



Community Revitalization through Democratic Action **CRDA Program in Eastern and Southern Serbia**

Media report *April 2004*

- *TV Vranje, April 1, 2004*

USAID AND CHF IMPROVING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IN BUJANOVAC
USAID and CHF continue to promote economic development in local communities through CRDA program. Better conditions for starting and improving businesses in Bujanovac.

On March 31 in Bujanovac CHF representatives held workshop regarding establishment of Enabling Economic Environment working group for Bujanovac. Goal of this CHF economic program is to create good conditions for economic development at the level of local community and to increase employment of the inhabitants. Workshop was attended by Nagip Arifi, President of Bujanovac Municipality, Tim Madigan, Program Director of CHF International/Srbija, and representatives of private companies, public companies as well as CHF CRDA communities from Bujanovac. Members of Bujanovac EEE Group were selected during this workshop. Similar working groups were founded in Aleksinac, Lebane, Vlasotince, Pirot, Sokobanja, Bor, Medvedja, Presevo, Zajecar, Knjazevac, Merosina, Babusnica and Bojnik.

Similar information appeared in:

- *RTV Fokus, April 1, 2004;*
- *TV Vranje, April 1, 2004;*
- *Radio Ema (Bujanovac), April 1, 2004;*
- *Radio Toni (Bujanovac), April 1, 2004;*
- *Radio Bujanovac, April 1, 2004;*
- *Radio Vranje, April 1, 2004;*
- *RTV Studio M (Vranje), April 1, 2004;*
- *RTV Presevo, April 1, 2004.*

- *Nasa rec, newspaper from Leskovac, April 2, 2004*

Head of Department of Radiology

MAMMOGRAPHY APPARATUS IS STILL USED EXPERIMENTALLY

Thanks to international donations, Leskovac Medical Center got a mammography apparatus for early detection of breast cancer. The old mammography broke down in 1998 and since then, women were examined in Pirot or Nis, being the closest centers having such apparatuses.

Head of Department of Radiology Dr Miodrag Jankovic said the apparatus worth about 40,000 euros had been obtained thanks to US non-governmental organization CHF. " This apparatus is of extreme value for us. It became operational two weeks ago, but we are still using it experimentally. We had planned to celebrate the beginning of its work but the latest

events in Kosovo and Metohija put us off doing so. So far, we have had one or two patients a day”.

Dr Jankovic said medical appointments were fixed in advance and added that the establishment of a breast sub-department within the surgical department was in progress. “Consequently, women from this district could address us directly without having a doctor’s referral. Either a surgeon or gynecologist will decide whether a mammography examination is needed or not. We are open to all those who are willing to pay commercial price for the examination. Recently, a private hospital asked us to take care of their patients, regarding radiology, laboratory and pathology, under commercial price. Women from Jablanica district will be paying a minimal price for examinations, only participation fee, while women from other districts will be paying the regular price to be determined by the Administrative Board”.

Practically, examinations are already carried out. It is just that the amount of participation fee and some details of commercial price have to be established. Dr Jankovic said that doctors of the department of radiology had been earlier educated to handle the mammography, in the frame of four-year specialization studies. “One of my colleagues passed training related to screening mammography that has lately become very interesting. All modern world countries accentuate prevention and we therefore will carry our screening mammography in the frame of which we plan to examine between 4,000 and 5,000 women a year. Professor Sladjana Filipovic, an oncologist from Nis, is the leader of this campaign and she enjoys full support from CHF”.

Lj. Stojanovic

Similar information appeared in:

- *TV Leskovac, April 2, 2004;*
- *Radio Leskovac, April 2, 2004;*
- *TV Studio MT, April 2, 2004;*
- *KITV, April 2, 2004.*

- *Blic Daily, April 2, 2004*

STREET CLEANERS "FREED" BRIDGE NEAR POPOVAC

Street cleaners of Nis "Mediana" collected 250 cubic meters of garbage from an illegal dump in the vicinity of the bridge in Popovac near Nis and disposed it to the town dump, thereby starting a wide action of spring cleaning of the town and its surroundings.

This is one of the largest illegal dumps where garbage piled up to hinder access to the bridge. Four utility trucks of 7 cubic meters capacity were collecting garbage all the day and they will continue doing so in the next few days.

Director of Public Utility Company Dragan Stefanovic said a lot of illegal dumps were located in the outskirts of Nis and added that the Company was collecting garbage only from urban local communities, not from 63 rural communities.

"We are covering 33 out of 96 local communities in the area of Nis. Lack of asphalt roads to some villages and lack of marks on houses practically disable regular garbage collection. The problem could be solved through the establishment of a communal company that would be



only in charge of cleaning and as such, would cover the area of Nis town and surrounding villages", explained Stefanovic.

Some villages launched an initiative and thus solved the problem of hygiene in their environment. So "Mediana" started regular garbage collection from Gabrovac, whereas in Gornji Komren, the problem was solved in cooperation with CHF.

B.J.

- *Srpski venac, newspaper from Bujanovac, April 2, 2004*
CHF INVESTED 265 MILLION DINARS

Head of CHF Office in Vranje Joseph Baaklini addressed a meeting by saying as follows: "Acceleration of sustainable economic development is the cornerstone of poverty reduction. We are witnesses, unfortunately, that only at the end of 2003 we managed to reach the level of GDP from 1996, measured in permanent prices. This is reality that must be changed, providing that we want to reduce poverty in national frames. Not only that the creators of macroeconomic policy must preserve stability in fiscal and monetary spheres, but they also must strengthen economic competition to attract investments and increase productivity.

