



NEWSLETTER

24 October 2003

Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia¹

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This newsletter is edited by the APRODEV Coordinator for CEE, Francesca Vencato. On behalf of Aprodev's member agencies she heads the Aprodev program with partners in the Balkans, CEE and Central Asia to foster their networking capacity and ability to access EU funds while promoting their involvement in advocacy and lobby activities. The newsletter is issued twice a month. For further information on APRODEV and its Working Group on Central and Eastern Europe, please refer to webpage www.aprodev.net

APRODEV

The APRODEV working group

The APRODEV working group on CEE met in Brussels on November 9-10. The Capacity Building Programme was discussed. The document will be finalised and sent to partners. The Co-ordinator will organise visits to the regions in order to discuss the programme with the partners. Meetings with INTRAC and US German Marshall Fund are taking place during November so to assess the possibility of the participation of both to the Capacity Building Program. The minutes of the working group will be soon circulated.

REFORMS AND CAMPAIGNS

European Council; Brussels, 16-17 October 2003

Heads of state and government of the acceding states and candidate countries attended the European Council meeting in Brussels on October 16-17. The summit discussed the InterGovernmental Conference preparing the new EU Treaty, relaunching the European economy, strengthening freedom, security and justice, and external relations. The European Council welcomed the progress on the Wider Europe/New Neighborhood Initiative, and urged further work to ensure "a comprehensive, balanced and proportionate approach, including a financial instrument, responding to the needs to promote cross-border and regional/transnational co-operation on the external borders of the enlarged Union." It also endorsed the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan for 2004-2006, and underlined that "the Northern Dimension will assume enhanced importance in the context of EU enlargement and will have an important contribution to make in carrying forward the Union's new neighborhood policy in the entire region. "

For the Northern Dimension second Action Plan (2004-2006):

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/north_dim/ndap/ap2.pdf

For the Wider Europe/New Neighborhood Initiative: http://eurojournal.org/files/WE_critique_st12628en03.pdf

EU Development Co-operation

The European Commission recently adopted a number of poverty-reduction measures, totalling EUR 365 million divided over five African countries. Funding will be provided through central budget support in Tanzania (EUR 114 million) and Niger (EUR 90 million), and to target specific development areas in Madagascar (EUR 90 million), Chad (EUR 50 million), and Namibia (EUR 21 million). The Commission has also approved funding of EUR 38.761 million for cooperation and external aid operations in Nicaragua (EUR 10.661 million), Mexico (EUR 12 million), Argentina (EUR 6.6 million), Brazil (EUR 8 million) and for Latin America as a whole (EUR 1.5 million). With reference to Afghanistan, the Commission has proposed EUR 79.5 million for a Fourth Reconstruction programme to enhance the living conditions of the local population.

Palermo and the future of the B7-6000

The 'Associazione delle ONG Italiane' (Platform of Italian NGOs) in collaboration with the Italian EU Presidency organized a conference on the Future of Co-financing which took place in Palermo, Italy, from the 26th to the 28th of November 2003. The conference represented an important moment of discussion over the future cooperation between

NGDOs and the European Commission under the budget line B7-6000. CONCORD and TRIALOG members, other European NGOs representatives participated to the conference together with EU representatives and among others some members of the national ministries of foreign affairs. APRODEV participated to the conference and contributed to bring up the issue of enlargement in the consideration of the future redefinition of the B7-6000.

For further documents and more detailed information, please contact: k.sohet@aprodev.net and f.vencato@aprodev.net

Romania closes another chapter in its accession negotiations

Romania closed the twentieth chapter in its accession negotiations last week, bringing it almost up to the two-thirds point in the series of 31 chapters the negotiations are broken down into. At a meeting in Brussels with Romania's negotiator, EU ambassadors agreed that Romania had made sufficient progress in the control of public money and EU funds to provisionally close the chapter on financial control. The decision now requires confirmation at ministerial level.

