



Regional
Housing
Programme

NEWSLETTER No3

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Cover story



From left to right: Assistant Minister Mario Nenadić, Minister Adil Osmanović, Minister Damir Ljubić and Minister Davor Cordas

Cooperation Agreements Signed with Mayors of 22 Towns in BiH

On 19 January 2015, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entity line ministries signed cooperation agreements with the mayors of 22 towns and municipalities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in which the first Bosnian sub-project **BiH1 - Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families** - will be implemented.

These cooperation agreements define in detail the responsibilities and duties of all the municipalities, ministries and departments involved in RHP implementation.

The agreements were signed by Minister Damir Ljubić from the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, which is the designated Lead Institution for the RHP in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the signatories on behalf of the two Project Implementation Units were Mr Adil Osmanović, Minister of the Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees, and Mr Davor Cordas, Minister of the Ministry of Refugees and Displaced Persons of Republika Srpska.

This first sub-project, with a total cost of EUR 2.7 million, will finance the renovation of 150 housing units for the return of displaced persons in BiH and for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina currently residing in Croatia and Serbia. In addition, it will also entail the delivery of 20 packages of building material for local integration of refugees from Croatia in BiH. The beneficiary families have already been selected, while the activities on preparation of project documentation for 25

housing units in FBiH and the delivery of building material packages for 20 housing units in Republika Srpska are expected to start in the period March-May 2015.

This first RHP sub-project will be implemented in the following municipalities and towns of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosanski Petrovac, Bosansko Grahovo, Bugojno, Dobretici, Foca in FBiH, Gorazde, Hadzici, Stari grad Sarajevo and Vogosca, Olovo, Sanski Most, Travnik and Tuzla; and in the following municipalities and towns of Republika Srpska: Banja Luka, Brod, Derventa, Gradiska, Foca, Novo Gorazde, Prijedor, Srebrenica and Trebinje.



Mr Damir Ljubić, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Newsflash

First RHP Beneficiaries Received

New Homes in Croatia

On 23 December 2014, six returnee families received keys of their new homes in the city of Knin, in Southern Croatia. They will be able to move in immediately, after spending nearly 20 years in precarious living conditions. Furthermore, a few days earlier, on 19 December 2014, two families received keys of their new homes in Petrinja.

These eight apartments were the first ones to be handed over to the selected beneficiaries under the **sub-project HR4** which, with a total estimated cost of EUR 5.7 million and RHP Fund contribution of EUR 4.3 million, shall provide **durable housing solutions to a minimum of 101 families through purchase of apartments throughout the country**. The beneficiaries are former tenancy right holders or residents in collective centres.

The RHP Fund Assembly of Donors has to-date approved five sub-projects in favour of Croatia, for a total grant amount of approximately EUR 12 million. These funds will enable the provision of roughly 270 durable housing solutions to the benefit of over 500 vulnerable beneficiaries.



Beneficiary of a new apartment in Knin with Ms Mirela Stanic Popovic, Head of Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care of Croatia, Mr Stephan Sellen (far left), Deputy Director General of CEB and Mr Terence Pike, UNHCR Representative in Croatia (far right)



A family in Petrinja in front of their new apartment

BENEFICIARIES OF SUB-PROJECT HR4 – Purchase of 101 Apartments

Ajshe Smakiqi, born in 1965 in Kosovo, has four children. This 5-member family has been living in collective centres in Croatia since 1999, without any regular income. The family is currently in the process of obtaining a permanent residence, after which it will qualify for the social welfare system benefits. This family was the first one to receive the keys to an apartment in Petrinja.

Ilinka Knezevic was born in 1936 in Croatia. Together with her husband Nikola Knezevic (deceased in 2000), Ilinka returned in 1997 to Croatia from Serbia, where the family was in refuge. The only accessible housing solution for them was her husband's old family house, without basic utilities, located in Oton-Brdo village, near Knin. Ilinka, who is retired, has a son Dragan who lives with his daughter in the Netherlands but plans to come back to Croatia. Ilinka received the keys of an apartment in Knin in December 2014.

Krste Ozegovic was born in 1935 in Croatia. Krste and his wife Milica have three sons, one of whom still lives with them. The oldest son lives in the US while the youngest lives in Serbia with his own family and is hoping to return to Croatia after having obtained the right to an apartment. The only income the family has is Krste's pension and his son's social benefits.

