

13 July 2009

**SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE PROJECT:
„Support to IDPs, Refugees and Vulnerable Domicile Population in Serbia through
provision of Durable Housing Solutions and Economic Sustainability Measures,,**

A German non-governmental organisation Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) and the Commissariat for the Refugees of the Republic of Serbia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the municipalities of Gadžin Han, Surdulica, Medveđa, Kuršumljija and Blace and their respective Centres for Social Welfare in Serbia on 23 June 2009.

The Memorandum regulates the conditions on the joint implementation of the project „Support to IDPs, Refugees and vulnerable domicile population in Serbia through the provision of durable housing solutions and economic sustainability measures”, funded by the European Union through the IPA 2007 programme.

The Municipalities of Gadžin Han, Surdulica, Medveđa, Kuršumljija and Blace participate in the construction of the social housing units for refugees, IDPs and vulnerable, marginalised domicile population by providing the construction parcels with the infrastructure needed for the construction of the apartments units within the framework of „social housing in a protected environment“.

In the municipalities Kuršumljija and Blace, the apartment buildings will each have 12 units, and in Surdulica and Medveđa the buildings will have eight apartment units each, while in Gadžin Han the building will have four apartment units. In total 44 IDPs, refugee and vulnerable domicile families will get the opportunity to live in the equipped apartments, through the framework of „social housing in a protected environment“. The financial value of this project activity amounts to € 785,000 out of total project value of € 1.760.000. The implementation period started on 1 March 2009 and will be finished on 31 August 2010.

The Municipal Mayors from Blace, Medveđa, Kuršumljija and Gadžin Han as well as the Deputy Mayor from Surdulica and all respective Directors from the Centres for Social Welfare from the project municipalities signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the event held at the National Library 'Branko Miljkovic' in Gadzin Han.

Mr. Ivan Greginov, the Assistant Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia and Ms. Marzia Palotta, Programme Manager for Refugees and IDPs at the Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia also attended the event and stressed once more the importance of planned activities in order to provide durable solutions for IDPs and refugees in Serbia.

For further information, please contact the ASB office in Belgrade.



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