



European
Commission
Delegation
to BiH

EU Newsletter

Europe Day Gala Concert



A gala concert celebrating Europe Day will be held on May 9 in Sarajevo, in the BiH Institutions Building.

"Youth Symphony Orchestra South Eastern Europe" (YSOSEE) will perform well-known pieces by famous European composers before an audience of over 400 guests, representing all government institutions, intellectuals, artists and the International Community. It will be broadcast live by BHT1, thus reaching an even wider audience.

Ambassador Michael Humphreys, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to BiH, and Mr Adnan Terzic, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, will address the audience.

YSOSEE brings together young musicians who play in symphony orchestras in the region; some of them are originally from this region but also play in orchestras in London, Paris, Vienna and Düsseldorf.

Europe Day celebrations in Trebinje



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The Women's Centre Trebinje (Zenski Centar Trebinje) have organised a two-day event which will be held in Trebinje on May 8 and 9, 2005. It will include sports and exhibitions of arts and crafts, and will provide a meeting ground for traditional and modern art trends.

A judo competition on May 8 will bring together school-age children and cadets from Clubs in Dubrovnik in Croatia; Danilovgrad in Serbia and Montenegro; and from Sarajevo, Visegrad and Trebinje in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A social event in honour of the international guests will follow the competition.

An art exhibition will be launched on May 8,

and will remain open for the duration of the two-day festivities, where visitors will be able to acquire the work of artists from the region. Handicrafts produced by the Association of Children with Special Needs will also be on sale.

On May 9 a street pageant will provide a forum for young children to present their own creations.

This event is expected to draw a wide audience from within Bosnia and Herzegovina and also from neighbouring countries; Trebinje's geographic location favours cross-border links and this event will be all the richer because of it.

Youth - a Driving Force Towards European Integration

The Euro Quiz for Secondary Schools

The students who recently participated in the BHT1-produced "Euroquiz" demonstrated the keen interest regarding the European Union among BiH youth. Euroquiz was the brainchild of Director Slavisa Masic, and Producer Maja Anzulovic successfully engaged the support of the EC Delegation to BiH to fund the series, which involved secondary schools throughout the country.

The pedagogical units of Entity and Cantonal Ministries of Education identified 54 general or technical

secondary schools from 39 different cities and towns which were outstanding not only for their academic record but also for their extra-curricular activities. These schools were invited to participate in the Quiz, and received study material on the European Union provided by the EC Delegation.

The Quiz is a television-specific genre which requires a tremendous amount of preparation to ensure that the rules are strictly respected and the facts are completely accurate. A team of

ten experts prepared the scripts and all information was crosschecked with a variety of sources. The BHT1 team worked tirelessly over many months and were rewarded with the semi-finals and finals being aired on Saturday evening primetime.

The series comprised 27 episodes: 18 qualifying rounds, 6 quarter-finals, 2 semi-finals and the final. Three schools competed in each episode, with teams consisting of a student and a teacher. The episodes followed the same format of 3 "games" or sections:

Their Vision

The five members of the Gorazde choir, Adisa Suljic, Anja Klisura, Dubravka Bodiroga, Meliha Jahic and Vildana Selimovic, not only sing together, they express a common vision of what they believe young people can do to give BiH a better future:

"Young people should love BiH, not leave to go to other countries. They should create their own living conditions, such as those we saw in the countries we visited.

We must be more active, become involved in everything which determines our future - from the education system to employment. We must be more active in school, join NGOs, be more open and more courageous in our discourse with our elders and with government representatives.

We must ensure that young people participate in elections, to open our own space, which is currently occupied by older people.

All of us have dreams. We can achieve them if young people work together in BiH, to help it move towards the European Union.

But we must think, speak and work a lot more. Together, in the same way we prepared for our small but big journey through the countries of the European Union."





“EURO” - consisting of 10 general knowledge questions, in which students competed alone;

“EUROPA” - in which the student/teacher teams tested their knowledge of the EC and its institutions, and

“HEUREKA” - in which the student/teacher teams identified a European country based on a series of facts provided by the hosts.

The series included a section called “One microphone, one minute” in which up to five students from the competing schools performed solo or group numbers. Schools were encouraged to select different representatives for each round, so as to present the widest possible range of talents. Performances included classical and contemporary music, modern and folk dance, dramatic sketches, poetry reading and even demonstrations of sports skills. Some of the young artists presented their own choreographies or read their own

texts. All acts in “One microphone, one minute” received a score, which was not added to the school’s overall game score but was used in the case where a tie-breaker was needed.

