



FOUR YEARS OF SERBIA'S PATH TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND A KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY

Key accomplishments and perspectives

Božidar Djelić

Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration



CONTENTS

1. European Integration
2. Science and Technology
3. Economy and Finance
4. Universiade 2009
5. Danube Strategy
6. Social inclusion and Poverty reduction
7. Sustainable Development
8. Public outreach



1. EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT SIGNED AS A KEY STEP IN THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

- **7 November 2007** – SSA initialed



- **29 April 2008** - SSA signed



SERBIAN CITIZENS CAN TRAVEL TO EU COUNTRIES WITHOUT VISAS SINCE DECEMBER 19th, 2009

- 3.7 biometric passports issued
- 12 million entries into Schengen space





SERBIA ANSWERED THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S QUESTIONNAIRE IN RECORD TIME AND RECEIVED A POSITIVE OPINION

- **22 December 2009** – Serbia officially submitted its request for EU membership
- **24 November 2010** – Serbia received the European Commission's questionnaire



- **31 January 2011** – Serbia submitted answers to 3000 questions from the EC questionnaire
- **12 October 2011** – Serbia received the EC's opinion in which it is recommended that Serbia receives candidate status for EU membership with the understanding that existing agreements with Pristina will be implemented



757 MILLION EUROS OF EU GRANTS AWARDED TO SERBIA OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS

- 129 projects worth 757 million euros accepted for financing in the time period 2008-2011 and are in the process of realization



Zezelj bridge

- First calls in cross-border cooperation programs successfully concluded and over 250 projects approved





IPA GRANTS HAVE HELPED SOLVE MANY EXISTENTIAL ISSUES OF SERBIAN CITIZENS



29 million euros for solving housing problems of refugees



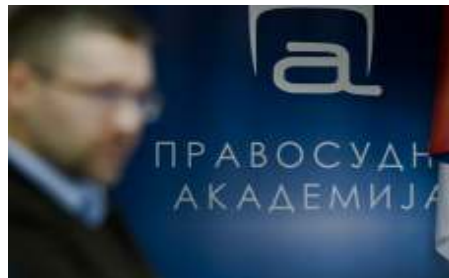
200 emergency hospital vehicles purchased



180 million euros invested in key infrastructure



Public administration reform and harmonization with EU *aquis communautaire*



Judicial reform, fight against corruption and organized crime



Education reform at all levels



**SERBIA-EU
FORUM**

Overcoming the crisis, moving
towards the European Union

SERBIA-EU FORUM

September 9th , 2011

- Plenary speeches at the Forum were given by the president of the Council of Europe Herman Van Rompuy and President of Serbia Boris Tadić
- More than 600 attendees
- More than 200 domestic and foreign media
- Important questions regarding overcoming the crisis, regional cooperation in various sectors, fight against corruption, organized crime and illegal migration, knowledge economy, sustainable development and social inclusion were discussed.





2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



DURING THE TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT NEW LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS WERE ADOPTED AND RESOURCES FOR KEY INVESTMENTS SECURED

- Strategy of scientific and technological development 2010-2015 adopted. It defines national R&D priorities and necessary investments in this area
- New legal framework adopted:
 - The Law on Research Activities
 - The Law on Innovation Activities
 - The Law on the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts
 - Set of laws regarding intellectual property
- Serbia has been recognised as the world's "rising science star" by Thomson Reuters since 2009



THE BIGGEST PUBLIC CALL FOR SCIENCE PROJECTS EVER IN THE HISTORY OF SERBIA HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED

- 780 out of 878 projects were accepted for financing (89%);
- There is a total of 11,615 researchers on the accepted projects which represents a 30% increase
- 1,714 young researchers (under 30) will for the first time participate in projects
- 1,024 researchers from abroad will be partners on projects
- For the first time, integral and interdisciplinary projects in priority research fields are being financed

