



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

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THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO SOCIAL HOUSING AND ACTIVE INCLUSION

4th PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

28 May 2021



I Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Presentation of:
 - a. Programme Quarterly (Q1 2021) Report and activity plan for Q2 2021 and their endorsement
 - b. draft publication "Holistic Approach to Social Housing"
 - c. the results of the Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects and their endorsement
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.

2a. Programme Quarterly (Q1 2021) Report and activity plan for Q2 2021 and their endorsement

Dragana Milošević, EU SHAI Programme Manager, presented the Programme Quarterly Report for the period from 1 January to 31 March (Q1) 2021 and the overall results.

During the reporting period, the Call for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Project Proposals was successfully closed on 12 February 2021. Preparations for the projects' evaluation, as well as the evaluation and selection process marked the entire Q1, and its results will be presented in detail later on during the meeting.

The Programme team completed two publications that will help local self-government units and other key stakeholders in better planning of all activities related to social housing and active inclusion of vulnerable groups. The "Local Housing Strategies Development Guidelines" were presented during the previous PSC meeting, while the publication "Holistic Approach to Social Housing" will be presented later on during the meeting. Both publications will shortly be distributed to the PSC and other relevant stakeholders.

The Programme continued to provide and facilitate the COVID19-related assistance to the Serbian healthcare system. Only during Q1, the 25 public health institutions that engaged 200 medical and non-medical staff with the EU's help, provided 1.9 million healthcare services - testing for COVID19, vaccination, referring to other health centres, tracing of contacts of those who tested positive. The Programme procured and distributed one ambulance vehicle and over 60 cold chain items for vaccine storage to various public health institutions in Serbia. Mainly in February, 4.350 food and hygiene packages were distributed to Roma families across Serbia and to people experiencing homelessness in Belgrade. The packages consist of 45 kg of basic food and hygiene products and we believe they represent a significant relief for the families in need.

The EU SHAI Communications and Visibility Strategy was approved in March 2021 by the EU Delegation to Serbia.

Plans for Q2 2021 include completion of the evaluation of project proposals received within the CfP and grant agreements signing with selected LSGs. The Programme will continue to provide assistance to the LSGs and the Ministries according to their needs. Implementation of the grants for 25 public health institutions are being monitored and the Programme team continues to assist the Ministry of Health in development of tenders for medical equipment procurement. In regard to communication and visibility activities, the Action Plans for 2021 and specifically for Q2 are created, the team continues to monitor the Programme's media coverage and it is preparing



the guidelines for the communication of projects' activities that will be distributed to the LSGs selected within the CfP.

The Programme faced various challenges and risks in the previous period, one of them being slowed down implementation of the Programme that required adjustment to the COVID19-related circumstances. The team is well aware of the fact that some LSGs are facing financial challenges, as well as those related to human resources, which was one of the main reasons for extending the deadline for social housing and active inclusion project proposals submission. Furthermore, the socio-economic situation of the Programme's target groups is worsening.

Detailed Q1 2021 report was shared with the PSC members prior to this meeting.

Igor Mišević from the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities emphasized that their experience confirmed that the COVID19 health crises left a significant mark on the LSGs' capacities for project implementation.

Since there were no further comments, the Programme Quarterly (Q1 2021) Report and the Activity Plan for Q2 2021 were unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

2b. Draft publication "Holistic Approach to Social Housing"

Marea Grinvald, Capacity Building Officer, presented the draft publication "Holistic Approach to Social Housing" that was sent to the PSC members prior to this meeting. It was created by the external consultant Zlata Vuksanović Macura and the Programme team, to assist the LSGs in planning and implementation of social housing and active inclusion measures related to the target groups of the Programme's CfP. Grinvald described the publication's structure and the topics covered, specifying the holisting housing models for each of the Programme's four target groups.

Svetlana Velimirović, Deputy Commissioner at the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, expressed her regrets that the publication didn't mention more that 10.000 housing units provided to refugees and internally displaced persons. She also shared the feedback from the colleagues from various NGOs who also regret not being consulted during the publication creation process.

Marea Grinvald and Dragana Milošević emphasized that the publication covered the housing models for the EU SHAI's four target groups (Roma population, women victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities and youth leaving the social protection system) and that this focused the scope of the organisations and individuals that were consulted during the publication development. They clarified that if individuals from the four target groups also are refugees or internally displaced persons, they were still eligible for the social housing and active inclusion measures, but that specific status wasn't their primary qualification.



2c. Results of the Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects and their endorsement

Mirjana Dimitrijević, Social Inclusion Officer and the Chairperson of the GSEC, summarized the activities in the evaluation process, emphasizing the steps of technical evaluation, clarifications, budget verifications and field verification visits. All the steps in the process led to the final result of the evaluation: Out of 48 received applications, 7 applications have not passed the administrative and eligibility check, 3 applicants withdrew from evaluation, 1 failed to complete the evaluation process, 8 were disqualified, 10 not recommended for funding and 19 recommended for funding.

