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ASB DEVELOPS RURAL TOURISM IN THE BORDER AREA OF KNIN AND BOSANSKO GRAHOVO WITH FUNDS FROM THE EC

Under the CARDS 2004 programme, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Croatia has recently received funds from the European Commission to implement a project to develop rural tourism in the border area of the town of Knin in Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia and the town of Bosansko Grahovo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will be implemented in co-operation with the civil society organisation (CSO) "Hocu kuci", Knin, and the municipality of Bosansko Grahovo. The value of this project is € 159,335 of which € 141,967 is being provided by the European Commission (EC) and € 17,368 by ASB. The contract between the Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU) of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia, as a contracting authority, and ASB was signed on 27 June 2007.

The economic situation is very difficult in the municipalities of Knin and Bosansko Grahovo, which are facing high unemployment, migration to larger centres, a lack of industrial development, communal infrastructure and employment opportunities in spite of possessing attractive natural resources and cultural historical monuments. Therefore, the aim of this project is to develop rural tourism as a tool for the economic and social revitalisation of rural areas of the municipalities of Knin and Bosansko Grahovo, to improve the quality of life as well as to decrease the demographic downfall challenges in these rural areas. This project will additionally promote economic and social development in the wider area of Knin, foster greater cross-border co-operation with regions in BiH as well as enhance capacities of the local stakeholders to manage regional border development in co-operation with the partners across the border.

At least 20 rural households from the Knin region and Bosansko Grahovo, 10 unemployed women over the of age of 40, local associations and institutions in Bosansko Grahovo as well as local authorities from these areas will receive education, training and technical assistance for the development of rural tourism. Within this project, ASB will also assist its project partners and the local stakeholders in preparing promotional materials such as bilingual catalogues for rural tourism, tourist maps of the Knin and Bosansko Grahovo area and web sites promoting rural households and traditional handicrafts.

This project also provides the opportunity for ASB to remain active in the implementation of development projects in Croatia, building on its previously implemented development and social infrastructure projects under the previous EU-funded projects such as the Tourism Development Project in the municipality of Petrinja which was implemented in partnership with the Tourist Association of Petrinja and the Town of Petrinja.

Since 1996, ASB has implemented projects valued at € 82.1 million in Croatia with funding from the European Union and individual member states. ASB rebuilt more than 4,235 housing units for DPs and refugees and carried out numerous projects in the fields of mine-clearance, technical, social and economic infrastructure, sustainability measures and capacity building.

For further information please contact:



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