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EUROPSKA UNIJA PROGRAM OBNOVE ZA POVRATAK



PRESS RELEASE

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ASB signs subcontracts with the Serbian Democratic Forum and the Croatian Red Cross

The main aim of the EU-funded CARDS 2001 programme is continuation of a sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons (DPs) to be achieved through the reconstruction of housing units, technical social and economic infrastructure. However, the reconstruction of war-destroyed houses remains one of the main preconditions for return. Therefore, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Croatia mandated by the European Commission is reconstructing 1,000 housing units in Croatia under this CARDS 2001 programme.

Additionally, there is an increase need to support civil society in Croatia and to transfer skills and knowledge to local non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Therefore, ASB signed subcontracts with two local NGOs experienced in this field of activity, the "Serbian Democratic Forum" and the "Croatian Red Cross" for the reconstruction of up to 600 war-damaged housing units cat. 1-3. The signing ceremony took place on 24 January 2003 in the premises of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb.

Reconstruction of those houses will be carried out in Banovina and Kordun and Lika and Northern Dalmatia. Along with the reconstruction works, the two agencies are charged to produce surveys on the socio-demographic effects related to reconstruction and return.

Since 1996, ASB has implemented € 56 million worth of EU-funded projects in the Republic of Croatia, reconstructed more than 3,067 destroyed housing units and carried out numerous projects in the field of public, social and economic infrastructure as well as mine-clearance.

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