



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Ministry of Construction,
Transport and Infrastructure
Ministry for Labour, Employment,
Veteran and Social Affairs

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#EY
ЗА ТЕБЕ

THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO SOCIAL HOUSING AND ACTIVE INCLUSION

2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

22 October 2020



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I Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Presentation of:
 - a. Programme Quarterly Report (Q3 2020) and Q4 2020 activity plan
 - b. Info Sessions Report
 - c. Draft Call for proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects
 - d. Virtual round table "Impact of COVID19 on social inclusion of the vulnerable groups"
3. Endorsement of the Programme Quarterly (Q3 2020) Report and Q4 activity plan
4. Any Other Business



II Minutes

1. Introduction

Dragana Milošević, Project Manager of the European Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion Programme (EU SHAI), greeted the participants and thanked them for attending the meeting. She introduced the participating representatives of the institutions and the UNOPS team.

Zoran Lakićević, the State Secretary of the MCTI and the appointed Chairperson of the PSC, presented the Agenda for the meeting and gave a short summary of the Programme results from the Q3 2020. He expressed his pleasure of chairing this meeting and the satisfaction with cooperation with UNOPS, since there are always results to be presented. He also expressed his gratitude to the UNOPS team, especially for the medical assistance to Serbia amid the COVID pandemic. He mentioned that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Zorana Mihajlović's and HE Ambassador Sam Fabrizi's visit to the Roma settlement in Valjevo was very useful in realizing how the people living there could be supported. They agreed on providing their support and the Minister proposed that MCTI would elaborate the urban planning and technical documents, in order for this settlement to be included in future construction projects. Following the invitation letter to the info sessions, co-signed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MCTI and the UNOPS Serbia Head of Office, local self-governments (LSGs) showed interest in participation in the Programme. The announcement of the Call for Proposals (CfP) is expected mid November. Announcing the virtual round table on the impact of COVID-19 on social inclusion of vulnerable groups planned for the coming period, Mr Lakićević emphasized the needs of elementary and high school Roma students and the importance of assisting them in attending online school courses.

2a. Programme Quarterly Report (Q3 2020) and Q4 2020 Activity Plan

Dragana Milošević, presented the Programme Quarterly Report for the period between 1 July and 30 September and the overall results. This period was ~~very~~ intense and it included serious coordination with beneficiary institutions and significant engagement and interest from LSGs to participate in info sessions. She emphasized the importance of the support provided by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of MCTI. The Programme team was focused on finalising the draft of the Call for Proposals (CfP), which will be distributed to all PSC members during next week for comments and review. The draft Communication Strategy previously shared for comments with the Delegation of the European Union (DEU), is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks, followed by the Action Plan. Two publications for housing models and guidelines for development of housing strategies for LSGs were also drafted and are expected to be finalised in the next period. The virtual round table on the impact of COVID-19 on social inclusion of vulnerable groups was initiated and prepared. Consultations with beneficiary institutions on the identification of their needs for capacity building were conducted and it



is expected that activities will be intensified and types of support finalised. Proving to be very useful and important, significant efforts and time were dedicated to alleviating the effects of COVID crisis. 24 grant agreements were signed with health institutions for the engagement of 198 medical workers throughout Serbia, who started working in September and October. Uniforms for a number of newly employed workers were distributed by the team last week. All the institutions acknowledged the importance of such support, given the low capacities in human resources and the Programme is already devising with the DEU the means for continuing support activities. Beginning of July 270 food and sanitary packages were distributed to Roma families in Subotica and Belgrade in order to provide them with essential support in the crisis, bringing the total to 2,000 assisted most vulnerable families. The visit to Valjevo on 24 September 2020 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Zorana Mihajlović and HE Ambassador Sam Fabrizi, which included visits to the Public Health Institute of Valjevo and the Roma settlement, showed that this type of support to local governments gives actual results.

