



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

6th PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

3 December 2021



I Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Presentation of:
 - a. Programme Quarterly (Q3 2021) Report and its endorsement
 - b. Call for Proposals for Small Scale Infrastructure Works and its endorsement
 - c. Call for Proposals for the Provision of Technical Assistance to LSGs in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies and its endorsement
 - d. Results of the first phase of evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the Second Open Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects
3. Any other business



II Minutes

1. Opening remarks

Dorđe 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 (Q3 2021) Report and activity plan for Q4 2021 and their endorsement

Dragana Milošević, EU SHAI Programme Manager, presented the Programme Quarterly Report for the Q3 2021, partially already discussed at the previous PSC meeting held at the end of September, so she included brief presentations of the activities conducted in October and November 2021. She also informed that the next PSC meeting will be organised at the time when the team will have more information on the Second Call for Proposals evaluation results.

The main activities of the team in the previous period were focused on supporting and monitoring the implementation of 19 LSG projects selected under the First Call for Proposals, which commenced in July. The support of the Programme team was intensified during this period in order to enable grantees to align implementation of project activities with the original projects' plan and be able to complete their projects in a predefined period of 16 months.

However, during the first six months, certain project implementation risks have emerged. The highest risks have emerged in 12 projects in which a construction of a multi-family building was planned. Due to the unstable situation in the construction and real estate sector in terms of price increase, the projects have faced challenges that did not exist in the period of their development. Moreover, the lack of bidders willing to participate in the tender process was also one of the problems that have arisen during this period. Yet, in some municipalities such as Svilajnac and Ljubovija, the contracts with contractors have been signed and the construction process has begun. We are still expecting contracts in Loznica, Čačak and Raška, while six tenders had to be repeated from various reasons, such as high prices of bidders and revision of tender documentation (Novi Pazar, Vršac, Boljevac), lack of bidders (Šabac and Lebane) and tender withdrawal (Vrnjačka Banja). Only one tender has not been announced so far, due to the withdrawal of a project partner from the project (Odžaci). All these issues may put at risk the duration of the projects, but the extension of the EU SHAI Programme by 12 months will certainly present additional benefit-time to projects that will be in need of an extension.

The Programme team has published, closed and performed administrative and eligibility check for applications received under the Second Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion.

The team has also prepared two more public calls - Call for Proposals for Provision of Technical Assistance to LSGs in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies and Call for Proposals for Small Scale Infrastructure Projects.



The support to the healthcare system was completed in September 2021. During nine months of grants' duration, 25 healthcare institutions and 200 medical and non-medical staff have been supported, while 1.8 million people have received services in this area. This type of support will be continued in the next period through the UNOPS EU PRO PLUS Programme.

Both "Holistic Approach to Social Housing" and "Local Housing Strategy Development Guidelines" publications were promoted at the 30th International Urban Planner's Exhibition in Nis, where the publication "Holistic Approach to Social Housing" won the third prize in the category of Publications.

In the next period the activities of the Programme will be focused on the implementation of 19 grants, evaluation of the applications received under the Second CfP for Social Housing and Active Inclusion and announcement of the two new calls for proposals. The Programme will also commence provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and develop terms of reference for support to the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs. It will also continue to support the Ministry of Health in the preparation of the IPA procurements.

The Programme team continuously monitors media coverage of the Programme and support that DEU provides in this area and will continue to do that in the next period.

Since there were no comments, the Programme Quarterly (Q3 2021) Report and the Activity Plan for Q4 2021, were unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

2b. Call for Proposals for Small Scale Infrastructure Works and its endorsement

Nevenka Gril Timotijević, Programme Engineer, presented the Call for Proposals for Small Scale Infrastructure Projects. The Call will be published the latest till 15 January 2022 with the duration of 45 days and all LSGs from Serbia are eligible to participate, including those who were and will be selected under the First and the Second CfP for Social Housing and Active Inclusion. The indicative budget of the Call is 1,150,000 USD, while the minimum and maximum grant amounts are 150,500 to 250,000 USD respectively. The expected number of grants is approximately five. Small infrastructure interventions may relate to improvement of social and communal infrastructure with the overall aim of improving living conditions in substandard settlements.