Krste obtained his tenancy right after having worked 29 years in a steel company in Knin. After 1995, the family fled Croatia to find refuge in a collective centre in Palic, Serbia. Upon return to Croatia in 2004, the family has lived in a dilapidated apartment of Krste's cousin. After several efforts, the family was finally granted the right to an apartment in 2014. They received the keys of the apartment in Knin in December 2014.

We are very sorry to announce that Krste passed away on 31 January 2015. We would like to send our deepest condolences to his family.

Recent Activities

Regional Activities

RHP STEERING COMMITTEE AND RHP FUND ASSEMBLY OF DONORS MET IN PARIS

The 8th RHP Assembly of Donors and the 5th RHP Steering Committee meetings took place on 20 November 2014 in Paris, gathering representatives of the RHP Partner Countries, Donors, CEB, UNHCR and OSCE.

Participants discussed the progress to-date and agreed on the priorities for the upcoming period. The Assembly of Donors also approved four new grant applications, one from each Partner Country:

- BiH - EUR 12.3 million for the construction of 438 flats in multi-apartment buildings (estimated total cost: EUR 14.3 million; PC's own contribution EUR 2 million)
- Croatia - EUR 1 million for the construction of a residential building for 21 families in Benkovac (estimated total cost: EUR 1.4 million; PC's own contribution EUR 0.4 million)
- Montenegro - EUR 3.6 million for the construction of 94 apartments for 271 persons in the Municipality of Berane (estimated total cost: EUR 4 million; PC's own contribution EUR 0.4 million)
- Serbia - EUR 36.4 million for the construction of 1 262 apartments, the provision of 250 building material packages and the purchase of 200 village houses (estimated total cost: EUR 46.8 million; PC's own contribution EUR 10.4 million)

Norway was unanimously elected as the Co-chair – chairing together with the European Commission – of the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors and the RHP Steering Committee for the year 2015. The Assembly of Donors also decided to carry out a Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the RHP during 2015, to provide an overall independent assessment of the RHP achievements to-date and lessons learned.

The RHP Steering Committee took stock of the progress made in 2014 and agreed on the implementation priorities for 2015. Amongst other, it was noted that since the start of the RHP, EUR 125 million in grants have been approved in favour of housing projects from the RHP Fund.

The RHP Steering Committee was accompanied by the exhibition "Faces of RHP" with photographs of beneficiaries from all 4 Partner Countries. The exhibition was prepared in close cooperation between the Partner Countries, UNHCR and the CEB.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

- **Training on Master Technical Documentation (MTD)** was organised by RHP TA on 20 November 2014 in Podgorica and on 24 November 2014 in Zagreb for representatives of LIs and PIUs. The goal was to train the staff in charge of RHP implementation in Montenegro and Croatia for the use of MTD. MTD provides the technical framework for sub-project preparation and implementation and is part of the RHP Project Implementation Manual.
- **Training on Procurement** was organised by RHP TA on 26-27 November 2014 in Zagreb. The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the RHP Procurement Manual to the PIU members: explaining its content, procedures, outputs and guiding the participants on how to use the Annexes, especially the checklists. The aim was to go through the legal framework of public procurement in Croatia, and inform and train the participants in procurement procedures for RHP project activities.
- **Workshop on Transversal Procedures, Human Resources Development, and Control Environment** was organised by RHP TA on 25-26 November 2014 in Podgorica for the Montenegrin LI and PIU staff; on 1 and 12 December 2014 in Zagreb for Croatian LI and PIU staff, and on 22-23 January 2015 in Vlasica for LI and PIU staff in BiH. This same training is scheduled to take place in Serbia in March 2015.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

The 17th meeting of the Public Information Working Group (PI WG) was held on 5 November 2014 in Belgrade. WG members presented the activities implemented so far and those planned for the upcoming period. The final RHP Visibility and Communication (V&C) Strategy and Guidelines, together with the accompanying templates, were presented and endorsed.

The 18th meeting of the PI WG was held on 28 January 2015 in Sarajevo. Besides the presentation of the implemented activities, the Partner Countries provided input for the "Joint Events Plans" for the first six months of the current year, based on which further support in organisation of events and preparation of RHP promo materials will be provided.

