



RSEDP2 GRANT SCHEME

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ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

Themes:

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL
STRATEGY ELABORATION

THE RSEDP2 TRAINING
PROGRAMME

REVISION OF THE BUSINESS
PLANS OF THE RDAS

FIRST RSEDP2 STUDY TOUR

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ESTABLISHING AN
ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN
SERBIA

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL STRATEGY ELABORATION

The RSEDP2 Programme has produced 3 Technical Guidance Notes on Regional Strategy Formulation as part of its support to the Regional Development Agencies of Serbia. The Guidance Notes cover the process of Strategy Formulation, the use of SWOT Analysis and the socio-economic profiling of a region. In addition to these publications, RSEDP2 participates in the strategy building process in a number of RDAs and will be organising a workshop on Regional Development Strategy in September 2010. The Technical Guidance notes can be found on the RSEDP2 website at: <http://rse dp2serbia.eu/documents/>.

THE RSEDP2 TRAINING PROGRAMME

The RSEDP2 Programme's Human Resource Management

experts have conducted a Training Needs Assessment of Serbia's RDAs. This assessment also extended to an examination of the training needs of key RDA stakeholders, in the form of RDA Assembly members. This work has culminated in the design of a training programme which will address the needs and interests of RDA management, staff and Assembly members. The training programme will commence in September 2010.

REVISION OF THE BUSINESS PLANS OF THE RDAS

A revision of the Business Plans of the RDAs has been completed by the RSEDP2 Programme. This extends the existing Business Plans of the RDAs to 2013 and in the case of Association Jug, in Nis, provides this new RDA with a Business Plan to follow through to 2013.



Belgrade, the First RDA Conference



Belgrade, the First RDA Conference



Belgrade, the Third RDA Conference "How to Prepare a Project?"

In the next newsletter we will report upon the:

- results from the project's first study tour to the region of Emilia Romagna
- lunch of the RSEDP2 Training Programme for RDAs and RDA Assembly members
- results of the 2nd Call for Proposals of the RSEDP2 Grant Scheme

FIRST RSEDP2 STUDY TOUR

Following the summer vacation, RSEDP2 will take a party to the region of Emilia Romagna in Italy. The study tour will involve the Directors of the Regional Development Agencies in Serbia and the Presidents of the Assemblies of the Regional Development Agencies.

The purpose of the week long visit will be to examine the ways in which Regional Development

Agencies and other key actors, at the regional level in Italy, work with groups of enterprises to strengthen competitiveness and enhance employment creation potential and to demonstrate to the importance of regional development to the local self-governments in Emilia Romagna.



RSEDP2 GRANT SCHEME

The RSEDP2 has launched a Call for Proposals from applicants with projects which have the capacity to improve regional economic competitiveness and to contribute towards employment creation in Serbia's regions.

Projects must focus on (i) providing facilities and services for groups of enterprises to use to improve their efficiency and competitiveness, and/or (ii) matching the skills of the regional labour force (employed and unemployed) to employment opportunities in the region.

Applications can come a wide variety of organisations (enterprises, municipalities, regional development agencies, industrial cluster associations, industry and professional associations, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, amongst others) and applicants are required to form partnerships for project implementation. The participation of organisations from outside of Serbia is also allowed.

Funding under the Grant Scheme will be made available to support projects ranging from a minimum of 75,000€ to a maximum of 1M€ and at least 10% funding required for a project must be provided by the partners.

Projects should focus on strengthening competitiveness and increasing employment in the following sectors of the regional economy: agro-food; manufacturing; business logistics; business services; and tourism; and should seek to develop trade, promote innovation, increase certification and improve quality levels, and match skills to employment opportunities.

Full information on the Grant Scheme is to be found in the "Guidelines to Applicants" and the "Handbook on Good Practices", both of which are available on the RSEDP2 website, url <http://www.rsedp2serbia.eu>.

RSEDP 2 is also targeting municipalities in districts not currently served by Regional Development Agencies in Backa, SREM, Macva, Kolubara and Rasinski Districts. RSEDP 2 will be supporting municipalities to work together in the development of employment creation projects in partnership with the private sector.

The support for municipalities will be structured in two phases:

- Phase 1: (June 2010 onwards): Promoting project ideas to focus Municipalities on employment creation and opportunities presented by the 2nd Call for Proposals of RSEDP 2.
- Phase 2: (January 2011 – February 2012): Deliver a comprehensive support package targeting up to six municipal economic partnerships through a competitive approach.

Further information can be found at www.rsedp2serbia.eu



Niš, contract signing for "Cheese Cluster South"



Belgrade, the Third RDA Conference



Belgrade, the Third RDA Conference



Belgrade, the Third RDA Conference

ESTABLISHING AN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN SERBIA

In autumn 2009 the existing RDAs in Serbia agreed in principle to form an association of RDAs in Serbia. Currently a technical assistance initiative is being progressed to assess the best ways of stimulating and increasing RDA participation in dialogue at the national level, including an increased advocacy role. The principle aim is to establish a functioning Association of Regional Development Agencies reflecting the amended Law of Regional Development and taking into account the recently established National Regional Development Agency (NARD) who will be responsible for developing regional development policy and the accreditation of development organisations at the regional level, including the nine existing RDAs.

A draft interim report is now in circulation based on a comprehensive desk and consultative meetings with the Directors of the RDAs, national and other regional stakeholders. The report sets out the generic issues to be addressed across the RDAs and also scopes the range of likely activities that should be core to the functioning of regional development association in Serbia. Comments on this report are awaited. The report is available on <http://www.rsedp2serbia.eu> A technical conference is planned for mid June 2010 hosted by RSEDP 2 at which the experiences of similar associations in Europe are discussed. This event will be held in Belgrade and will focus on the role and work of the Regional Development Agencies in Europe (EURADA).