reconstruction and equipment of kindergartens in municipality Preševo (in Rajinci, Ašani, Buštranj, Alići);
3. Investment maintenance and equipment of schools
 - Reconstruction of schools in Medveđa;
 - Rehabilitation of school barracks of primary school «Branko Radićević» in Bujanovac,
 - Assistance in rehabilitation and equipment of classrooms in school in Preševo (in Oraovac, Miratovac, Rainci, Žujinci, Reljani),
 - Repair of the school building of primary school «Radovan Kovačević» in Lec;
4. Investment maintenance and equipment of sport facilities
 - Repair of sports hall in primary schools in Oraovac, Rainci, Moratovac (municipality Preševo),
 - Reconstruction of small sport facilities (grounds) in local communities;
5. Assistance in financing the printing of textbooks in the Albanian language and funds for translation of textbooks in the Albanian language;
6. Providing transportation for Roma children to pre-school and schools in Preševo.

II The professional-pedagogical aspect of activities of the CGESCP

1. Professional-pedagogical training of the teaching staff, associates and principals of school institutions through seminars, training courses and examinations
 - for evaluation of work of teaching staff and associates,
 - for development of school curricula,
 - for development of qualification profiles,
 - for development of programs for examinations for licenses,
2. Intensive work on implementing technical supervision in school institutions;
3. A meeting was held with teaching staff from Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa and Preševo,
4. Providing conditions for enrollment and education of pupils according to the needs of the local self-government and the needs of the Albanian community;
5. Support in organizing sport competitions at school level.

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III The legal and inspection aspect of activities of the CGESCP

1. Approval for the use of textbooks from Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia which are in accordance with the curricula and facilitating the import of such textbooks;
2. Inspection monitoring performed in the secondary school „Mihajlo Pupin“ (report by inspectors provided);
3. Resolving the issue of nostrification of diplomas issued by UNMIK;
4. A public information campaign was implemented in Bujanovac with the aim of informing interested population with the procedure of applying for children's allowance benefits;
5. Resolving the issue of scholarships for pupils and students who are attending schools outside the Republic of Serbia;
6. Introducing school policemen.

IV Cooperation between the CGESCP and international organisations

1. Cooperation with OSCE on the following issues:
 - harmonization of school programs and curricula in the Serbian and Albanian language for primary and secondary education;
 - development of textbooks in the Albanian language;
 - assessing the possibility to establish a teacher-training college in the Albanian language;
2. Cooperation with NGOS regarding the Roma community;
3. Regular joint meetings with representatives of the US Embassy, EU and OSCE.

Conclusion: The activities implemented so far have secured the participation of local Albanian and Roma communities in the achievement of goals of the CG which should result in a stable situation in the field in which this CG is active and should lead to a more pro-active cooperation with the local administration.

CGESCC investment related activities till the end of 2005

1. Finalize started works on investment projects, in keeping with the set timelines and provided funding, referring to:
 - kindergartens: maintenance and furnishing/equipment,
 - schools and school facilities: reconstruction, remodeling and equipment,
 - Reconstruction of school gyms and sports grounds.
2. Continue disbursement of allocated funds in keeping with the budget in-comes ;
3. Collect local self-government reports on technical, financial and professional needs and set priorities, by municipalities.

Elaboration of 2006 Plan and Program of the Coordination Group for Education, Sport and Children Care for Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipalities.

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR THE ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT (CGED) since its establishment on 15 March 2005, this CG has undertaken the following: on 15 March 2005 a meeting was held in Bujanovac bringing together all members of the CGED and representatives of the international community. The CG initiated the meetings of representatives of local self-government, entrepreneurs and farmers with representatives of the Republic Fund for Development, Privatization Agency, Agency for SME and Agency for Economic Registries. These meetings were held on 25 April 2005 in Sijerinska Banka and in Bujanovac and on 26 April 2005 in Preševo.

The Republic Ministry of Economy approved loans in the amount of Dinars 35,300,000.00 for 10 enterprises as support to the economy through the Republic Fund for Development. Decisions have been made for restructuring of two enterprises, as a form of privatization.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia, at the proposal of the Ministry of Economy, adopted a decision that interest on approved loans utilized in 2002, 2003 and the first half of 2004 be reduced to 1%, and that the loan servicing period to beneficiaries who service their debt regularly the debt repayment period be extended for additional 24 months.

