



Regional
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Programme

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Mirela Stanic-Popovic uncovering the commemorative plaque at the new building in Korenica

Cover Story



24 FAMILIES RECEIVE KEYS TO NEW APARTMENTS IN KORENICA

On 16 September 2015, the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care organized the inauguration ceremony of the apartment building in Korenica, the first RHP project in Croatia to be completed. Construction of the building in Korenica was implemented according to schedule and was finished a year after the beginning of works.

Ms Mirela Stanic-Popovic, Head of the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care, unveiled the commemorative plaque at the entrance of the building and handed over apartment keys to the new tenants, returnees from Serbia and elderly persons currently residing in the collective centre of Golubic near Knin. Ms Stanic-Popovic expressed her satisfaction to inaugurate a building, which enables returnees to finally settle in decent conditions in Croatia hence promoting regional reconciliation, a cornerstone of the RHP.

The ceremony was attended by a number of representatives from the Donor community. Mr Jerry Kalarickal, Program Officer for the Balkans,

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, U.S. Department of State, said: "This is a milestone achievement for the RHP thanks to the efforts of all stakeholders, particularly the Partner Countries. We hope that the event today serves as a symbol of what can be achieved through regional cooperation". Also, several international stakeholders present - including UNHCR's Regional Representative for South-Eastern Europe Andrew Mayne and CEB's RHP Coordinator, Marja Seppala - congratulated Croatia on this important achievement and warmly welcomed the new tenants.

KORENICA

Located in the Municipality of Plitvice Lakes, which is part of the Areas of Special State Concern. The land plot of about 2 000m² was donated by the Municipality. The total cost of the project is EUR 1.4 million, of which 75% is financed by the RHP Fund and 25% by the Republic of Croatia.

Newsflash

SERBIA AND CEB SIGNED SRB5 GRANT AGREEMENT

CEB and Serbia signed the fifth RHP Grant Agreement in August, thereby securing a grant of EUR 36.3 million for Serbia from the RHP Fund. This brings the total of grants approved in favour of Serbia to EUR 71.5 million.

This grant aims at providing durable housing solutions in the places of local integration for 1 712 refugee families (over 5 000 persons), throughout the country. This grant is the biggest approved by the RHP Assembly of Donors to date and will partially finance the construction of over 1 200 apartments in close to 30 Serbian municipalities, the largest beneficiaries being Belgrade, Novi Sad and Stara Pazova. These municipalities shall provide homes to 276, 270 and 165 families respectively.

This project will also finance the purchase of 200 village houses and the provision of 250 packages of building material. The RHP grant covers 78% of the total estimated cost of the project, while Serbia's own contribution to project implementation amounts to 22% or EUR 10.4 million.



Partner Countries' Highlights



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

INAUGURATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE IN GLINA

On 7 September 2015, the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care organized a ceremony to mark the official start of reconstruction works of the Home for 75 elderly and disabled persons in Glina. The ceremony was hosted by Ms Mirela Stanic-Popovic, Head of the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care, who welcomed all guests and said that the implementation of RHP in Croatia is advancing according to plan. She added that Glina is the fourth out of five approved RHP projects to have started with implementation.

Croatian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Policy and Youth, Ms Milanka Opacic, officially inaugurated the start of works by stating that in the context of the current refugee crisis, Croatia is not building fences, but rather providing home for 75 people, who fled to Croatia during the war. Mr Ivo Zinic, Prefect of Sisak-Moslavina County and Mr Milan Baksic, Mayor of Glina, expressed their gratitude to RHP donors and explained that this building will provide much more than just the accommodation for the most vulnerable beneficiaries. In the future, the building will also create new jobs and remain in the County's ownership to also shelter other recipients of social care in Glina and Sisak-Moslavina County.

The ceremony was attended by high officials from Croatia, as well as the international community. In this regard, Mr Stephan Sellen, CEB's Deputy Director General for Loans and Social Development, Mr Martin Mayer from the European Commission Representation office in Croatia, Ms Margaret Nardi, Chargé d'Affairs from the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb, and Mr Mario Pavlovic, UNHCR Croatia were also present in Glina.

The home for elderly and disabled people in Glina should provide permanent housing solutions for refugees and returnees currently residing in the collective accommodation in Pula. Those persons need medical and social assistance, as they are old and have deteriorating health conditions. The overall cost of the project is EUR 4.2 million and the reconstruction works should take 14 months, allowing its new tenants to move in before next winter.



Partner Countries' Highlights



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION ON-GOING

Based on the approved Action plan for the selection of remaining beneficiaries for BiH2 - *Provision of housing solutions to 780 households for return and reintegration or local integration*, the verification of beneficiaries started in the summer in Mostar, Bosansko Grahovo, Glamoc and Drvar (Federation BiH); and in Brod and Derventa (Republika Srpska). The verification is planned to be finalised before the end of 2015.

The PIUs in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federation) and Republika Srpska (RS) prepared information about the pre-selected beneficiaries, also describing the state of infrastructure of the houses/lots planned for reconstruction and ownership proof (compliance with requirements for obtaining building permits). This is a prerequisite to start negotiating with municipalities.

Also, several tenders for BiH1 - *Provision of building materials to 20 families and turnkey reconstruction assistance to 150 families*, were launched in August - Tender for Works on reconstruction of 25 houses in Federation and 25 houses in RS and 2 Service contracts for supervision of these works. The delivery of 20 building material packages, which started on 17 March 2015, has been completed and installation is on-going.



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR DESIGN OF 9 MULTI APARTMENT BUILDINGS UNDER SRB2

On 28 September 2015, the contract for the design of 200 flats was signed between Goran Kvrđić, Director of PIU Research and Development Ltd and Slobodan Tosović, the representative of the group of bidders "Elkoms" and "Home Plan".