Interestingly enough, smaller towns were more successful than the big cities; Travnik was represented by two different schools in the semi-final round. It was evident that the schools not only have outstanding students but had also prepared their teams thoroughly, hence the competition was extremely tight: in the Final, MSS Zivinice overtook the team from Livno which had been in the lead up to the last moment. This is all the more noteworthy considering the fact that Zivinice had not qualified directly for the Final, by winning their Semi-final, but rather as the highest scorer among the remaining teams!

Maja Anzulovic notes the positive atmosphere throughout the series, with all school teams expressing their satisfaction at participating even if

they had not progressed to the following round - nobody left sad or unsatisfied. She also stresses the enthusiasm and camaraderie which left a highly encouraging image of the youth of BiH and their potential, very different from the negative impression often disseminated.

Halid Bulic from MSS Zivinice says that he enjoyed winning, but the best part of the Quiz was the chance to meet other competitors and experience how, from being opponents, they became friends. The Quiz and the trip widened his horizons and he feels he is better because of them.

Many schools contacted BHT1 while the series was being aired, asking if they could participate, and the BHT1 team hope to produce a second series, with a slightly different format. They would also like to produce a documentary on the joint trip throughout Europe, which was the reward for the most outstanding participants.



Photographs courtesy of BHT1 & M. Anzulovic

The prize

The original plan had envisaged distributing computers to the winning schools, but participating schools were well equipped so the EC Delegation approved an increase to the prize budget, to cover the cost of a trip to various countries in Europe.

All teams which participated in the Final, along with the best performers

from “One microphone, one minute” and the overall best contestant in the “Euro” game travelled to Zagreb, Ljubljana, Liege, Brussels, Amsterdam, Paris, Strasbourg and Vienna.

In Brussels they visited the headquarters of the European Commission where the winners of “One microphone, one minute”, a five-

member choir from Gorazde, sang the “Ode to Joy” in the central hall.

Denis Poric from MSS Travnik happily points out that all the finalists and winners in other categories, from all over the country, have kept in touch since the trip and have become firm friends.

Young Intellectuals - A Driving Force Towards European Integration



On April 1, 2005, ACIPS, the Alumni Association of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of the University of Sarajevo, organised a conference entitled “European Integration - an opportunity for development in BiH”, with the support of the Open Society Fund. The aim was to launch a discussion on BiH’s current position in the European integration process, the political measures which must be adopted and implemented to achieve candidate status for EU membership and those which can be taken immediately to build the capacities of domestic institutions to meet the related requirements.

ACIPS recognizes that European integration requires the mobilisation of all sectors of society and wishes to promote the active participation not only of governmental institutions but

also of civil society, academia, media and the private sector. A wide range of representatives of government, political parties, international organisations and academia attended and actively participated in the discussions, including two guest speakers from the EC Delegation to BiH.

The conference was also the venue to launch a new book, “From Dayton to Brussels”, by Emir Hadzikadunic, which is the first book published by ACIPS Editions.

ACIPS is a nongovernmental association of young experts established in February 2003 which now has over 100 members who are active both in civil society and in a variety of governmental, non-governmental and international organizations in BiH and throughout the wider region. One of its main goals is to promote young educated people in society and create opportunities for their participation in the decision-making processes. Furthermore, ACIPS is actively involved in increasing public awareness on topics that are crucial for society and in carrying out research and policy studies. It organizes conferences and other debate forums, publishes a quarterly journal and other publications and implements projects to further human rights, European integration, etc. In 2005 ACIPS co-founded the Independent Centre for Policy Research, together with UNDP, the Open Society Institute and the Government of Japan.



The Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies

The Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies of the University of Sarajevo was established in January 2002. Sixty-five graduates, mostly from the countries of South East Europe but also from further afield, have completed one of the three Master Degree Programmes:

- European Studies (European Integration)
- State Management and Humanitarian Affairs
- Democracy and Human Rights

European Studies is a two-year M.A. organized in cooperation with the University of Bologna and the London School of Economics. It focusses on several research areas related to the European integration process through analysis of the political, social, legal and economic structures in EU countries. It brings together over fifty world renowned scholars and experts in the fields of law, political sciences, economics, philosophy, and sociology, and relies particularly on BiH academics and experts. The application process for the academic year 2005/2006 is currently open.