Bulgaria ready to meet EU rules on justice and home affairs

The protracted negotiations between the EU and Bulgaria on justice and home affairs were successfully concluded in Brussels last week. Bulgaria's chief negotiator, Meglena Kuneva, reached agreement at a meeting with COREPER, the 15 member states' ambassadors to the EU. The deal, under which Bulgaria has taken on commitments to fulfill the entire EU acquis in this area before its accession, still has to be formally endorsed at ministerial level. The justice and home affairs chapter covers sensitive areas including police, judiciary, border management, visa and asylum arrangements, and combating illegal migration, drugs trafficking, money laundering, and organized crime. The accession negotiations did not cover transitional periods - none are allowed, and none have been sought. Instead they focused on ways to ensure that administrative capacity will be up to EU standards by the date of accession. The discussions have also covered preparations for introduction of the Schengen arrangements, part of which leads eventually to abolition of controls at the EU's internal borders. As for the other future member states, Bulgaria will not accede to the Schengen area as soon as it joins the Union, but it is required to bring in many of the Schengen provisions before accession. The internal borders with Bulgaria would only be lifted after the other members of the Schengen area are confident that the external border is sufficiently well managed to allow this.

\$18.4 million for new Bosnian war crimes court

The United States and 29 other countries pledged \$18.4 million on Thursday to create a new war crimes court in Bosnia that will lighten the load at the U.N. tribunal in the Netherlands.

The United States - which also is the largest funder of the war crimes tribunal for Yugoslavia in The Hague - will give \$11 million to support the new War Crimes Chamber. It will operate within Bosnia's state court system and prosecute lower-level offenders from the 1992-1995 Bosnian War.

Macedonia to apply for EU membership?

The government in Skopje is planning to apply for EU membership as soon as the mandate of the EU military mission to Macedonia ends on 15 December, RFE/RL's

Macedonian broadcasters reported on 20 October. Deputy Prime Minister Radmila Sekerinska noted candidates' opportunities to benefit from EU structural funds. Sekerinska said the application might be filed as soon as parliament has passed planned administrative reforms. Former Foreign Minister Slobodan Casule of the opposition Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (VMRO-DPMNE) said his party supports the application in general but doubts the time is right for such a move. Casule said no substantial political or economic progress has been made, making the application a mere political gesture.

Brussels urges Moscow for new EU Member States

The European Commission has warned Russia that relations between Moscow and Brussels could deteriorate if that country does not automatically apply its partnership and co-operation agreement with the EU to new member states, LETA reported on 29 October, citing an RFE/RL report. European Commission foreign press secretary Diego Ojega said the EU's position will be explained at an EU-Russia meeting to be held in Moscow ahead of the EU-Russia Summit in Rome on 6 November.

European Union leaders should use The October 7 summit with Ukraine to secure concrete human rights commitments from the Ukrainian government, said Human Rights Watch

The October 7 summit, to be held in Yalta, marks the single most important meeting of the year between the European Union and Ukraine. Human Rights Watch called on EU leaders to use the summit to seek specific improvements in Ukraine's human rights record, particularly in the areas of eliminating torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, guaranteeing freedom of expression, and addressing discrimination against women in the labor force. As part of its "Wider Europe" strategy, the European Union is currently working on a new framework for relations with its eastern and southern neighbors, including Ukraine-countries that it defines as "not currently having a perspective of membership but who will soon find themselves sharing a border with the Union." Individualized "Action Plans" for each country will form a key component of this process, and include political and economic benchmarks by which to judge progress. Human Rights Watch called on EU leaders to advance the following specific benchmarks as part of their engagement with Ukraine: - To address torture and prison conditions; - To address violations of media freedom; - To address discrimination against women in the labor force.