The Ministry of Water Management, Forestry and Agriculture approved long-term loans in an amount of Dinars 40,000,000.00 to five enterprises and 17 short-term loans as incentives for agricultural production in the municipality of Bujanovac (Dinars 40,400,000.00), 13 loans for municipality Medve (Dinars 720,000.00) and one loan for municipality Preševo (Dinars 80,000.00). Measures have been undertaken to speed up and increase the inscription of farmers into relevant registries as pre-condition for receiving incentives approved for farming.

in line with the Action Plan, and in order to monitor and assess the effects of measures that have been undertaken, the Ministry of Economy has established a data base of enterprises from municipalities Preševo, Medve and Bujanovac. In order to monitor the improvement of the economic-social status of enterprises and the population, additional data have been identified in cooperation with the Republic Statistical Office which will be introduced and monitored in the future.

On the basis of Program for Allocation and Utilization of Funds for Economic Development thought the Republic Fund for development for the year 2005, applications

submitted by enterprises falling within the scope of work of this CG were evaluated and funds were approved in an amount of Dinars 74.3 million, in the following fields:

I Agriculture

(food processing industry) for:

Preševco: Socially owned enterprise for tobacco processing – Dinars 7.0 million,
 Bujanovac Socially owned enterprise „Jugokop“ – Dinars 17.0 million,
 HK „Vrelo“, Bujanova k. Banja – Dinars 15.0 million
 AD „DIB“ – Dinars 7.0 million.

II Industry:

Preševco: Socially owned enterprise „Budu m.“ – Dinars 2.0 million,
 Socially owned enterprise „7 Juli“ – Dinars 6.0 million,
 AD „Megal“ – Dinars 2.0 million
 Medve a. Mine and flotation „Lece“ – Dinars 1.0 million,
 Bujanovac: SOE „Alatnica“ a.d. – Dinars 4.0 million
 AD „Megal“ – Dinars 3.0 million
 GP „Integrat“ – Dinars 4.0 million
 SOE „Prole e“ – Dinars 4.0 million
 Industry of Batteries „Svetlost“ – Dinars 0.3 million.

In order to increase employment and in line with the Employment Program for Employees who have become redundant in the process of transition, the Republic Development Fund has approved, through micro-credits funds in an amount of Dinars 5.68 million.

On the basis of development business plans the Republic Development Fund has approved long term loans in an amount of Dinars 6.0 million, as follows:

- „Zdravlje“ SPR Medve a. – Dinars 1.0 million
- „Godeks“ Bujanovac – Dinars 4.0 million
- „Stefan“ Bujanovac – Dinars 1.0 million
- In the field of energy generation, the value of investments into the distribution network during the year 2005 by municipalities is as follows:
 - Preševco – Dinars 38.0 million (of total planned Dinars 38.5 million)
 - Medve a. – Dinars 2.0 million (of total planned Dinars 0.2 million)
 - Bujanovac – data is being prepared (total planned funds Dinars 57 million.)

The share of funds provided by Power Distribution Facility Vranje in these investments is over 30%.

For more efficient and successful privatisation the Privatization Agency within its activities prepared a program for reconstruction of the enterprise „Svetlost“, Bujanovac which is to be adopted in line with the Law on privatization. Preparations are under way for privatization of the mine „Lece“, Medve a. after evaluation of all circumstances relevant to the fact that the enterprise was within the mining complex RHMK „Trep a

In the period 26 October 2005 – 12 December 2005, in accordance with the Action Plans, the following activities were implemented:

On the basis of the Program for the allocation and use of funds for the economy credit support through the Republic of Serbia 2005 Development Fund, 3 million Din. were granted to three companies, including:

In the sphere of agriculture (food industry) to:

Bujanovac, SE “Jugokop”-1,0 mil Din;

- In the sphere of industry to:

Presevo – SE “Buducnost” -1,0 mil Din;

Medvedja- Mine and flotation “Lece” – 1,5 mil. Din;

Bujanovac – CE “Integral” – 1,0 mil. Din

In the report 2005 period, 89,80 mil. Din was granted to 14 companies (to 9 companies in Bujanovac municipality - 67,30 mil. Din, to 4 companies in Presevo municipality - 20 mil. Din and to one company in Medvedja municipality – 2,5 mil. Din), which is substantially more than in the previous years (in 2002 - 10 mil. Din was granted, in 2003 - 50 mil. Din, and in 2004 - 42 mil. Din).