European Union Visitors Programme

The EUVP is a study programme for young leaders from countries outside the European Union. Participants receive a grant to visit the EU, in order to gain a first-hand appreciation of its goals and policies and to discuss matters of mutual interest with members of EU Institutions through an individually-tailored programme based on each participant's specific areas of interest.

Young professionals between 25 and 45, who have completed their university education and have career-related interests in the European Union, such as government officials, journalists, academics, and opinion-formers, are eligible to participate. Candidates are short-listed by EC Delegations in third countries, which then forward the applications to a Selection Committee in Brussels.



On April 18, 2005, Ivan Barbalic, President of ACIPS, travelled to Brussels where he spent five days meeting with officials occupied with the European Constitution, EU enlargement and BiH. He left with high expectations that were more than fulfilled - the schedule was tight but perfectly organised and he was able to meet many people. He renewed his conviction that BiH belongs in Europe and says: "we are not there yet, but once we fulfil what is expected of us, we will be there. It is where we belong. Even though sometimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina it seems that we will never make it, Europe is our future".

Ivan believes that young people should study hard and be intensely involved in the education process, as it is necessary to create the required capacities and train the young experts in different fields that BiH will need to achieve European Integration.



Criminal Analysis Network Established

On April 13, 2005, the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a Criminal Analysis Network (CAN) and the Information System within the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) was formally signed.

The CAN network will merge police intelligence and create a single structure which will link all law enforcement agencies throughout the country by means of a common database. The information system will thus facilitate the exchange of information and will be a key tool to combat crime. The information stored will be carefully protected and access will be restricted to different levels. The implementation of this project is co-funded by the EU and the Government of the USA, with the EU providing €729,000.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Ambassador Michael B. Humphreys, Head of the European Commission Delegation to BiH; Mrs. Tina Kaidanow, Deputy Head of Mission of the U.S. Embassy to BiH; Mr. Barisa Colak, Minister of Security of BiH; Mr. Safet Halilovic, Minister of Civil Affairs of

BiH; the Directors of the Investigation & Protection Agency and of the State Border Service, as well the Entity Ministries of the Interior, the Brcko District Police Commissioner and Cantonal Ministers of the Interior.

Minister Colak expressed his gratitude to the donors and his satisfaction at the creation of the network. He stated that the funds invested in this project were invested wisely, since every citizen of BiH will benefit from the enhanced capacities to fight organised crime, which will increase the country's overall stability and security.

Ambassador Humphreys stressed that it is vital that the authorities of BiH rectify some of the serious systemic deficiencies that currently undermine policing. The EU has a direct stake in furthering law enforcement in BiH, since it has a bearing elsewhere in Europe, including within the EU. He also highlighted the fact that modern policing has shifted its focus from reactive investigation to the targeting of individuals and criminal groups based upon intelligence, hence the Criminal Analysis Network.

Further assistance to police reform

The EC is committed to assisting BiH in strengthening the Rule of Law. An essential component of this task is the reform and strengthening of the BiH Police Forces, including SIPA. The Commission is also contributing to this reform process through the provision of essential technical assistance.

Currently there is a published tender for the provision of microphone surveillance equipment, which will be used for the surveillance of suspects and their environment during criminal investigations. The tender is open until 11 a.m. on May 24, 2005. Furthermore, there

is an on-going tender for the provision of a telecommunications system for the Police, the deadline for interested companies is June 6, 2005. For further information, please visit the Delegation's website:

www.delbih.cec.eu.int.

Further support will be provided under CARDS 2005, targeting both vital operational infrastructure for the work of the Police as well as comprehensive training modules. The tenders and calls for proposals are likely to be published in summer 2005.



The Functional Reviews

Why Review Public Administration?

Public Administration Reform is one of the sixteen priorities set out in the Feasibility Study, which identified the requirements for BiH to progress to signing a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU. To address this requirement, the BiH Council of Ministers, both Entity governments and the EC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2003. It established the format of a horizontal review of Public Administration as well as functional reviews of Public Administration in seven specific sectors: Agriculture, Environment, Economy, Health, Ministries of Justice, Police Reform and Return.