The call was launched on May 23rd, 2010 in Sava Center in the presence of 3000 scientists, industry representatives and government officials





NONBUDGETARY RESOURCES IN THE AMOUNT OF 350 MILLION EUROS WERE MOBILIZED FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **200 million EUR** – European Investment Bank
- **35 million EUR** – Council of Europe Development Bank, phase 1
- **70 million EUR** – Council of Europe Development Bank, phase 2
- **25 million EUR** – EU IPA funds for infrastructure of faculties across Serbia
- **9 million EUR** – EU IPA funds for financing innovative companies through the Serbian Innovation Fund

05th December 2011

Signing of the “Serbia innovation project”
implementation agreement





KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND ARE CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Key research equipment and consumables worth 90 million EUR
- Central building of the University in Novi Sad
- Science and technology parks in Belgrade, Nis, Kragujevac and Novi Sad



Future look of the University of Novi Sad
Central building
(Spring 2012)



Future look of the Zvezdara Science and
Technology Park
(Spring 2012)



KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND ARE CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED

- Science promotion center in Belgrade
- Nano-science center in Belgrade
- Petnica Science Center
- Stem cell research center in Kragujevac
- Non-commercial housing for researchers in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Kragujevac



Visiting the construction site of the Petnica Research Center (Spring 2012)



Design of the Science promotion center in Belgrade (2014)



Future look of the Nano-science center in Belgrade (2013)



PARTNERSHIPS WITH KEY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS AND COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED

- Serbia has been an Associated Country in FP7 since June 2007
- Bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation were signed with China, USA, India and many European countries
- A Memorandum of understanding was signed with the Joint Research Center in Brussels in 2010
- Serbia is currently negotiating to become a member of CERN



4 March 2009 Serbia officially applied to become a member of CERN;
17 December 2010 The CERN Council made a decision to initiate negotiations for candidate status with Serbia;
19 July 2011 Formal negotiations initiated, Serbia expected to become Candidate country in January 2012.
15 December 2011 The CERN Council will make its final decision regarding Serbia's accession



NEW LEGISLATION WAS ADOPTED IN THE AREA OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND AFTER 26 YEARS OF STORAGE, SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL WAS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPORTED BACK TO RUSSIA

- Law on radiation protection and nuclear safety was adopted
- The public company „Nuclear facilities of Serbia” was formed
- Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear safety Agency was formed



After 26 years of storage, and after successful negotiations with international partners, spent nuclear fuel was transported from Serbia to the Russian Federation in December 2010. The total cost of the project was 26 million USD, financed by Serbia, the EU, USA, Russia, Czech Republic and IAEA.



3. ECONOMY AND FINANCE



ESSENTIAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE AREA OF PROPERTY RIGHTS ADOPTED

- Law on restitution and compensation
 - Conditions created for solving over 100.000 requests for restitution
 - 2 billion EUR reserved for compensation
- Law on public property
 - Public property differentiated between State, regional and local level, as well as at the level of public companies. Decentralisation and greater efficiency achieved





AFFORDABLE LOANS FOR EXPORTING INDUSTRY AND HIGH GROWTH SME'S SECURED

- 250 million EUR of long term affordable loans for export oriented industry secured with the EIB through the APEX 4 project
- 33 million EUR secured through an affordable loan from Italy for the SME's sector and State owned companies
- 140 million EUR worth Western Balkan SME Platform, upon Serbia's initiative, adopted by all partners: the European Investment Bank, European Investment Bank, EBRD and all WB countries





260 MILLION EUROS SECURED THROUGH AN AFFORDABLE JAPANESE LOAN FOR DESULFURIZATION OF GASES FOR THE THERMO PLANT OBRENOVAC

- The most affordable conditions for a loan for desulfurization of fume gases in the Nikola Tesla thermal plant in Obrenovac secured
- 0.6% annual interest rate, 10 year repayment and 5 year grace period
- This project will lead to significantly decreased sulfur-dioxide emissions which will positively impact citizens' health
- The result of desulfurization is plaster which can be used in the construction industry. This project will result in a factory of plaster construction elements as an example of sustainable development





