



21 March 2003

## 80 family houses reconstructed under the EU-funded CARDS programme in the region of Western Slavonia

The reconstruction of destroyed houses in the municipalities of Dragalić, Okučani, Đulovac, Brestovac and the towns of Pakrac and Lipik, financed by the European Union and implemented by the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), is another integral step in the ongoing European Union Programme for Reconstruction and Return (Europska unija program obnove za povratak - EUPOP). This programme is aimed at accelerating multiple-way return and reintegration, encouraging the reconciliation process and revitalising the regional economy in the Republic of Croatia.

This project is a part of the EUPOP agreement implemented in the framework of the CARDS 2001 programme. ASB finalised the reconstruction of 80 houses and handed over the keys to 80 returnee families. The completion of this project brings the total number of reconstructed housing units by ASB in Western Slavonia to 706. In addition, ASB started with the reconstruction of additional 35 housing units in the town of Daruvar and the municipalities of Sirač and Đulovac, while 76 housing units are under preparation. The priority of the EU reconstruction programme in the Republic of Croatia, apart from housing projects and economic assistance, is the repair of public infrastructure. Thus, all reconstructed houses will subsequently be reconnected to the water, sewage and electricity networks.

Since 1996, ASB has implemented € 67 million worth of EU-funded projects in 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.

***On this occasion, ASB invites all representatives of the media in Croatia to attend this event which will take place on Wednesday, 26 March 2003. All invitees will gather at 9:15 hrs in front of the municipality building in the town of Daruvar and then proceed to the projects' sites.***

For further information please contact:



This project is funded by  
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The European Union numbers 15 Member States: 15 different nations determined to shape their future closely together. Over period of enlargement of 40 years, they have, together, built a zone of peace, stability, progress and solidarity. The European Union is a model for overcoming conflict and promoting reconciliation through close co-operation to achieve common goals, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. But the EU is not focused on itself: its ambition is to share its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. The European Commission is the EU's executive body.