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ASB continues to support the return of refugees to Bosnia and the integration process into Serbia

With funds from the European Commission (EC), the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) recently started the implementation of the "Support to the return process of refugees to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the integration process into Serbia" Project which will be implemented in BiH and Serbia in co-operation with local partners: the Serbian Democratic Forum, Serbia (SDF) and the Association for Displaced Persons and Refugees, BiH (ADPR). The total value of this project is estimated at € 312,770.

The goal of this project is to support the repatriation of at least 600 Bosnian Serb families to BiH through direct legal counselling for the repossession of private property and socially-owned apartments and through local capacity building and interlinking of cross-border civil sector return structures and initiatives to facilitate social reintegration.

At the same time, ASB will actively assist the integration process for at least 400 refugee families throughout Serbia who have decided to remain in their host country through the economic and social upgrading of their capabilities, which would ensure employment opportunities and normal living conditions. Over the past few years, many integration projects have been carried out in Serbia but mainly focusing on durable housing solutions for those refugees who do not wish to return to their country of origin. Although many cases have been resolved by providing accommodation, there is still the need for more effective assistance which will ease the integration process of refugees into new communities because many are faced with difficulties in integrating into Serbian society due to the lack of social and economic stability. Therefore, under this new project, ASB is focusing its activities on the socio-economic integration of refugees into Serbian society which includes assistance in the start-up of private businesses and the provision of grants along with training.

Since 1991, ASB in BiH has implemented projects valued at over € 38.8 million and reconstructed 1,621 houses. Currently, ASB in BiH is finalising three EC-funded projects under the CARDS 2003 programme in 10 municipalities for the reconstruction of 467 houses, associated infrastructure, sustainability measures and local capacity building.

For further information please contact:



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Delegation of the European Commission
in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dubrovačka 6
71000 Sarajevo, BiH

Tel. + 387 33 254 700
Fax: + 387 33 666 037



Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund
Deutschland e.V.

This project is implemented by
the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)
in Bosnia and Herzegovina
funded by the European Commission

ASB Country Office
Aleja Bosne Srebrene 4
71 000 Sarajevo, BiH

Tel. + 387 33- 468 366
Fax + 387 33- 234 698
e-mail asb.sa@bih.net.ba
www.asb-see.org

The European Union numbers 25 Member States: 25 different nations determined to shape their future closely together. Over a 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.