4. UNIVERSIADE



BIGGEST SPORTS EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF SERBIA



- Božidar Djelić called in as head of the organisation committee one year before the event
- Budget slashed from 240 to 75 million euros
- More than 10,000 athletes from 145 countries
- 208 disciplines in 15 sports
- Serbian athletes ranked ten with 19 medals:
5 gold, 5 silver 9 bronze
- 90% of Serbian citizens ranked the Universiade as a successful and important event

*‘Universiade Belgrade is a triumph for Serbia’
(George Killian, FISU president)*





5. DANUBE STRATEGY



SERBIA IS A KEY PARTNER IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DANUBE STRATEGY

- Serbia is coordinating the areas of road, rail and air transport with Slovenia and knowledge economy with Slovakia
- From its very start, Serbia has greatly contributed to the preparation of all Danube Strategy documents



- The active participation of Serbia in this initiative helps in creating a stronger economy, integration of sectorial policies of Serbia with EU development goals, as well as increasing bilateral and multilateral cooperation of Serbia with all Danube countries



18.5 MILLION EUR FROM IPA 2011 DEDICATED TO DANUBE RELATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- 6.5 million EUR for “Revitalization of the Golubac fortress”



- 4.4 million EUR for the project “Water supply in Veliko Gradiste”
- 3.5 million EUR grant scheme and 2 million EUR technical assistance for realization of smaller projects which support the Danube strategy goals and preparation of technical documentation





6. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION



70 MILLION EUROS FOR IMPROVING THE POSITION OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

- National Council for the inclusion of Roma formed, half Roma representatives, half public officials, with Božidar Djelić as head
- 50 million EUR from EU funds for financing various projects – employment of marginal groups, equipment for mobile kindergartens in remote and rural areas, developing services for social protection, second chance for education for those who did not complete elementary education



- 20 million EUR for improving the position of Roma in the area of education, health, employment and living conditions



7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK ESTABLISHED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



- 31 government institutions and all local authorities involved in the implementation of the Strategy
- Network of 230 coordinators for the Strategy implementation established
- Forum of partners established and all stakeholders included: government institutions, local authorities, civil sector, media, industry, academia
- 50 civil servants trained to implement the Strategy
- Over 2500 people informed about sustainable development through public events organized in cooperation with many partners



A SYSTEM FOR MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING ESTABLISHED

- Reports adopted:
 - Report on the status of implementing the Strategy for 2009 and 2010 adopted
 - Report on realization of the Action plan for 2009 and 2010 adopted





8. PUBLIC OUTREACH



“EUROPE FOR ALL” PROJECT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR CITIZENS, STUDENTS AND CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTS TO VISIT EUROPE



50 citizens picked for their accomplishments traveled to 4 European countries – France, Italy, Belgium and Germany on the occasion of introducing a visa-free regime for Serbia, 18-27 December 2009



Children without parents traveled to Austria, 6-10 April 2010



The best students from the least developed areas of Serbia traveled to Thessaloniki, 5-9 October 2010



“APPLIED NOSTALGIA” PROJECT BROUGHT CLOSER TOGETHER CITIZENS OF SERBIA AND EUROPEAN CAPITALS

- A series of joint photography exhibits of two eminent photographers, one from Serbia and one from the country presiding the EU
- Has been realised since July 2007 – Portugal (Lisbon) -2008, France (Paris) -2009, Czech Republic (Prague) -2009, Sweden (Stockholm) – 2010, Spain (Madrid) – 2010, Belgium (Brussels) -2011, Hungary (Budapest) -2011, Poland (Warsaw)
- All exhibits can be viewed at www.primenjenanostalgija.com





Serbia must continue on its path to the European Union and a knowledge based economy

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND
COOPERATION**