Within this component of SRB2 - *Support to 870 refugee families through four different housing modalities*, the design of 9 multi apartment buildings for 200 families will be provided in the following cities: Sid, Vrsac, Kikinda, Krusevac, Prokuplje, Paracin, Bajina Basta, Sabac and Sremska Mitrovica.

The overall cost of the project is EUR 13 million.

Partner Countries' Highlights



MONTENEGRO

CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN NIKSIC PROGRESSING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The construction of a building to accommodate 62 vulnerable internally displaced families in Niksic, which started in May 2015, has made impressive progress. The works are advancing a month and a half ahead of schedule. This should enable the building to be completed by summer 2016, allowing the selected families to move in shortly thereafter.

The construction of the building in Niksic is the first approved RHP project in Montenegro.



RHP Fund Status

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE RHP

At 7 October 2015, the financial situation of the RHP can be summarized by the following figures:

Aggregate figures on RHP

(in EUR million, at 7 October 2015)

Pledged to RHP	268
Contribution Agreements signed	148 Sub-projects 27 Technical Assistance and operating costs 175
Paid into RHP Fund	120
Grants approved	133
Grant Agreements signed	109
Grants disbursed	22

DISBURSEMENTS FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER

On 1 July, the first grant tranche in the amount of EUR 3.8 million was paid out of the RHP Fund in favour of **SRB4 - Support to 661 refugee families through four different housing modalities**.

On 7 October, the second grant tranche in favour of **MNE1 – Construction of two blocks of flats providing housing to 62 families in the municipality of Niksic**, for the amount of EUR 0.9 million, was disbursed.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS

For the record, the Donors have committed EUR 148.1 million, of which they have paid in EUR 119.5 million. With EUR 110 million committed and EUR 84 million paid in, the European Union is the main Donor to the RHP.

Contributions committed and paid into the RHP Fund are split as follows:

RHP Fund contributions committed and paid in

(in EUR million, at end-September 2015)

European Union	110.0	84.0
USA	15.3	15.3
Norway	5.0	5.5
Germany	5.0	5.0
Switzerland	5.0	4.0
Italy	5.0	3.0
Denmark	1.3	1.3
Turkey	1.0	1.0
Luxembourg	0.5	0.5

Total committed EUR 148.1 million

Total paid in EUR 119.5 million

Regional Activities

RHP REGIONAL COORDINATION FORUM (RCF) HELD IN ZAGREB

The 14th RCF was held on 16 September in Zagreb, with participants from all Partner Countries and representatives from EU, U.S, CEB, UNHCR and OSCE. Prior to the RCF meeting, the Working Groups related to Public Information Campaigns and Alpha Group (Partner Countries' preparation for the RCF) were held.

The topics discussed in the RCF were: Partner Countries' progress in implementation, solutions for bottlenecks in the implementation process, visibility and communication plans, and the overall status of the RHP Fund. The consultants selected to conduct the Mid-Term Review (MTR) and the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) were also present in the RCF. They presented their work plan and the estimated timeline to finalise both exercises.

MID-TERM REVIEW

The MTR of the RHP, managed by the CEB, focuses on reviewing the technical parameters of the programme, as described in RHP's founding documents. PricewaterhouseCoopers conducted interviews during the summer period. The final draft of the report will be submitted in November 2015.

MID-TERM EVALUATION

The MTE, managed by the European Commission, focuses on beneficiary selection and sustainability aspects of RHP. Particip has conducted interviews with representatives from Partner Countries, the Donor community, UNHCR/OSCE and the CEB. The final draft report will be submitted in November 2015.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

Risk Management Training: On 30 September-1 October 2015, CEB provided the training in Belgrade, attended by representatives from the Project Implementation Unit for Serbia. The topics presented and discussed were: Revisiting Risk Management theory and practice, Risk Identification, Risk Assessment, Risk Response / Mitigating measures, Risk Management as a Day to Day Management Tool and Risk Monitoring (tools – indicators & incident management, use of results, action plans).

About RHP People

Sam (Kent) Healy arrived at the end of August as the Regional Refugee Coordinator at the American Embassy in Belgrade. He replaces Maja Wiebler who returned to Washington, DC. In addition to his RHP responsibilities, Sam will cover all migration and refugee issues in the Western Balkans including the current migration crisis.

His previous diplomatic experience includes work on refugee issues in the Horn of Africa from 2005-2008, and a posting as Consular Chief at the American Embassy in Zagreb 2009 – 2012. Prior to becoming a Foreign Service Officer Sam worked as a city planner and affordable housing specialist.

Upcoming Activities (October-December 2015)

RHP Events

28 October 2015

Signing of the Grant Agreement for MNE4, Podgorica, Montenegro

31 October 2015

Signing of contracts with 61 municipalities under SRB2, SRB4 and SRB5, Novi Sad, Serbia

2 November 2015

Start of works for HR2, Knin, Croatia

23 November 2015

Start of works for BiH1 – Reconstruction of 50 houses in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska

Mid December 2015 (TBC)

Start of works for SRB1, C1 – Provision of 66 pre-fabricated houses, Serbia

RHP Meetings

27 - 28 October 2015

11th Technical Committee, Paris, France

5 November 2015

15th Regional Coordination Forum, Belgrade, Serbia

1 December 2015

11th Assembly of Donors

7th RHP Steering Committee, Paris, France



Bosnia and
Herzegovina



Republic of
Croatia



Montenegro



Republic of
Serbia

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.

www.regionalhousingprogramme.org