The plan for the coming quarter includes the announcement of the CfP around 15 November, which was agreed with beneficiary institutions and the donor. Being fully aware of the risks and the difficulty of the situation, the team is hopeful that this call will be successful and responded to by good projects, given the feedback and interest of LSGs to participate in the Programme. The team will make sure to support all LSGs in proposing best projects through an intensive info campaign. The invitations were sent out for the virtual round table to be held next week and hopefully the results and conclusions will be beneficial to our future work. Activities for the next quarter include finishing of two previously mentioned publications, monitoring of the grants to the health institutions and completion of the Communication Strategy with the Action Plan, all to be presented in the next PSC meeting.

Since there were no comments and remarks, the Q3 2020 Report and Q4 2020 Activity Plan were endorsed by the PSC.

Mirjana Maksimović, the Programme Manager of the Delegation of the European Union (DEU) to Serbia, expressed her appreciation for UNOPS for everything that has been done in the previous period. She stated that this quarterly report resembles more the mid year or annual reports from other projects, given the number of activities and results achieved. She also expressed gratitude to all partner institutions (MCTI, MLEVSA and MEI) for their cooperation. She is also in high anticipation of November 15 and the announcement of CfP.

2b. Info Sessions Report

Nevenka Gril Timotijević, UNOPS EU SHAI Engineer, reported on the conducted Info Campaign aimed at announcing the Programme and giving out information to LSGs on expected objectives,



results and activities and informing on Call for Proposals (CfP) planned for the Q4 2020. The information on CfP included eligibility criteria and basic requirements and was followed with the Q & A section which appeared to be mutually beneficial for both participants and the team.

The invitation to the Info Sessions was sent to 138 LSGs in Serbia, and was preceded by the Letter of Support from the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure. In total, 12 info sessions were held from 31 August until 30 September 2020 with 74 LSGs represented by 141 participants (92 female and 49 male).

The participants/representatives of the LSGs showed solid interest in the Programme and supported strongly its sustainability potential planned to be reached through the complementary active inclusion measures for the beneficiaries receiving housing support. Majority of them had records of the size of their local vulnerable population and already started the preparatory activities in order to apply to the CfP. Most questions were related to potential beneficiaries and their selection, eligible housing support models, scope and type of complementary inclusion measures, conditions of local co-funding and estimated timeframe for further actions.

At the end, the results of the Questionnaire aimed to assess LSGs' needs, capacities, potentials and preparedness for the Programme were presented. Even though the response rate was rather low (app 25% of the Serbian LSGs) and the answers collected from already motivated LSGs, the general impression related to interest and readiness for the Programme was optimistic.

Klara Danilović, Head of Department for Spatial and Urban Planning and Housing in Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, expressed her doubts related to the presented figures regarding the capacities of the LSGs to keep the evidence of their vulnerable citizens and their housing needs and the willingness of the LSGs to allocate the funds for housing support in the local budget. She considered the figures too optimistic compared to their knowledge, although understanding that the answers came from the small sample of additionally motivated self-governments. This is why she asked to get, if possible, the insight to the Questionnaire individual answers as well as to the drafts of two studies announced by the Programme: "Local Housing Strategy Guidelines" and "A Holistic Approach to Social Housing: Social Housing Models for the Most Vulnerable Groups". She also suggested checking and adjusting the exact number of LSGs in the Republic of Serbia in order to be sure of covering the whole targeted territory.

2c. Draft Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects

Milica Joksić, UNOPS EU SHAI Infrastructure Officer, followed up on the previous topic and stated that during info sessions LSGs showed interest in the Programme and that a number of municipalities have previously undertaken important activities. She also shared the team's positive impressions on the level of familiarization of LSGs with legal framework, donor funded projects and grant



methodology. She briefly explained basic elements of the CfP and how beneficial was information provided by LSGs in info sessions in their fine tuning. By type this is an open call for proposals for social housing and active inclusion projects for the most vulnerable beneficiaries from predefined target groups. All LSGs in Serbia are eligible to apply with co-applicants from local institutions and CSOs. The indicative budget is around 14 million Euros. She described what the eligible projects are, more specifically the housing support models expected in the proposals (construction of new social apartment buildings, construction of new family houses, purchase of apartments and houses, reconstruction of existing housing units) and the possibility of combination between them.