For HRW reports: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/ukraine0303/>
<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/ukraine0803/>

Application letter against Hungary with the European Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg

On 26 September 2003, the European Roma Rights Center (ERRC), together with the Legal Defense Bureau for National and Ethnic Minorities (NEKI), filed a pre-application letter against Hungary with the European Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg. The submission concerns racially-motivated threats and discrimination in access to housing, perpetrated by the local government officials and the non-Romani residents of Gyure, and asserts violations of Article 3 (freedom from inhuman and/or degrading treatment), Article 8 (right to family and private life), Article 1 of Protocol 1 (right to peaceful enjoyment of ones possessions), Article 13 (right to an effective domestic remedy) and Article 14 (right to non-discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

For further details on ERRC action in the case, please contact Ms. Ioana Banu, staff attorney at the European Roma Rights Center, at: ioana@errc.org. Further information on the human rights situation of Roma is available on the ERRC internet web site at: www.errc.org

EVENTS

Conference 'Gender Assessment of the Impact of EU Accession on Women and the Labour Market in Central and Eastern Europe which will be held in Warsaw on November 7-8, 2003

The conference is organized by KARAT. The goal of the event is the launch of four national studies of the impact of EU accession on women and the labour market in Central and Eastern Europe for Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. The conference will also develop an understanding of the opportunities emerging from EU accession process in order to advance the social and economic rights of women. It will gather activists, policy and decision makers, as well as experts from CEE/CIS and EU.

For more info: Venue of the conference: Hotel GromadaPl. Powstancow Warszawy 200-030 Warszawa Deadline for registration form: 29th of October. For more information about the conference, please contact to Malgorzata Tomaszewska from Karat Secretariat: at karat@zigzag.pl. Please find enclosed the registration form. The deadline to register is October 29, 2003. Karat Secretariat KARAT SECRETARIATul. Karmelicka16 m.13 00-163 Warsaw, Poland Tel/Fax: (48 22) 636 83 07; www.karat.org

19-21 Nov. Warsaw, Poland Extending the benefits of EU enlargement borders

The aim of the forum is to promote the Central European Initiative strategy of regional co-operation, European integration, economic transition and assistance to the least advanced member countries

For more info please contact : cei.ebrd@cei-es.org
http://www.ceinet.org/view/04/04_00.htm

EUROPE FUNDING

PL2002/000-580.06.01.04 Social and labour market integration of the risk groups for non profit legal entities

Publication reference: EuropeAid/117553/M/G/PL - Polish Agency for Enterprise Development is seeking proposals of the projects aimed at providing the persons threatened with social exclusion with the chances for their social and labour market integration through, inter alia, psychological guidance, education and labour market

activation, located in Poland with financial assistance from the PHARE ESC 2002 programme of the European Communities.

The deadlines for submission of proposals are: 05/01/2004, 15/03/2004, 17/05/2004, 12/07/2004, 13/09/2004.

The full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation at Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, Aleje Jerozolimskie 125/127, 02-017 Warszawa and on the following internet site: www.parp.gov.pl

Corrigendum No. 1

Reference to the Call for Proposals Dossier "CARDS 2003 Integrated Return Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina"

Publication reference: EUROPEAID/117165/C/G/BA

Deadline: 15th January 2004

For further information: <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

CALLS FOR PAPERS/PARTICIPATION

Full Scholarships available for Roma

The Central European University (CEU), with the financial support of the Ford Foundation, is offering an "Access" Course for 16 young promising Roma in Budapest. Full scholarships are awarded, covering travel, tuition, housing, and meals.

Who should apply: Roma in Central and Eastern Europe (excluding former Soviet Union) who have: * their first university degree in any field * interest in post-graduate university education * basic English language skills * desire to be working in a multicultural environment

Application: Application must include: 1. Completed Application Form (can be obtained from sep@ceu.hu) 2. CV, including academic background, work experience if any, and involvement in Roma related issues in your country if any. English is preferred, but the CV may be written in local language; 3. One Reference Letter from a recognized Roma organization 4. Letter of Intent, stating why you would like to participate in this program. This letter may be written in local language, although English is preferred. 5. Copies of all University Documents (diploma and/or document showing the grades).

Send all information to: CEUSEP/"Ford"Nador u. 9H-1051 Budapest Hungary or: sep@ceu.hu **The deadline for posting applications is November 28th, 2003.** Late applications may be considered on a case-to-case basis. Interviews will take place locally in mid-December.

