



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

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ЗА ТЕБЕ

THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO SOCIAL HOUSING AND ACTIVE INCLUSION

7th PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

11 March 2022



I Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Presentation and adoption of:
 - a. Programme Annual Report 2021
 - b. Progress of the social housing and active inclusion projects
 - c. Second Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals - evaluation results
 - d. Open Call for Small-Scale Infrastructure Project Proposals - basic information
 - e. Open Call for Application for Technical Assistance in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies - basic information
 - f. Proposal for announcing the Third Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals
3. Any other business

II Minutes

1. Opening remarks

Đorđe Milić, the Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure (MCTI) and the Chairperson of the PSC, greeted the participants and presented the meeting Agenda which was adopted by the members.

2. Presentation and adoption of:

a. Programme Annual (2021) Report and activity plan for 2022

Dragana Milošević, EU SHAI Programme Manager, presented the Programme Annual Report for the year 2021, emphasising that the PSC members were regularly updated about the Programme's ongoing activities on previous PSC meetings.

During the reporting period, the Programme evaluated and selected 19 social housing and active inclusion projects. Their total grant amount is 10.2 million EUR and they will assist 421 families. Induction training sessions were held for all 19 grantees (128 participants). Programme's support in their implementation is ongoing. Also, the Second Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects was announced, and a total of 20 project proposals were being evaluated.

Two publications - Holistic Approach to Social Housing, and Local Housing Strategy Guidelines, were completed and distributed. The publication Holistic Approach to Social Housing won the 3rd prize in the Publications category at the 30th International Urban Planning Exhibition held in Niš.



The Programme continuously assists the Ministry of Construction, Transportation and Infrastructure (MCTI), and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs (MLEVSA).

The Open Call for Proposals for Provision of Technical Assistance to LSGs in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies was announced.

Until September 2021, the Programme was actively involved in assisting the Serbian health system in the fight against COVID19, through engagement of 200 medical and non-medical staff in 25 public health institutions, provision and distribution of 4,500 food and hygiene packages to the most vulnerable population, and provision and distribution of the equipment for vaccination. Additionally, one tendering documentation for the Ministry of Health was prepared while the other is ongoing.

Throughout the reporting period, the communication strategy was being implemented, and all activities from the Action Plans were implemented.

In 2022, the Programme will continue to support the implementation of remaining 17 social housing and active inclusion projects and will finish the evaluation and selection process of the application received within the Second Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects. Also, the Programme will announce the Third Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects.

The Programme announced the Call for Small-Scale Infrastructure Project Proposals in January 2022, and in the upcoming period will support implementation of the selected projects.

Furthermore, the technical support will be provided to the selected LSGs in development or revision of local housing strategies, while the support to MCTI and MLEVSA will continue. The Programme will also provide training sessions for the ministries, local institutions and service providers.

The communication and visibility activities will continue, in order to promote the projects, the Donor, and the Programme.

Main risks include the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, low capacities of the LSGs, current political and economic situation, as well as unstable construction and real estate market.

Since there were no comments, the Programme Annual (2021) Report and the Activity Plan for 2022 were unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

b. Progress of the social housing and active inclusion projects

Milica Joksić, EU SHAI Senior Officer for Infrastructure, presented the progress of currently implemented social housing and active inclusion projects. She went over the open tendering procedures for construction works, the progress of multi-family buildings construction, reconstruction and purchase of housing units and selection of projects' beneficiaries.



Twelve projects announced the tendering procedures for construction works (with eight repeated tenders), while eight of them successfully completed the selection of the contractor (Svilajnac, Ljubovija, Loznica, Čačak, Vrnjačka Banja, Lebane, Šabac, Raška). Tendering procedure in Odžaci is still ongoing, and Boljevac is considering its capacities to invest additional resources. Two LSGs, Novi Pazar and Vršac, withdrew from the Programme due to inability to secure funds for the continuation of implementation of project activities. Eight grantees signed the contract with the contractors for construction works, while four grantees have active construction sites (Svilajnac, Ljubovija, Loznica, Čačak). The construction works in Šabac, Vrnjačka Banja, Raška and Lebane will start in March 2022. Three grantees are planning to finish the construction works by August 2022 (Ljubovija, Loznica, Svilajnac). Koceljeva and Žagubica are finishing the technical documentation for construction of houses.

