#### The European Perspective

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

No 5, May 2015

#### IN FOCUS =

#### Europe Day - 9 May marked across Bosnia and Herzegovina



The Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina together with the EU Info Centre marked Europe Day - May 9 with cycling events in Banja Luka, Bihać and Mostar.

More than a thousand cyclists took part in simultaneous recreational bicycle rides titled "Bike with the Stars" in three BiH cities, joined by representatives of the EU Delegation to BiH/EUSR, local officials and citizens.



#### Denis Piplaš's experiences in Traineeship at the European Parliament

After completion of his Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy of the EU, he decided to apply for the Schuman Traineeship Programme in the cabinet of the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz.

The traineeship offers young people work experience in the European Parliament. He was fortunate enough to be selected from among the 1,500 applications received.

More...



# EU Floods Recovery Programme marks first anniversary of floods in BiH by completing rehabilitation of 100 public buildings and generating jobs

The 43.5 million EUR European Union Floods Recovery Programme marked the first anniversary of the catastrophic floods of May 2014 by reaching a significant recovery milestone.

To date, a total of 100 public facilities damaged in the floods have been rehabilitated with funds from the European Union, which has allowed citizens in the flood-affected areas to regain access to vital public services. The rehabilitated facilities comprise educational institutions, health care centres, municipality buildings and social welfare centres. In total, the Programme will rehabilitate 118 floodaffected public buildings in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

More...



#### EU Info Centre marked International Children's Day with creative workshop for children

On the occasion of the International Children's Day, 1 June, the EU Info Centre in cooperation with visual artist Taida Jašarević, organized the eco-graphics workshop on environmental protection and climate change for the children's art section of the elementary school "Musa Ćazim Ćatic" from Sarajevo.

The educational workshop aimed, through the creative process of printing images with a board (so-called printing stencils), to teach the students different modes of expression through print art.

More...

#### **EU PROJECTS**



## EU and EBRD launched new programme of support to SME competitiveness in BiH

The Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) launched on May 8th in Sarajevo a new two-year programme of support to competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The programme will foster development of SMEs through the transfer of best EU practices in implementation of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA), the guiding strategy for SME development in the European Union.



## Grants awarded to projects of cross-border cooperation between BiH and Croatia

The launch of the 8 most successful projects which received grants under the 3rd Call for Proposals was officially marked at conference on May 21 of the EU funded IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (CBC) for BiH and Croatia in Mostar.

The total value of the awarded grants is 3.5 million EUR. Successful projects which were selected among 182 applications, presented their objectives and expected results at the Conference.



## Thanks to the EU support, IDDEEA established technical infrastructure required for electronic identification of citizens

The final conference of the EU funded twinning project "Strengthening the Efficiency of the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers and Data Exchange of BiH – IDDEEA" was held on May 19 in Banja Luka.

The results of the project were presented at the Conference, including strengthening of the human and technical capacities of IDDEEA in the field of IT security, as well as professional improvement and certification of staff in specific IT areas.

#### EU NEWS =



### Balkans

Media freedom is one of the fundamental pillars of democratic society. If there is no free media, citizens are deprived of balanced, factual and reliable information.



EUD/EUSR: BiH's chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers is responsibility and opportunity

The European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina/Office of the EU Special Representative, warmly welcomed Bosnia and Herzegovina's chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which started on May 19.

Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Skenderija 3a, 71000 Sarajevo,

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: 00387 33 254 700, Fax: 00387 33 666 037

Email: <a href="mailto:delegation-bih@eeas.europa.eu">delegation-bih@eeas.europa.eu</a>
Please contact Zora Stanic in Communication Team via <a href="mailto:zora.stanic@eeas.europa.eu">zora.stanic@eeas.europa.eu</a> for any feedback or comments on

Website: europa.ba\_, Facebook: facebook.com/europa.ba\_, Twitter: twitter.com/eubih\_, Youtube: youtube.com/eubih\_,

this newsletter.