Mirjana Dimitrijević, UNOPS EU SHAI Social Inclusion Officer, continued with presentation of complementary active inclusion measures, which are inseparable from housing support measures and mandatory by this call. They include enhancing access to provision of social services, improvement of employability, support to employment, self-employment and income generation, removing obstacles to active inclusion and provision of basic household equipment. She explained in more detail the evaluation criteria adjusted to type and complexity of projects, most important being operational and professional capacity of applicant, relevance, efficiency and sustainability of projects.

Dragana Milošević added that the Programme preparation was long and that expectations are high. She emphasised that provision of housing solutions and complementary social inclusion measures relate to the same 500 families. The planned integrated approach should ensure sustainability of this Action.

Dalibor Nakić, President of the National Council of the Roma National Minority, expressed his concerns whether the Roma community, although highly vulnerable, will get the chance to be included in this Programme. In that respect he proposed additional criteria to be included in the evaluation of the project proposals in order to prioritize Roma people. Additional consideration was related to the composition of the local implementation teams, where he proposed one member to be delegated by the National Roma Council.

Dragana Milošević replied that during the recently conducted information campaign, it was noted that a significant number of LSGs are very aware of their Roma citizens and their problems and are prepared to deal with them within this Programme. However, the Programme is targeting four different vulnerable groups, offering the same chance for all of them. Related to the local implementation team members, she confirmed that the final say on their composition is on the local governments, while the inclusion of the targeted groups as the team members will be encouraged during the evaluation process.

Mirjana Maksimovic fully approved Dragana's statement adding that the Programme is seeking for



the equal representation of all targeted groups and as much as possible, an even geographical distribution of grant awarding.

Marko Vujačić, UNOPS Head of Programme approved what both Dragana and Mirjana stated, adding that the evaluation criteria for selection of the project proposals are designed in the way to minimize the risk to support non-relevant or unjustified actions and projects.

2d. Virtual round table “Impact of COVID19 on social inclusion of the vulnerable groups”

Marea Grinvald, UNOPS EU SHAI Capacity Building Officer, announced the round table dealing with impact of COVID 19 on social inclusion of the vulnerable groups which will be organized on 29 October 2020, from 10:00 till 12:30. The representatives of the LSGs, national institutions and non-governmental organizations will gather online to participate in three panels: the first one dealing with impact of COVID 19 on social inclusion; second one on implications of the crisis on social inclusion with focus on employment, education, social and health care and the third one presenting relevant good practices and creative solutions.

In addition to the relevance of the topics to be processed for the current situation, they will be the useful support for those preparing to apply to the upcoming CfP.

4. Any other business

Since there were no other comments and suggestions from the participants, the meeting was concluded with closing remarks by **Dragana Milošević**. She thanked the participants for their continuing participation and cooperation in these unusual circumstances. The minutes from the meeting and the final draft of the CfP will be distributed to the PSC members during next week.

Belgrade, 29 October 2020

Prepared by the EU SHAI Programme team



III List of Participants

No	Name and Surname	Institution	Function
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
1	Zoran Lakićević	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure	State Secretary
2	Ivana Milovanović	Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs	Associate in the Sector for International Cooperation and European Integration
3	Milica Dumonjić Radovanović	Ministry of European Integration	Senior Advisor
4	Mirjana Maksimović	Delegation of the European Union to Serbia	Programme Manager
5	Klara Danilović	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities	Head of Department for Spatial and Urban Planning and Housing
6	Dalibor Nakić	National Council of the Roma National Minority	President
UNOPS RSPO			
1	Marko Vujačić	UNOPS	Head of Programme
SECRETARIAT			
1	Dragana Milošević	UNOPS	Project Manager
2	Nevenka Gril Timotijević	UNOPS	Engineer
3	Milica Joksić	UNOPS	Infrastructure Officer
4	Milica Davitkov	UNOPS	Communication Officer
5	Marea Grinvald	UNOPS	Capacity Building Officer
6	Mirjana Dimitrijević	UNOPS	Social Inclusion Officer