Contact: Oana Uiorean Brouwersweg 100 AR - 513 6216 EG Maastricht The Netherlands Tel.: +31(0)629182677

New Seminar in Migration and Ethnic studies, Netherlands, 13 June-14 October 2004

The Summer Institute on International Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Cities at the International School for Humanities and Social Science in Amsterdam is a three-week summer programme, which seeks to explore the topical features of international

migration and the incorporation of immigrants in the cities and states of destination. The seminar will take place in Amsterdam between June 13th - July 2nd, 2004. Classes are from Monday through Thursday. All classes are in English.

The themes of the seminar will be approached in an international comparative way, building on theoretical and empirical contributions of sociologists, political scientists, anthropologists, geographers, economists, philosophers and historians. The Institute is open to advanced undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students as well as professionals working in a field related to the topic of the Summer Institute.

The Summer Institute consists of two tracks (Track 1 and Track 2). Morning courses are for all students. In the afternoon of week 2 and 3 Track 1 students attend the thematic afternoon courses and Track 2 students attend a research seminar. In the last week all students are again convened in the afternoon closing sessions.

The regular tuition is EUR 2200. The tuition for students who wish to receive course credit is EUR 2700. Unfortunately the Summer Institute is not capable of offering scholarships.

To download an application, go to <http://www.ishss.uva.nl/SIM/appliek.htm>
Contact: Amy Abdou, Summer Institute on International Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Cities, ISHSS, P.O. Box 26, 1000 AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Fax: 31.20.525.3778 - Email: sim-ishss@uva.nl Visit the website at <http://www.ishss.uva.nl/SIM/>

TRAINING

The International Training Centre (ITC) of the International Labour Organization offers a Gender Mainstreaming Equality in the World of Work online course

The course started in the first week of November. Participants are expected to read the module material, participate in the online forum and submit one assignment for each module. Experts tutors will be available to answer questions and help participants with their assignments and discuss issues on the forum. The ITC is welcoming applications by e-mail (gender@itcilo.it). Please note candidate's CVs shall be sent as attachments. There might be scholarships available depending on candidate's nationality. Requirements to participate in the course are the following: -proven interest/involvement in issues relating to Gender and the world of work-computer/internet literacy-good level of English.

For further information on the content: <http://learning.itcilo.it/gender/gms/>
Cross-posted from: Maria Carolina Marques Ferracini Gender Co-ordination Unit Intern
Johanne Lortie Gender Co-ordination Unit International Training Centre International Labour
Organization Tel: +(39) 011 693 6527Fax: +(39) 011 693 6350www.itcilo.it

SOMETHING TO READ

Renewal of the Minority Web service

Minority web provides up to date news and views on minority policies in Georgia, Caucasus.

Contact: Varlam Tchkuaseli, Manager, Minority web - Address: #101, Iv. Javakhishvili St. - Tbilisi 0164, Georgia; E-mail: minority@europe.com

The UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre announces the publication of: Drafting Gender-Aware Legislation: How to promote and protect gender equality in Central and Eastern Europe and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

Printed copies of this publication are already pouched to UNDP Country offices in the region, so you may contact Information Officers in your respective countries.

For the online publication: <http://gender.undp.sk> In case you need additional copies, please contact **Ms. Milada Sladkova**, Programme assistant of the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre, at Milada.Sladkova@undp.org.

Soon, the Russian version of the handbook will be available at the same URL.

Dono Abdurazakova, Gender Adviser UNDP RBEC Regional Support Centre 35 Grosslingova St., 811 09 Bratislava Slovak Republic Telephone: 421 2 59337 111/314 Fax: 421 2 59337 450

Gender Quality and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

This World Bank Gender and Development Group paper examines the linkages between gender equality and the rest of the MDGs and argues that gender equality is not only a goal in itself but also an essential step for combating poverty and HIV/AIDS, and for promoting education and environmental stability. The paper provides examples of how gender equality can be integrated into MDG policies and interventions.

To download the paper please go to: <http://www.worldbank.org/gender/resources/gendermdg.pdf>