Milica Radovanović Dumonjic, Senior Advisor in the Ministry of European Integration, stated that MEI has a project partially funded from IPA 2016 and partially from the second part of IPA 2020, which refers to the improvement of the accessibility for people with disabilities. In order to ensure timely exchange of information in order to avoid overlapping with projects from other ministries, she suggested sharing the information about the Call for Small Scale Infrastructure Projects with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, since they have a lot of tenders and investments in sports infrastructure facilities, children's playgrounds and accessibility improvements.

Dragana Milosevic, EU SHAI Programme Manager, accepted the suggestion and added that the proposed activities in the Call are in the function of improving conditions in substandard



settlements and that any eventual overlaps should be avoided. Therefore, she proposed that the preliminary lists of evaluated projects be shared with the MEI and MSGI before the final decision is made.

Since there were no other comments to the CfP for Small Scale Infrastructure Projects, it was unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

2c. Call for Proposals for the Provision of Technical Assistance to LSG in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies

Marea Grinvald, Capacity Building Officer, presented the CfP for the Provision of Technical Assistance to LSGs in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies. The Call will be released on 10 December 2021 and will remain open for the duration of 60 days. All LSGs from Serbia are eligible to apply, while the technical assistance will be provided to 30 selected ones for a period of 12 months. The technical assistance to LSGs will be provided by three external experts in the form of training, mentoring and online support which will cover: establishment of multi-sectoral working groups, development or revision of local housing strategies (LHS) and action plans, establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of LHS and enhancing cooperation between local government representatives and local service providers, where relevant.

Since there were no comments to the CfP on the Provision of Technical Assistance to LSG in Development or Revision of Local Housing Strategies, it was unanimously endorsed by the PSC.

2d. Results of the first phase of evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the Second Open Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects

Mirjana Dimitrijevic, Social Inclusion Officer, presented the results of the first phase of evaluation of applications received within the Second CfP - administrative and eligibility check. Twenty LSG applications have been received within the deadline. The applications show an even regional representation and level of development of LSGs. Out of 20 applications, one application was complete, while 16 applications required additional clarifications. The most frequently requested additional documents were: proof of co-funding (excerpt from municipal budget), excerpt from the APR not older than six months, proof that the project is part of relevant strategies and valid application formats.

Five applications were rejected after the administrative and eligibility check, namely: Kanjiža, Svrlijig, Zaječar, Bogatić and Bosilegrad. The reasons for rejection were the following: grant amount was below the minimum grant amount defined by the CfP, inappropriate proof of co-funding and the number of assisted families in the project was below the minimum number defined by the CfP.



The applications that passed administrative and eligibility check and will undergo further evaluation are: Vranje, Sombor, Sjenica, Surdulica, Knjaževac, Pirot, Kraljevo, Velika Plana, Bujanovac, Žabalj, Valjevo, Paraćin, Kragujevac, Opovo and Sremska Mitrovica. In total, those 15 applications encompass a total of 245 different types of housing solutions, of which 88 constructed housing units, 103 purchases and 54 reconstructions. The total amount of the requested EU SHAI grant is USD 6,443,964 , while the total indicative grant amount available under the CfP is USD 5,200,000.

Since there were no comments on the Results of the first phase of evaluation of the project proposals submitted within the Second Open Call for Proposals for Social Housing and Active Inclusion Projects, it 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
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	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
4	Milica Radovanović Dumonjić	Ministry of European Integration	Senior Advisor
JOINING PARTICIPANTS			
1	Svetlana Velimirović	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration	Deputy Commissioner
2	Bojana Nedović	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration	Project Manager
3	Sandra Ilić	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration	Project Coordinator



UNOPS RSMCO			
1	Marko Vujačić	UNOPS RSMCO	Head of Programme
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	Milica Davitkov	UNOPS RSMCO	Communications Officer
6	Tatjana Dokić	UNOPS RSMCO	Senior Assistant

Belgrade, 12 December 2021

Prepared by the EU SHAI Programme team