During the period covered by this Newsletter, the Partner Countries' representatives were continuously promoting RHP in national and local media.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR 25 HOUSING UNITS SIGNED IN BIH

After the contracts were signed at the end of January 2015, designers started working on the design of 25 units in FBiH and Republika Srpska, under sub-project ***BiH1 - Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families.***

Reconstruction of these 25 units is estimated to start in July 2015. The delivery of 20 building material packages in the Republika Srpska is estimated to commence as soon as the contract is signed, therefore delivery could start in late February or early March 2015.



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN KORENICA ADVANCING

Construction works of the building in Korenica, under the sub-project ***HR1 - Construction of an apartment building for 29 families*** - that had started in June 2014, are going according to the plan. By the end of January 2015, all the external construction works have been completed. The construction of the external and internal walls and the roof was finished, and pipes for electricity, water and sewage systems were installed. The Contractor had installed the external doors and windows, allowing the works in the interior to be implemented during the winter period.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR HR3 SIGNED

The precondition for signing the GA for the sub-project ***HR3 - Construction of a home for 75 elderly and disabled persons in Glina*** - was met through the signing of the MoU between the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care (SORHC), Sisacko-Moslavacka County and the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth (MSPY), which should ensure that the facility will be included in the national welfare system. The MoU was signed on 22 December 2014, and the Grant Agreement for HR3 is expected to be signed in February 2015. The preliminary list of beneficiaries for this sub-project has been prepared by the Joint Working Group, consisting of representatives from SORHC and UNHCR.



MONTENEGRO

REMOVAL OF CONTAINERS IN KONIK CAMP CONTINUES

The removal of containers under the sub-project ***MNE2 - Provision of housing to 120 most vulnerable families from Camp Konik 1*** - is on-going and will continue in February 2015. The removal of containers is necessary to prepare the plot where the two buildings will be constructed. The profile of the beneficiary families is already known and the PIU and the designer have finalised the ToR for design at the end of 2014. The remaining 28 containers are expected to be removed by the end of March 2015.



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

DELIVERY OF FIRST BUILDING MATERIAL PACKAGES IN SERBIA

The delivery of the 25 building material packages, under sub-project ***SRB1 – Provision of 125 building material packages and 70 prefabricated houses to the benefit of 195 households*** - which was the part financed with the national contribution, was finalised in November 2014. The second tender, for 100 building material packages, was successfully closed and the delivery is expected to start in February-March 2015. Provided that the tender for prefabricated houses is successful (to be published in February), the houses could be installed in May-June 2015.

SERBIA AND THE CEB SIGN THE FOURTH GRANT AGREEMENT

On 6 November 2014, Ms Jadranka Joksimovic, National IPA Coordinator and Minister without Portfolio responsible for EU Integration and Mr Stephan Sellen, the CEB's Deputy Director General for Loans and Social Development, signed the fourth RHP Grant Agreement in favour of Serbia.

The signed agreement, with a total grant amount of close to EUR 11 million, will provide financing for the construction of 261 new apartments and 30 pre-fabricated houses, the provision of 300 building material packages, and the purchase of 70 village houses. Thanks to this sub-project, close to 661 most vulnerable refugee families, located throughout Serbia, will be provided with a durable housing solution.