She presented an overview and evaluation statistics of 29 applications not recommended for funding at this stage, including seven applications deemed ineligible after administrative and eligibility check. She emphasized the fact that these applications included in total 539 housing solutions and close to 18 million USD in grant value, proving evident great needs for social housing and active inclusion projects on the local level all around Serbia, as well as the effort of LSGs invested in preparation of project proposals. The LSGs' dedication to meeting the needs of the vulnerable population is also reflected through the fact that there was not one project proposal that was disqualified due to failure to secure sufficient co-funding. On the contrary, there were LSGs that secured significantly higher co-funding than what was required by the CFP propositions. The GSEC's conclusion is that with additional time invested in revisions and improvements of aforementioned applications, a significant number of proposals could be transformed into solid and ready-for-implementation projects in the future and that the Programme will contribute to it by providing detailed feedback on evaluation to applicants on their request.

Milica Joksić, Infrastructure Officer, presented the evaluation statistics showing an even regional representation and level of development of LSGs. After explaining the specifics of the ranking list of 19 applications recommended for funding, she presented an overview of housing solutions, target groups and overall project budget. The 19 recommended projects proposed housing solutions and active inclusion measures for 421 families with estimated 1.507 family members.

Mirjana Dimitrijević informed the participants on the next steps in the process, including PSC verification planned for this meeting preceding the signing of Grant Support Agreements scheduled for 30 June. She announced the signing event that will be organized later in July to mark the occasion. The presentation with all the details on applications is an integral part of these minutes. She invited the observers to share their remarks and comments.

Mirjana Maksimović, Programme Manager at the EU Delegation to Serbia, thanked everyone for the thorough evaluation process and confirmed that the EU Delegation stands behind the evaluation results and is looking forward to the implementation of selected projects.

Igor Mišćević reflected on one piece of information shared during the presentation, i.e. the share of Roma families covered by the selected projects and inquired about the LSGs that have Roma population as a target group in their projects. Mirjana Dimitrijević explained that a



thorough analysis of the target groups wasn't prepared for this occasion, but almost all selected projects combined all four target groups or at least two.

Svetlana Velimirović thanked the EU SHAI team for a comprehensive, informative and transparent presentation of the CfP results. She inquired about the project proposals that failed to pass the administrative check. She suggested that an analysis of the types of housing solutions that were projected for each target group would be very interesting to see. Also, Velimirović inquired about the Programme's plan for monitoring the implementation of selected projects.

Mirjana Dimitrijević shared that Sjenica, Bujanovac, Bečej, Knjaževac, Novi Sad, Čuprija and Vlasotince failed to pass the administrative check. She also pointed out that the Programme has a very detailed and operational plan for grant monitoring. The monitoring starts with the very onset of the projects' implementation and includes a continuous communication with the LSGs on a partnership basis with consultancy role of the Programme and regular field presence.

Igor Miščević asked if there will be a central UNOPS' technical supervision of the LSGs during the implementation of the projects.

Milica Joksić, reflecting on Miščević's previous question about the share of Roma population covered in project proposals, pointed out that there was an evident positive influence of other EU-funded projects, specifically the Roma Housing Programme, that enabled LSGs to design quality housing solutions for this target group. Joksić explained that the technical supervision is the responsibility of LSGs and how it will be implemented. The EU SHAI team will also, during the entire implementing period, be present in the field and involved in the technical supervision.

Since there were no further comments, the results of the Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects were unanimously verified 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
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	Milica Radovanović Dumonjić	Ministry of European Integration	Senior Advisor



4	Slavica Denić	Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit Team	Coordinator for Social Inclusion of Roma
5	Igor Mišćević	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities	Advisor, Department for Spatial and Urban Planning and Housing
JOINING PARTICIPANTS			
1	Svetlana Velimirović	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration	Deputy Commissioner
UNOPS RSMCO			
1	Marko Vujačić	UNOPS RSMCO	Head of Programme
2	Božidar Radivojević	UNOPS RSMCO	Procurement Officer
3	Marija Glišić	UNOPS RSMCO	Financial Analyst
SECRETARIAT			
1	Dragana Milošević	UNOPS RSMCO	Project Manager
2	Nevenka Gril Timotijević	UNOPS RSMCO	Engineer
3	Milica Joksić	UNOPS RSMCO	Infrastructure Officer
4	Marea Grinvald	UNOPS RSMCO	Capacity Building Officer
5	Mirjana Dimitrijević	UNOPS RSMCO	Social Inclusion Officer
6	Milica Davitkov	UNOPS RSMCO	Communications Officer

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Prepared by the EU SHAI programme team