On the basis of development programs, at its meeting of 10 November 2005 the RS Development Fund granted long-term credits amounting 162,4 mil. Din. to the following 6 companies:

- «Authentic 75» SZTR, Medvedja – 1,0 mil. Din

- “Zaric” SZR Medvedja - 1,0 mil. Din

- “Board trade Seljami Selimi i ortaci” O.D. Bujanovac -1,4 mil. Din

- “Lagado” DOO Bujanovac - 55,0 mil. Din

- “MP“ DOO Bujanovac - 4,0 mil. Din

- “Simpo” AD Bujanovac - 100,00 mil. Din

All long-term credits granted in 2005 through the RS Development Fund total 186 mil. Din under 13 programs.

The Ministry of Economy issued a positive opinion to the RS Development Fund, regarding agreement on taking over the debt for the connecting of years of service till 31 December 2004, through the write-off, for ZP “Termovet” Medvedja , amounting 42,035 mil. Din. Three other companies have connected years of service so far (SE “Svetlost” and SE “Integral, Bujanovac and “Grafoleks”, Presevo).

Aimed at encouraging SME development, the Office was established in Medvedja, within the framework of the Agency for Local Economic Development in Leskovac. The Agency was established in cooperation with the ILO, it is funded by the Holland Government, and its task is to render financial services for SME development.

In order to settle problems related to electric power supply cuts to almost all enterprises in the territory of these municipalities, due to current and past debts, through the Ministry of Mining and Energy Management representatives, data were requested from the EDB regarding outsendng amounts and the amount of debts write-off, in order to overcome this problem.

Ministry of the Economy had four meeteing with corresponding companies, as part of its regular meetings under the Action Plan.

THE COORDINATING GROUP FOR RELIGIOUS, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE (CGRHCH) started its activities aimed at providing funds for implementation of a series of projects. A great number is in the process of implementation and are planned to be finalized by the end of this year.

All religious communities have submitted applications to the Ministry of Culture for funds for systematic reconnaissance and evaluation of the present situation. The Ministry of Religions and the Ministry of Culture have received requests for assistance for the functioning of choir „Sveti Prohor Pirovac“ and societies for the preservation of cultural heritage „Zapis“, as well as requests for scholarships for student of Islamic theology. The Ministry of Culture has provided funds for dislocation of the cemetery in Sijerinska Banja, municipality Medveđa and provision of buildings for a multi-ethnic Museum of Peace in Prešovo.

Apart from the above, there are plans for numerous projects to be implemented with funds provided through international grants from donors.

With the establishment of this CG, conditions have been provided for representatives of religious communities to provide their written requests to be assessed by relevant ministries and the Coordinating Body. Applications received so far have been assessed at the second meeting of CG and it was concluded that most projects go outside the scope of work of the CG and that careful selection is needed in order to harmonize them with the availability of funds. The representative of the Ministry of Culture pointed out that in the first stage it is necessary to get an insight into the state of all monuments of culture in the territory of the three municipalities and that funds will be allocated in line with the criteria set out in the advertisement. Members of the CG have been made familiar with the program directions of the Ministry of Religions which puts emphasis on projects relevant to religious education and culture, while the construction of religious buildings is treated as an obligation of the churches and the local self-government. Members of the CG were invited through the Coordinating Body to submit project proposals which meet the said criteria.

After evaluation of received project proposals and after consultations with the Ministry of Culture, the CG developed an Action Plan including all project proposals, but which also clearly states the possibility to finance the following projects:

- Systematic reconnaissance and evaluation of the inventory of monuments of culture in the municipality Bujanovac in an amount of Dinars 1.5 million
- Systematic reconnaissance and evaluation of the inventory of monuments of culture in the municipality Prešovo in an amount of Dinars 1.5 million
- Systematic reconnaissance and evaluation of the inventory of monuments of culture in the municipality Medveđa in an amount of Dinars 1.5 million
- Protection of the Orthodox Temple in Biljača in the amount of Dinars 1.5 million,
- Assistance to the choir „Sveti Prohor Pirovac“ in Bujanovac in an amount of Dinars 100,000.00
- Assistance to the society for preservation of cultural-historical heritage „Zapis“ in Bujanovac in an amount of Dinars 70,000.00
- Scholarships for two students of Islamic methodology from Bujanovac in an amount of Dinars 180,000.00