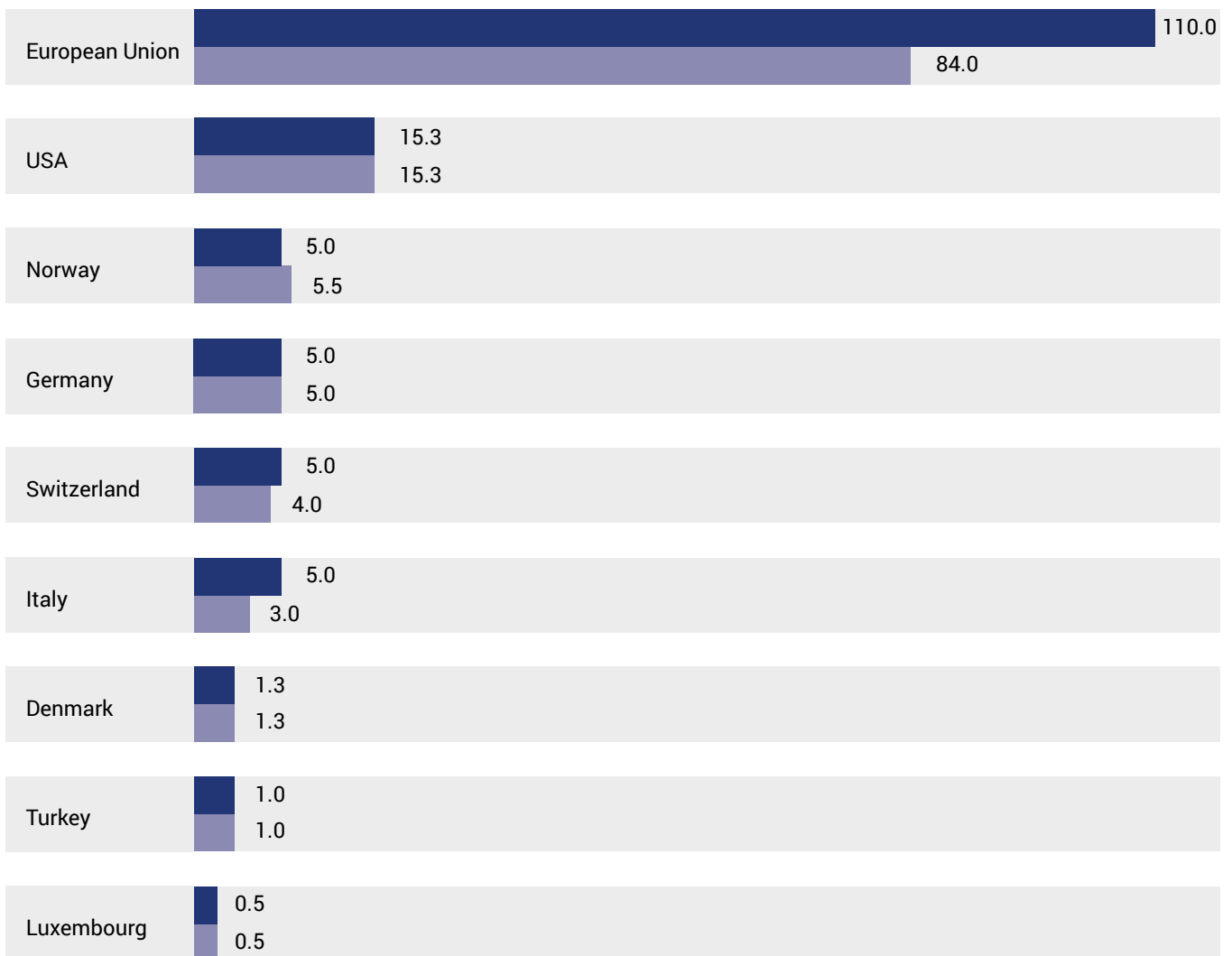
RHP FUND STATUS

In total, Donors have committed EUR 148.1 million, of which they have paid in EUR 119.5 million. The Commission has confirmed its status as the main RHP Donor. Contributions committed and paid into the RHP Fund are split as follows:

Contributions committed and paid in (Amounts in EUR million at end - January 2015)

