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# IMPRES News

Improvement of preschool education in Serbia



Project funded by  
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Republic of Serbia  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

*Improvement of preschool education in Serbia (IMPRES)* is a joint project of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia and the European Union. The project is funded by the European Union with 3,75 million EUR from the pre-accession funds. The purpose of the IMPRES project is to strengthen the conditions of preschool education for children, especially those from vulnerable groups, through improvements in the quality of preschool programmes and expansion of the capacities of preschool institutions. 15 pilot municipalities are included in the project activities - *Pozarevac-Kostolac, Petrovac na Mlavi, Arandjelovac, Leskovac, Krusevac, Razanj, Surdulica, Gadzin Han, Bela Palanka, Uzice, Tutin, Ruma, Beocin, Sabac and Mali Zvornik.*

Project is implemented by SOFRECO and its partners Early Years and Internationaler Bund. Activities started in February 2011 and will continue until January 2014.



Second training of mentors  
for special and specialized  
programmes held in Nis



Award to IMPRES Success  
Story



New Blogs published



Piloting of Guidelines for  
self-evaluation



New seminars on preschool  
network

You can find more  
information about  
the project on

[www.impres.rs](http://www.impres.rs)

Project Team



## Second training of mentors for special and specialized programmes held in Nis

**Second** training on various programmes of preschool education for children ages 3 - 5 years was held in March at the Regional Centre for Professional Development in Education in Nis. The training was attended by the representatives from preschool institutions involved in the IMPRES project, the representatives of preschool institutions from UNICEF's project "Kindergartens without borders - more opportunities for learning and development of young children," the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and advisors from the school administration.

Training was held by Lidija Miskeljic, Key Expert for Early Childhood Education, Caroline Boudry and Veerle Vervaeke, experts on IMPRES project and Dragana Koruga from the Center for Interactive Pedagogy (CIP).

The representatives from both projects presented activities on developing specialized programmes which were implemented in the last few months in their institutions. On creatively prepared posters and presentations they presented their work with children and activities carried out.

During the first IMPRES - UNICEF training which was held in November 2012, ways and models of how to develop these programmes were presented to preschool teachers. The goal of the second session was exchange of experiences gained so far on developing these programmes.

Teachers presented greatest benefit of introduction of special programmes, plans for the future and "burning issues" that most preschools face (lack of funding and space at kindergartens, lack of support from local self-governments). However, most preschool institutions successfully developed special programmes.



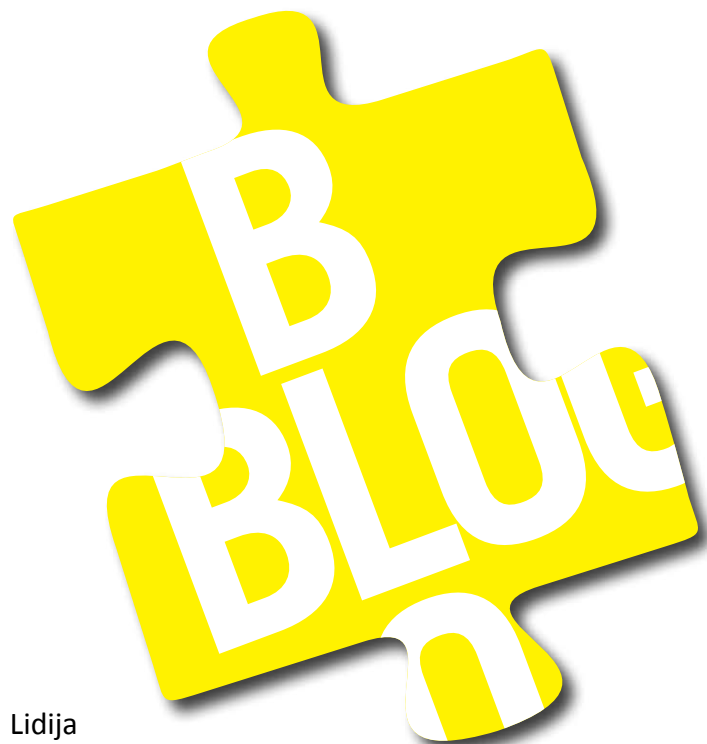
## Award to IMPRES Success Story



**Video** film about IMPRES project activities related to the usage of mini-van for transportation of children in Mali Zvornik municipality to the kindergarten produced by the Belgrade PG Mreza was awarded for the best report on EU funded projects in Serbia.

This video showed the results achieved and the good practices developed through IMPRES in Mali Zvornik, one of the project's pilot municipalities. With a donation of a mini-van from IMPRES and technical support and advice from the project the municipality initiated and developed the usage of the vehicle for increasing access to preschool for children from vulnerable groups.

IMPRES success story was awarded by the Serbian Office for European Integration, EU Delegation to Serbia and Erste Bank on the contest for the best media report on the European integration process in Serbia in 2012. The author of the awarded video is journalist Biljana Djogic. The film can be found on the IMPRES project web site – [www.impres.rs](http://www.impres.rs).



## New Blogs published

**New** blogs were published on the IMPRES project web site. Authors of the blogs were Lidija Miskeljic, project key expert in Early childhood education and care, Michel Crepon, Project Team Leader and Marina Arizanovic, teacher from preschool institution "Vukica Mitrovic" from Leskovac.

The Blogs can be found on the project web site: <http://www.impres.rs/blog-en-US/>.



## Piloting of Guidelines for self-evaluation



**After** the seminar, which was held in October 2012 during which the Guidelines for self-evaluation were presented, all preschool institutions involved in IMPRES project, in consultation with the project team, were required to form teams for self-evaluation and to begin piloting of the new process for improving quality.

Meetings with teams for self-evaluation took place in all 15 preschool institutions included in the IMPRES project February, 11-25 and March, 11 – 29 2013. The meetings were led by Jelena Paic, an expert on the project, Vesna Kartal, advisor-coordinator of the Institute for Quality of Education and Imelda Madigan, Project expert.

The teams presented recent process of self-evaluation in their facilities by using the draft of the Guidelines for self-evaluation of preschool institutions.

They analyzed degree of compliance of the Bylaw on evaluation of quality performance of preschool institution, with emphasis on the structure of the annual self-evaluation plan, structure and role of the team as well as relation between reports of self-evaluation and development plan.



## New seminars on preschool network

**New** seminars on development and optimization of management of preschool education in the municipality were held in January and February in Regional Centre for professional development of educators in Smederevo and Sabac. The seminars were opened by Michel Crepon, Team Leader of the IMPRES project.

The representatives from preschool institutions and local self-governments from Pozarevac, Arandjelovac, Petrovac na Mlavi, Sabac, Mali Zvornik, Beocin and Ruma participated at the seminars. Lecturers on seminars were Branka Pavlovic and Kari Pitkanen, project experts.

Network of preschool institutions consist of preschool institution, LSGs, NGO's and other institution in the local municipality who support the development and broader participation of children in preschool education. The importance of networking lies in sharing information, developing common policy positions, gaining perspective and credibility.

The representatives from preschool institutions and LSG's included in the UNICEF Serbia Project "Kindergartens without borders - more opportunities for learning and development of young children" also participated at the seminars which is part of the joint cooperation between the projects.



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