

The European Perspective

Newsletter of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

No 5, May/June 2014



IN FOCUS

EU committed to helping flooded Bosnia and Herzegovina



More than a quarter of BiH's 4 million people have been affected by the worst floods to hit the country in more than a century. Roads connecting municipalities have been blocked and some areas remain without electricity with water supply and mobile networks also not operational. Several bridges have been destroyed and some villages have been cut off. Emergency evacuations have been carried out. There have also been incidences of landslides, exposed landmines left from the war and the possibility of post-flood infectious diseases.

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Speech of Ambassador Sorensen at the Opening Ceremony of Sarajevo City Hall



City Hall Vijećnica was finally reopened on 9 May Europe Day after 22 years. The official opening was attended by the Head of the EU Delegation to BiH and EU Special Representative in BiH, Ambassador Peter Sorensen, together with BiH officials, diplomatic corps members and representatives of political, religious and cultural life in BiH. Speaking on behalf of the European Union, which donated 9 million EUR in total for the reconstruction of the building, Ambassador Sorensen said:

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Europe Day celebrated in Bosnia and Herzegovina



The Delegation of the EU to BiH and the EU Info Centre marked May 9 - Europe Day with sports and cultural events across the country.

During Europe Week, from 5 May to 10 May, basketball tournaments were held in Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka, while in Sarajevo more than 300 school pupils had an opportunity to see the first BiH musical for children and adults.

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EU PROJECTS



EU continues to support reinforcement of local democracy

The EU funded project "Strengthening Local Democracy (LOD) III", implemented by the UNDP, organised a conference for NGOs on providing services in local communities on 16 and 17 April in Sarajevo.



New EU-UNHCR project brings solutions to problems of displacement

Ambassador Peter Sorensen, BiH Minister for Human Rights and Refugees Damir Ljubić and Representative of UNHCR in BiH Andrew Mayne presented on 28 April a new 8.1 mill Euro project funded by the EU and co-funded by UNHCR, designed to address the most severe of the remaining problems of wartime displacement.

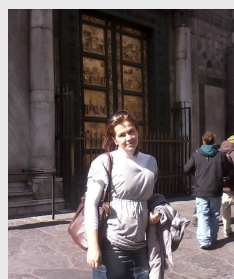


University in Sarajevo hosts educational conference organised by the EU funded project

In the presence of 150 scientists, researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs, two-day educational conference about EU Programme Horizon 2020 started on May 6 in Sarajevo.

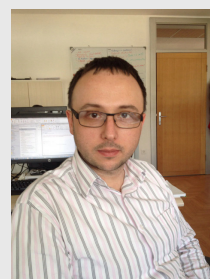
VOX POPULI

What reform or initiative is most needed to help create jobs in the BiH economy?



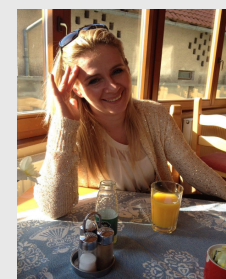
Adisa Bećiragić

Jajce



Bojan Marković

Vitez



Jasmina Skopljak

Visoko

EU NEWS



EU Reportages: IPA funds help BiH to prepare for the EU

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) fund offers assistance to BiH and other countries engaged in the accession process to the EEU for the period 2007-2013. A second phase is foreseen for 2014 – 2020. The aim is to enhance the efficiency and coherence of aid by means of a single framework in order to strengthen institutional capacity, cross-border co-operation, economic and social development and rural development. The total amount of the financial assistance that BiH has received through IPA from 2007 to 2013 is just over 600 mills Euro.



Energy: Commission releases 750 million Euro for infrastructure projects

The first call for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility to help finance key trans-European energy infrastructure projects is now open. A total of 750 mill Euro will be made available for first priority projects mainly in the sectors of gas and electricity.

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