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ASB signs an agreement with SERDA for the implementation of infrastructure projects in Sarajevo region

The Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ASB) has recently signed an agreement for repairs of at least 20 small-scale technical infrastructure projects with the Sarajevo Regional Economic Development Agency (SERDA), which has been an ASB's local partner under the CARDS 2003 programme in the Sarajevo region. These projects will include repairs of electric and water networks, bridges, roads, city markets etc, which are currently being selected by SERDA and ASB. ASB will provide technical assistance, monitoring and supervision for these infrastructure projects, along with provision of training, technical and advisory assistance for SERDA and municipal staff involved in the projects. The total value of this agreement amounts to KM 500,000 to which ASB will contribute with KM 50,000. It is estimated that at least 200,000 KM will be additionally allocated to the project through direct contribution of project municipalities, co-founders of SERDA (there are 30 municipalities contributing to the joint fund of SERDA). This project will be finalised by the end of March 2007.

The main aim of this project is to create solid infrastructural environment in less developed municipalities in the Sarajevo region, which would lead to a faster and more equal economic development of these poorest municipalities in BiH, which is in line with the EC-funded Regional Development Initiative. By implementing these projects, SERDA and ASB will also actively promote a closer co-ordination between municipal authorities, civil sectors and international organisations.

The SERDA exists since May 2003. It was established with assistance of the European Union Regional Economic Development project (EU RED) in BiH with aim to create a framework for overall sustainable economic development of BiH through an integrated regional approach. EU RED provides technical assistance and support to SERDA along with other regional development agencies in developing their local communities. SERDA's goal is to generate and accelerate economic and overall development of the Sarajevo Economic Region.

Currently ASB in BiH is in the process of finalising the EU-funded project under the CARDS 2003 Integrated Return Programme valued at € 5.25 million which includes three different projects: IRP-1-SA (Municipalities of Centar, Novo Sarajevo and Novi Grad), IRP-2-SA (Municipalities of Goražde, Stari Grad, Ilidža and Visoko) and IRP-4-NW (Municipalities of Bihać, Prijedor and Sanski Most). Under this programme, ASB will have reconstructed 396 houses with associated technical infrastructure, created 158 new jobs and 157 livelihood opportunities along with capacity building of local authorities and NGOs.

For further information please contact:



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