Total committed EUR 148.1 million

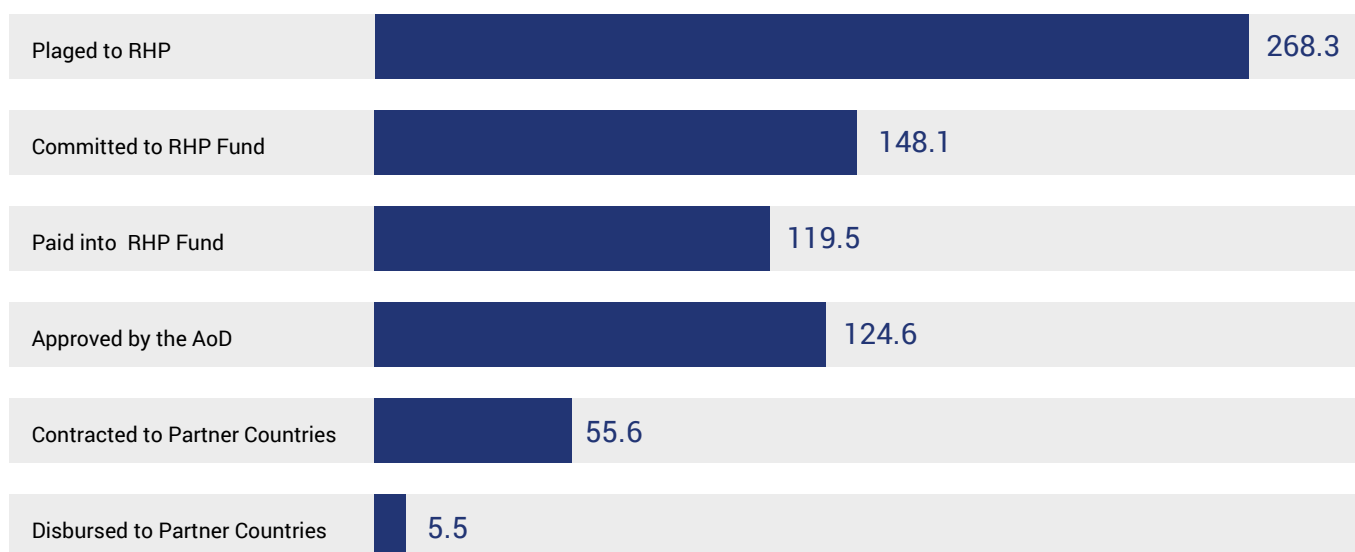
Total paid in EUR 119.5 million



RHP FUND STATUS

The table below summarizes the situation of the RHP by showing the main inflows and outflows:

Aggregate figures on RHP (Amounts in EUR million at end - January 2015)



Status of Disbursements

November 2014 - January 2015

- BiH1 - Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families:** On 16 December 2014, the first tranche for the second component of this sub-project for the amount of EUR 447 500 was disbursed to BiH.
- HR2 – Construction of two residential buildings in Knin for 40 families:** On 12 December 2014, the first grant tranche for this sub-project, for the amount of EUR 776 111, was disbursed to Croatia.
- HR1 - Construction of an apartment building for 29 families in Korenica:** On 21 November 2014, the second grant tranche for this sub-project, for the amount of EUR 629 195, was disbursed to Croatia.
- HR4 - Purchase of flats for 101 eligible beneficiaries:** On 19 November 2014, the first grant tranche for this sub-project, for the amount of EUR 1 514 663, was disbursed to Croatia.

About RHP People

SERBIA

RHP Project Implementation Unit in Serbia – PIU Research and Development Ltd, Belgrade -, has appointed a new director, **Dr Goran Kvrđić**, as of January 2015. Mr Kvrđić has a vast experience in different sectors of Serbian economy - previously he was a Director of the Faculty of Business Economics and Entrepreneurship, and a Director of Department for Monetary Statistics and Data Base in the National Bank of Serbia. He was also a member of the working groups for EU accession, and of the negotiating team of the National Bank with the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Aleksandar Simonović has resumed his professional career as a university professor. We would like to thank him for his pivotal contribution to get Serbia's CHP off the ground.

MONTENEGRO

The Government of Montenegro appointed a new **CHP Manager - Mr Vladimir Cicmil** - and **CHP Procurement Manager - Ms Alma Ljuljanaj**, as of January 2015.

Mr Cicmil, as a member of the Project Implementation Unit - DOO "Project Consulting" PROCON, will be in charge of managing the RHP implementation structure in Montenegro and for managing the implementation process. Mr Cicmil has previously worked as project manager in Atlas Group company.

Ms Ljuljanaj will be in charge for managing the CHP procurement procedures in Montenegro, and she will also remain the person in charge of CHP public information campaign.

ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Ambassador Jonathan Moore has become the new **OSCE Head of Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina** since September 2014. He has a long-standing professional career in the Western Balkans having served in different capacities with the U.S State Department and OSCE in the region since 1991.

Upcoming activities (February-March 2015)

RHP Meetings

3 March 2015

9th Technical Committee, Paris.

26 March 2015

9th Assembly of Donors, Paris.

Trainings and Workshops

5-7 March 2015

Risk Management Workshop - Podgorica, Montenegro.



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Republic of Croatia



Montenegro



Republic of Serbia

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org

The Regional Housing Programme is financed and supported by the International Community



The Regional Housing Programme was set up to offer durable housing to 74,000 vulnerable individuals who became refugees or displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The RHP is to be implemented over five years with the support of the international community.
