Republic of Serbia
Commissariat for Refugees and Migration
Ministry of Finance
Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes

This project is funded by the European Union

#ЕУ ЗА ТЕБЕ

Newsletter

February 2021 **First Edition**

EU Supports strengthening migration management and asylum system in Serbia

The Twinning Project "Support to strengthening migration management and asylum system in Serbia" is funded by the European Union with 1,000,000 Euro within the IPA 16 program and managed by the Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia.

The **Overall Objective** of the project is to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and other relevant institutions for the implementation of migration and asylum policy and procedures in line with the EU Acquis.

The project is implemented by the Swedish Migration Agency of the Kingdom of Sweden, as Lead partner, and Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Ministry of Justice and Security of the Kingdom of Netherlands and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia as Junior partners.

The project beneficiary is the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia with which the project is being implemented in partnership.

Planned results

Result 1: The national legislation further adjusted with directly applicable EU legislation.

Result 2: Increased capacity of relevant institutions to fulfil obligations arising from EU accession.

Result 3: Improved national coordination mechanisms and cooperation with EASO and other relevant EU agencies and networks.

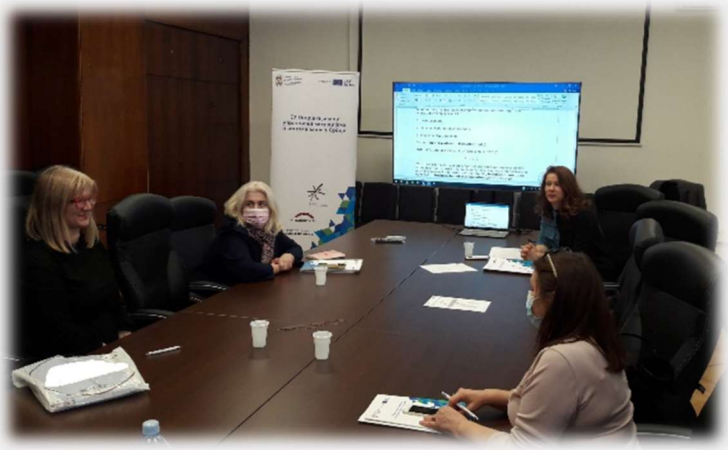
The first newsletter edition summarises the twinning project activities implemented in 2020.

"Serbia recognizes the need for further efforts to ensure compatibility with the EU standards. The attainment of results proposed under this project will contribute to the fulfilment of multiple priorities defined in the strategic documents".

The Twinning project provides support to the Serbian institutions to further harmonise national legislation and working methods with the EU Acquis.

Twinning

Twinning is a European Union instrument for institutional cooperation that enables actors in the public sector of the EU Member States to engage in the development of other countries' public administration. Twinning aims at upgrading and/or modernising institutions in the beneficiary country through training, reorganisation and approximation of legislation to EU standards.
Experts from the EU Member States and the Beneficiary Country work together with an aim to achieve the planned mandatory results through peer-to-peer activities. The assistance within the twinning project is provided through a number of activities including workshops, training sessions, expert missions, study visits, internships, counselling and development of various tools.



"The Republic of Serbia is committed to further develop and establish a national asylum and migration system in line with EU and international standards".

Further harmonisation with the EU Acquis

Within the first component of the project, missions were implemented through which current national legislation in the field of migration were assessed and gap analysis in the field of reception, asylum, legal and illegal migration, between national and EU legislation were conducted. During the missions, lists of requirements for statistical reporting and monitoring were developed to monitor the responsibilities that follow from directly applicable Union Acquis in the field of migration. Moreover, current legislation in the field of residence and employment of foreigners with the focus on work permits have been analysed and activities on further harmonization of national legislation concerning work permits have commenced by drafting a proposal for integration of a single work permit into the national legislation. All these activities are contributing to the further harmonisation of the national legislation with the EU Acquis and to the fulfilment of obligations arising from the EU accession negotiation.

Absorption of EU Funds

Missions that had been implemented within the second component of the project were diverse. National and experts from the EU Member States jointly analysed and identified the organisational needs within the institutions of the Republic of Serbia and drafted recommendations and Action plan regarding future readiness for applying, using and absorbing EU Funds dedicated to refugees and migration. Experts from the Netherlands and Slovenia commenced the activities on improving the early warning and preparedness system in Serbia as well as reporting in accordance with the EU standards.

Cooperation with EU agencies and networks

With the purpose to improve national coordination mechanisms and cooperation with relevant EU agencies and networks in the field of migration, within the third component of the project, various missions have been implemented and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration participated in online events on migration. Within the project, the cooperation with the majority of identified networks in the field of migration and asylum, such as EASO, FRONTEX, EMN, EIN, ERRIN, EURINT, KNOMAD and GDISC, were established or ongoing. During the project, the fact-finding mission was realised and the action plan for the establishment of the European Migration Network in Serbia was developed.

Representatives of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia participated in the online events organised by European Migration Network with the aim of networking with relevant EU institutions and agencies.

For more information about the twinning project you can visit the EU website: https://www.euzatebe.rs/en/projects/support-to-strengthening-migration-management-and-asylum-system-in-serbia

This publication is produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia Swedish Migration Agency, Immigration and Naturalization Service of Netherlands and Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia and may in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union".

Editor: Milosava Smiljanic