The Memorandum was updated in July 2004, with Brcko District added as an affiliate to the agreement and an additional sector included, Education. The establishment of an Office of the Coordinator for Public Administration Reform, in charge of harmonising the various reviews and translating them into a coherent countrywide strategy, was agreed on at the same time.

The aim of the reviews was to obtain an

overview of the functioning of Public Administration in BiH in different sectors, through an in-depth vertical analysis of different functions within the sectors. The same methodology and approach were used in all Reviews except in the case of Police Reform, due to its technical specificities. The reviews started out by collecting data from the relevant actors, including questionnaires filled in by Public Administration staff, followed by analysis which led to recommendations on strategic reforms and future international assistance.

The recommendations should support reform following the basic principles of Public Administration:

- To avoid the duplication of functions.
- To rationalise the distribution of functions and eliminate those which are not needed.
- To ensure adequate resources (human, material and financial) for those functions which are required.

Methodology & Implementation

Reviews were made by comparing the state of relevant administration at different levels of government against a

desired end-state corresponding to best practice in the EU. They varied in the levels of government with which they worked, due to the administrative and organisational structures of the sector in question. Hence the Health Sector Review worked at Entity-level in the RS and at Cantonal level in the FBiH. The Agriculture Review went down to the municipal level, as the decision-making process is often in the hands of local government.

The review teams were mixed, consisting of specialists from the Public Administration partner institutions, such as Ministries and relevant governmental Agencies, as well as international and national consultants.

The initial duration for each Review was seven months; some contracts were extended and they did not all start simultaneously, owing to the complexities of each tendering and evaluation process. Hence most have publicly presented their findings and recommendations while others are still pending.

The System Review was the longest and most complex, reviewing both State and Entity-levels of government; it began in January 2004 and lasted 14 months, covering:



Functional Reviews around the world

Functional Reviews have proven to be an invaluable tool for reforming and rationalising Public Administration in transition countries. They were successfully used in countries which recently acceded to the European Union, such as Slovakia, others which are well on the way to joining, such as Bulgaria, and numerous independent states that emerged from the break-up of the Soviet Union.

- Human Resources
- Public Finance
- Legislative Drafting
- Administrative Procedures
- Information Technology
- Institutional Communication.

The Functional Review of the Ministries of Justice was implemented by the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (HJPC) while the remaining were implemented by consultancy companies.

Co-ordination

The EC funded experts who established the National PAR Co-ordinator Office and implemented activities from September 2003 until the end of 2004. They initiated contacts with relevant institutions, co-ordinated the projects once they began, harmonised their schedules and set up efficient information exchange mechanisms. A series of workshops and presentations on the methodology were held for different stakeholders, including government representatives, and the leaders of the different sectoral Review teams.

The current PAR Co-ordinator, Srdja Vranic, was appointed by the Council of Ministers in October 2004. As of June 2005, the EC will provide the Office of the PAR Co-ordinator with substantial capacity-building Technical Assistance, and the Office will now be charged with drafting the Public Administration

Reform Strategy, which the government had pledged to develop by Autumn 2004.

Within the EC Delegation, the Task Manager for Public Administration Reform had horizontal responsibility for co-ordinating all Reviews, while the relevant Task Managers were in charge of managing the sectoral Review contracts, with overall support from numerous Delegation colleagues.

Impact

Each Functional Review resulted in specific recommendations. In view of the fact that most of them were presented only recently, their impact will only now begin to be evident. However, for Police Reform the impact is already clear since the current restructuring efforts are based on the

Review's recommendations.

In the meantime, some recommendations have already resulted in concrete actions; the EC programmed further assistance for the Health, Agriculture and Education sectors, with a total value of €2.9 million, and an additional €1 million were earmarked to support Return.

Future Plans and Priorities

The next steps will include capacity building and training, including civil service training and training in the specific issues highlighted by the Reviews, so as to strengthen the relevant institutions and bring about a professional civil service.