Regarding the reconstruction and purchasing of the housing units, in two LDGs the Bill of Quantities is in progress (Ljubovija and Kula), three LSGs are assessing the houses for purchasing (Pančevo, Koceljevu, Kula), and three LSGs are assessing the houses offered (Vladičin Han, Gadžin Han, Čačak). Four grantees extended/repeated the calls for the purchase of the houses (Kula, Pančevo, Raška, Šabac) and Vrnjačka Banja redesigned their project to exclude the purchase of the houses.

Five grantees completed the beneficiary selection procedure (Ljubovija, Žagubica, Pančevo, Koceljeva, Kula) and selected 86 beneficiary families. Four grantees are in the final phase of the process (Vrnjačka Banja, Raška, Lebane, Vladičin Han), and in six LSGs the procedure is still ongoing (Odžaci, Gadžin Han, Šabac, Topola, Svilajnac, Čačak). The Resettlement plan in Loznica is being prepared for the public insight.

Regarding the risks and issues, the Programme team emphasised several: limited time for the implementation of the projects, extension and repeating the public tendering procedures, unstable situation on the construction and real estate market, low financial capacity of the LSGs, unfavourable COVID19 situation, availability and quality of the houses for purchasing, pre-election activities at local level.

There were no comments or questions from the PSC members about the course of the social housing and active inclusion projects.

c. Second Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals - evaluation results

Mirjana Dimitrijević, EU SHAI Senior Officer for Social Inclusion and the Chairperson of the Grant Selection and Evaluation Committee, presented the results of the evaluation and selection process of the applications received through the Second Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals.

The Programme received 20 applications, and 15 of them passed the admin and eligibility check. After the technical evaluation of the applications, financial and field verification and clarification process, four project proposals are recommended for financing.



A total of 11 project proposals are not recommended for financing - nine of them due to their evaluation score below the threshold of 60 points (Velika Plana, Kragujevac, Paraćin, Kraljevo, Žabalj, Surdulica, Vranje, Knjaževac, Sjenica), and two of them due to other reasons - Valjevo (ownership status of the construction site changed to private ownership after field verification) and Sremska Mitrovica (application withdrawn after field verification due to inability to provide five suitable publicly owned apartments for reconstruction).

Four project proposals are recommended for funding - Opovo, Pirot, Bujanovac and Sombor. The details are as follows:

No.	Applicant	Average score	No. of housing units with active inclusion measures	Requested grant amount (USD)
01	Opovo	72.20	10	265,000.00
02	Pirot	71.80	21	335,970.00
03	Bujanovac	66.20	22	703,000.00
04	Sombor	62.40	10	254,234.97

Total budget of the recommended projects:

Amount	Requested grant (USD)	Applicants contribution (USD)	Total amount (USD)
Total	1,558,204.97	445,571.00	2,003,775.97

Types of housing support:

Housing support	Construction	Purchasing	Reconstruction	Total
Number of housing units	12	30	21	63

Target groups:

Target groups	Roma	Persons with disabilities	Women victims of domestic violence	Youth leaving care	Total
Number of families	53	6	2	2	63
Percentage	84%	10%	3%	3%	100%

There were no comments or questions from the PSC members about the evaluation and selection results and they were unanimously endorsed by the PSC.



d. Open Call for Small-Scale Infrastructure Project Proposals - basic information

Milica Joksić presented the basic information about the first phase of the evaluation and selection process of the applications received within the Open Call for Small-Scale Infrastructure Project Proposals.

The Open Call was closed on 28 February 2022 and the Programme received 18 applications, half of them from Southeast Serbia, and others from Vojvodina, Šumadija and Western Serbia. During the admin and eligibility check, six applications were rejected for the following reasons: requested grant amount was below the minimum defined in the Guidelines for Applicants, submission of two applications by one applicant, and unfulfilled request for clarification. The rejected applications are as follows: Vranje, Vranje (Vranjska Banja), Bela Palanka, Čičevac, Kanjiža, and Golubac. Accepted applications, that passed to the next phase of the evaluation and selection process are as follows: Negotin, Novi Pazar, Sombor, Ljubovija, Kraljevo, Knjaževac, Aleksandrovac, Surdulica, Svilajnac, Raška, Opovo, and Požarevac.

