

JOINT STATEMENT BY LEAD INSTITUTIONS OF THE FOUR PARTNER COUNTRIES  
PARTICIPATING IN THE REGIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

Based on the principles of the Sarajevo Process and the Joint Declaration signed by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Croatia and Republic of Serbia, we, the representatives of the Lead Institutions of the four Partner Countries involved in the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), hereby reaffirm our dedication and commitment to ensure full political, financial, legal, social and other support necessary to end the long-lasting displacement resulting from the conflict that occurred in the region during the 1990s.

As noted on several occasions, the RHP is a unique programme in the region and worldwide as a post-conflict reconstruction program. It was launched as part of a broader political agreement and represents a partnership based initiative by our four countries. Cooperation between our countries has contributed to the restoration of mutual trust, regional stability, promotion of peace and coexistence in the region and, more importantly, produced concrete results.

To date the program has provided durable housing solutions for 2,160 most vulnerable beneficiary families. This would not have been possible without generous support of donors led by the European Union. We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to all RHP donors for their trust and support, which has allowed the partner countries to work together in building homes and better futures for those who need them the most.

The cooperation of four partner countries, working together to identify and implement solutions, has proved critical to RHP success. We hereby would like to emphasise the importance of maintaining and further enhancing the regional character of the programme.

RHP is now entering its most intensive phase in delivering the overall durable housing solution results but we are still faced with major challenges.

The planned timeframe for completion of such a complex programme is short. We confirm our commitment to achieving these deadlines and making a major contribution in addressing the displacement fallout from Europe's longest refugee crisis.

By targeting the most vulnerable displaced populations, the RHP is also making an important contribution to fulfilling national obligations in addressing poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic empowerment. In addition, the preconditions for remaining three countries to get closer to EU accession are being fulfilled.

We have committed ourselves to provide permanent and sustainable housing solutions for the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons. Importantly, we also recognise that vulnerable beneficiary families must be provided with access to utilities, economic opportunities and social rights to ensure their lasting and sustainable (re)integration.

To that end, we have revised the needs assessment for sustainable return, developed sustainability plans and identified action measures in order to facilitate the (re)integration of RHP beneficiaries into their local communities. We have provided national contributions and improved our implementation capacities as well.

Finally, we again thank our donors, UNHCR, OSCE and CEB for their support for this important regional project, with the assurance that we will have their full understanding and support as promised in the RHP Steering Board meeting held in Paris on 1 December 2016. Accordingly, we will continue with our efforts to efficiently implement the programme in line with the agreed principles and timeframes, utilizing donor and own funds to this end.

We all have a major responsibility to the programme beneficiaries. Their futures greatly depend on our work and continued commitment to the RHP

Paris, 29 November 2017

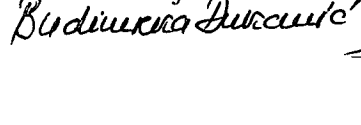
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Semaha Borovac



Montenegro

Budimirka Djukanovic



Republic of Croatia

Nikola Mazar



Republic of Serbia

Vladimir Cucic