- Protection of the old mosque with tekia in the village Slavujevac, municipality Preševo in an amount of Dinars 50,000.00
- Three scholarships for students of Islamic theology from Preševo in an amount of Dinars 227,000.00
- Annual subscription to two magazines promoting culture of highest quality,
- Funds for programs with Islamic content to be broadcast once a month on Radio Bujanovac
- Funds for programs with Islamic content to be broadcast once a month on TV Preševo.
- Establishment of the Museum of Peace in Preševo in an amount of Dinars 80,000.00
- Displacement of cemetery in Sijerinska Banja in an amount of Dinars 2 million
- Fencing of devastated cemeteries in Medveđa in an amount of Dinars 1 million
- Opening a memorial room with cultural-ethnologic exhibits in Medveđa in an amount of Dinars 400,000.00
- Publishing of an Albanian-Serbia dictionary in an amount of Dinars 280,000.00

The implementation of other high quality project proposals from the Action Plan will depend on the availability of financing from the budget for the year 2006 and from grants by international donor organizations.

In respect to projects for which funds have been made available it is possible to conclude that systematic reconnaissance and evaluation of the inventory of monuments of culture in under way and organized by the Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture Niš. The same Institute is already executing works in Sijerinska Banja, Medveđa, and Slavujevac. According to the information that is available, good cooperation is achieved with local authorities in the execution of complex work relevant to evaluation of the state of monuments of culture. Full application documents have been submitted by the management of the choir „Sveti Prohor Pivski“ for whose activity Dinars 100,000.00 has been allocated for the year 2005. The Ministry of Religions has paid Dinars 280,000.00 for the publishing of the Albanian-Serbian dictionary. Independently of the Action Plan an amount of Dinars 150,000.00 has been paid for bell tower for the Orthodox temple in the village Stanuši i, Municipality Medveđa.

There are certain problems in the execution of the Action Plan in terms of the low interest expressed by the Albanian community to submit project proposals, as well as due to the approach of the Serb community to apply for full financing for construction of religions buildings. A greater participation by the Albanian community in the part of the program to be implemented through the Ministry of Religions is greatly linked to the problems existing in the functioning of the Islamic community in that region.

2. CONCLUSIONS

The success in the implementation of above proposed measures will greatly depend on

community in the work of the Albanian community in the Coordinating Body and the intensity of engagement of key international factors.

Each potential delay or obstruction to undertaking the above measures may result in political discreditation of all that has been achieved so far, as well as to worsening of the economic situation and getting into a situation beyond which recovery shall be impossible.

In order to prevent the annulment of all positive political results achieved so far in the region it is necessary that all institutions fulfill their obligations, both at the state level and at the local level and by citizens participating in the work of the Coordinating body, accompanied with full unreserved support to the implementation of the Program of political-security and economic-social stabilization of the region.

On the basis of achievements presented above it could be concluded that the present security situation in municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve is unstable with the occurrence of individual tendencies for potential destabilization and accompanied with a latent factors and threats to it. These threats are manifesting themselves in the form of individual criminal and terrorist acts in the region and organization of different events and peaceful gatherings and protests. Such a development of events requires that in the future planned and coordinated measures are undertaken by all relevant state authorities to maintain and improve the achieved level of stability and peace.

By the implementation of the planned measures, the Coordinating Body and the coordinating groups are creating positive conditions for the achievement of set goals of the Program of Economic-Social and Security-Political stabilization in municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve in the future period.

The achieved effective cooperation, the established and significantly improved confidence between international security forces in the AP Kosovo and Metohia and the security forces of Serbia and Montenegro, especially in protecting the security and control of crossing the administrative boundary line with the AP Kosovo and Metohia, provides the necessary conditions for normal living and work of the citizens in the region. Political measures by the Coordinating Body, including especially the engagement of Albanians and representatives of the Roma community in the work of the coordinating groups has created the basis for further strengthening of multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society on democratic principles accompanied with the respect for human

rights, minority and other rights and freedoms of all citizens according to highest standards.

The measures that have been undertaken and the investments made in the field of economy, industry health-care, education, social protection, especially after the adoption of the rebalanced budget of the Republic of Serbia, along with the international assistance and support have created the conditions for further prosperous development and speedy economic and social development of this region, in the interest of all citizens living there.