Amount	EU SHAI grant amount (USD)	Applicant's contribution (USD)	Total value of the project (USD)
Proposed	2,567,267.27	662,460.14 (20.5%)	3,229,727.41
Average amount	213,938.94	55,205 (19.3%)	269,143.95
min	150,500	26,721 (15.0%)	177,321
max	250,000	131,962 (34.5%)	381,962

The Grant Selection and Evaluation Committee met and verified the results of the admin and eligibility check. After the PSC's endorsement of the results, the GSEC will inform the applicants of their status. The technical evaluation of the applications is planned to be finished by the middle of May 2022, when the GSEC will notify the applicants of the final results, after the PSC endorses them. The Grant Support Agreement signing is planned to take place mid June 2022.

There were no comments or questions from the PSC members about the admin and eligibility check results and they were unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

e. Open Call for Application for Technical Assistance in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies - basic information

Marea Grinvald, EU SHAI Capacity Building Officer and the Chairperson of the of the Grant Selection and Evaluation Committee, presented the basic information about the first phase of the evaluation and selection process of the applications received within the Open Call for Proposals for Provision of Technical Assistance to LSGs in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies.

Deadline for the application submission was extended to 1 March 2022, and the Programme received six applications. During the admin and eligibility check, two applications were rejected (Tutin and Loznica) and four applications were accepted (Ćuprija, Novi Pazar, Pirot and Subotica).



The GSEC verified the results of the admin and eligibility check at the Induction meeting held on 11 March 2022. The next steps in the evaluation and selection process include informing the applicants of their status after the admin and eligibility check, technical evaluation of accepted applications (March, April 2022), final GSEC meeting (May 2022), endorsement of the evaluation and selection results by the PSC (end of May 2022) and signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the selected applicants (end of May 2022).

There were no comments or questions from the PSC members about the admin and eligibility check results and they were unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

f. Proposal for announcing the Third Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals

Dragana Milošević, EU SHAI Programme Manager, proposed to the PSC the announcement of the Third Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals and presented the main reasons for it.

During the Second Open Call, the City of Valjevo and the City of Sremska Mitrovica both submitted project proposals of high quality. Valjevo's project proposal became ineligible for further consideration and evaluation to the recent change of ownership status of the construction site, while Sremska Mitrovica withdrew from the process after field verification due to inability to provide five suitable publicly owned apartments for reconstruction. Furthermore, the budget allocated for the Second Open Call was 5.2 million USD, while the four projects proposed for financing are worth 1.6 million USD. This means that the Programme's budget balance for the social housing and active inclusion activities is 3.6 million USD.

For these reasons, the Programme, after consultations with the donor and the national institutions, proposes the announcement of the Third Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects, under the same propositions as for the First and Second Open Call. The Third CfP would be announced on 15 March 2022 and be open for 30 days. All LSGs that do not have active projects within the EU SHAI programme would be eligible to apply. Indicative budget would be 3.6 million USD, and the grant amount would range from 160,000 to 1,460,000 USD.

The evaluation and selection process could be completed at a faster pace, so that Grant Support Agreements would be signed by the 1 June 2022 and the grantees would have enough time for the project implementation.

There were no comments or questions from the PSC members and the Programme's proposal to announce the Third Open Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals was unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

3. Any other business

There were no topics raised within this agenda point.

III List of Participants

No	Name and Surname	Institution/Organisation	Position
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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
1	Mirjana Maksimović	Delegation of the European Union to Serbia	Programme Manager
2	Đorđe Milić	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure	Assistant Minister, Sector for Spatial and Urban Planning
3	Igor Perić	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs	Special Advisor to the Minister
4	Vera Veljanovski	Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs	Chief of Division for Implementation and Monitoring of Implementation of Projects Financed from EU Funds and Other Sources
5	Milica Radovanović Dumonjić	Ministry of European Integration	Senior Advisor
6		Commissariat for Refugees and Migration	
SECRETARIAT			
1	Dragana Milošević	UNOPS RSMCO	Project Manager
2	Nevenka Gril Timotijević	UNOPS RSMCO	Engineer
3	Marea Grinvald	UNOPS RSMCO	Capacity Building Officer
4	Mirjana Dimitrijević	UNOPS RSMCO	Social Inclusion Officer
5	Milena Stojković	UNOPS RSMCO	Associate for Social Inclusion
6	Milica Davitkov	UNOPS RSMCO	Communications Officer
7	Tatjana Dokić	UNOPS RSMCO	Project Management Senior Assistant

Belgrade, 17 March 2022

Prepared by the EU SHAI Programme team