Part of the Team involved in the Reviews (left to right)

Irena Sotra,
Project Officer - Public Administration Reform

Andre Lys,
Head of Operations

Jadranka Mihic,
Task Manager - Social Development

SECTOR	PRESENTED IN	MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS
Police Reform	June 2004	Place all law enforcement responsibilities (including budgeting and staffing) at the State level.
Agriculture	Nov. 2004	Remove from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and create a separate Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Health	Dec. 2004	Strengthen the Health Department in the Ministry of Civil Affairs. FBiH legislation should be amended to transfer competence from Cantons to the Entity.
Return	March 2005	Strengthen the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and develop it into a State-level Ministry.
Education	March 2005	Strengthen the Education Department in the Ministry of Civil Affairs.
Environment	May 2005	Create a State Environmental Agency, according to EU practice.
Ministries of Justice	May 2005	State to be competent for all aspects of the judiciary. All Judges, Prosecutors and other employees should be recruited according to BiH law.
Economy	pending	pending
Systems Review	March 2005	More systematic approach to institutional communication. Develop e-government mechanisms.

EU Mine Action Coordination Meeting for South-East Europe

A two-day seminar held on April 6-7 in Sarajevo marked the first regional coordination meeting on Mine Action in South-East Europe. Organised to coordinate the activities of the EC with EU Member States regarding strategy for Mine Action, it was chaired by Mrs. Daniela Dicorradò, Head of Sector for Conventional Disarmament and Human Security for External Relations of the European Commission.

Ambassador Michael B. Humphreys pointed out the extent of BiH territory which is contaminated with landmines and that further funding is needed to address this problem - although efforts have been made over the past nine years, it will be impossible to de-mine the entire country in the near future and it is therefore necessary to increase public awareness on this danger.

Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, President of the First Review Conference "Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention" stressed the crucial challenge that countries fulfil the ban on using landmines and meet the ten-year deadline to clear minefields.

South-East Europe, and in particular BiH, still suffers from a high level of mine contamination, and this region is of obvious strategic importance for the EU. Ambassador Humphreys is also a member of the Board of Donors for Mine Action in BiH, established in 1998. The Board's statute is to "Reflect the will of the International Community to assist the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve a Nation free from the threat of mines" and "serve as a forum to ensure the fair and efficient distribution of funds and resources provided by donor agencies and/or governments."

Continued support for de-mining

The European Union awarded a 15-month contract worth approximately €2 million to a consortium of BiH NGOs, led by STOP Minama (STOP Mines), based in Pale, with its partners: BH De-mining from Sarajevo and Pro Vita from Mostar. It is the first time that such a large scale operation has been awarded to local NGOs. The project will:

- Reduce suspected landmine areas by 2,250,000 m², through increased technical survey of de-mining operations (1,630,000 m²) and landmine clearance operations (620,000 m²), in areas defined by BH MAC as top priorities.
- Strengthen local NGO capacities.
- Further improve the quality management system of all partner organisations through trainings.

Additional Support for Returnees



On April 18, 2005, Ambassador Michael B. Humphreys visited Bihac, where he attended a ceremony in which municipal, cantonal and entity authorities formally endorsed the dynamics for a new project

which will enable the reconstruction of a total of 116 homes: 35 in Bihac, 31 in Sanski Most and 50 in Prijedor. It will be led by the German NGO ASB (Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund), working in partnership with local authorities.

The EC provided €1.5 million for this Integrated Return Project which will not only provide housing reconstruction but also infrastructure, namely water and electricity, and will include economic reintegration measures that will create at least 44 new jobs. This will be done through support to existing small or medium

enterprises willing to expand and employ returnees or the establishment of new small businesses by returnees themselves.

There is a new approach in this, and an additional five Return Projects. Traditional implementing partners, NGOs such as ASB, will not implement projects independently but, rather, will develop a collaborative process with the authorities and local NGOs or development agencies, to achieve a transfer-of-knowledge that will enable them to implement complex return projects by themselves in the future.

Young returnees

Young returnees are essential for a community's sustainability; particularly in semi-rural or rural return areas. ASB has implemented numerous EU-funded return projects throughout BiH and carefully selects beneficiaries with this, and other, criteria in mind.

Branko Sucic was only 17 when he left his native Kandi in the municipality of Bugojno. As a refugee in Croatia, he met his future wife and the mother of his four children.

Ten years later, Branko returned to Bugojno

with his young family and his mother. He cleared the remains of their house and himself rebuilt the exterior walls, while ASB assured the remaining skilled works.

Branko has never regretted returning and believes that things are improving, although economic conditions are difficult and work is hard to find. He farms the land and hopes to find a way to get credit to acquire cows, to sell milk to a nearby dairy plant. He believes the greatest shortcoming is lack of support for the country's agricultural sector.