Being a partner in the realization of such a defined task, CHF, with financial support from USAID, tried to give its contribution to the process of poverty reduction in the south of Serbia through sustainable economic development. Strategy set up by CHF is that the implementation of CRDA program has to have positive impacts on each conventional development determinant.

Since 2001 up to date, CHF with support from USAID has invested 187,057,200 Dinars in infrastructure in Pcinja District, including reconstruction of roads and bridges, reconstruction of power supply system, installation of telephones, reconstruction of water supply system and other. By doing so, we wanted to create all infrastructure preconditions for economic activities and we also wanted to improve quality and conditions of living. Through these infrastructure projects, we paid out 4040 average incomes for workers of companies carrying out infrastructure works.

The next conventional factor of economic development is the factor of population. Positive impact of our program on population, being the factor of economic development, is seen in education including various trainings, workshops and educational excursions. What we are particularly proud of is our work with communities from rural areas where we tried to raise a level of democratic awareness through public participation. Through such projects, we established computer labs, restored and furnished community centers, trained our fellow citizens to cooperate with NGOs and representatives of authorities at all levels. All our activities were imbued with the principle of multi-ethnicity.

Our program also includes a category of population that, roughly speaking, represents a fiscal expense. As far as displaced persons and refugees are concerned, we did our best to make it possible for them to generate income themselves through greenhouse production.

The program "Women's Reproductive Health" is aimed at raising a level of health of population through prevention and early detection of specific diseases. Since 2001 to date, CHF with support from USAID has invested 39,937,800 Dinars in civic participation projects.



The next conventional development determinant is preservation of an environmental balance. Through environmental part of CRDA program, funds were invested in ecological camps, systems for purification of wastewaters, purchase of garbage containers, cleaning of riverbeds etc. Since 2001 to date, CHF has invested 5,012,000 Dinars in environmental projects.

Apart from social (civic participation and infrastructure programs) and economic dimension, CHF's program *Community Revitalization through Democratic Action* has a purely economic aspect too – income generation in the south of Serbia. In the frame of this part of the program, CHF, with financial support from USAID, implements four types of subprojects in Peinja District.

The first one among them is “Program of public works” the idea of which is to provide people in need with provisional sources of income, promote their personal dignity and improves their environment. So far, 21 projects of this type have been implemented.

The second part is “Kick start program” that includes one-off assistance to encourage creative and entrepreneurial potentials of individuals or smaller groups in rural local communities. So far, more than 20 kick start programs have been implemented. The number of direct beneficiaries amounted to 250.

The key aspect of the strategy of economic support is the “Program of enabling economic environment” (EEE) the aim of which is to help local communities, town assemblies, companies, citizens and citizens' groups of focus on reaching common development goals. EEE program refers to the process of planning of future investments, identification of the key development resources and participation in eventual reforms of the state institutions.

So far, there has been formed one working group in Presevo municipality. Planned is establishment of working groups in each municipality of Peinja District.

Last but not least part of an income generation program in the south of Serbia is *Program of Development of Sustainable Business*. This program offers direct support for development of private sector for the creation of long-term job opportunities and income of citizens. By disbursing grants for purchasing new equipment, we are trying to increase a technological level of the installed capacities to increase productivity and make private sector competitive in Peinja District.

So far, CHF, with financial support from USAID, has invested 36,368,472 Dinars in income generation projects in south of Serbia.

"If we try to summarize activities of CHF in the south of Serbia in the last three years, we will see that thanks to financial support from USAID, we managed to donate 265,075,352 Dinars. We think that we have significantly contributed to poverty reduction in these areas, but it is still insufficient. I want that we join forces with NGOs and representatives of authorities to synchronize our activities and be more efficient in combating poverty in these areas", concluded Baaklini.



- *Slobodna rec, newspaper from Vranje, April 2, 2004*

**Goran Stamenkovic – a mushroom grower from Zbevac
PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF**

In 2001, the news that a mother accidentally poisoned her only son with mushrooms was spreading around Serbia. At that time, residents of Zbevac could not believe that their neighbor Goran Stamenkovic could continue producing edible mushrooms. However, Goran who is a fighter by nature did not allow himself to be discouraged. On the contrary, he got down to producing mushrooms. A cellar in which he was producing mushrooms was so disinfected that no bacteria, that might be fatal for mushrooms, could survive. In such a disinfected cellar, he brought new equipment.

Just when he did so, he brought in bags with compost that he covered with special kind of soil (mixture of soil, sand and silt) bought in Kovin. Temperature in the cellar did not exceed 25 degrees. He maintained such temperature in the cellar until mushrooms started to grow. Then, he encountered with an insurmountable problem – sale. As he himself was to wrestle with the problem, he resorted to a trick and miraculously managed to reduce temperature to slow down growing of young mushrooms. Then, he got down to “chasing after” customers.

As he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he soon found customers among workers of Bujanovac kindergarten and Medical Center and thus survived the most difficult year. Today, he has a big market and works more to improve quality of his products. He spares no efforts and money and he said he would not give up until he increased production of mushrooms from 210 to 1,000 bags. Goran said his wish would become true if CHF would approve of his project for mushroom

G.N.

- *Srpski venac, newspaper from Bujanovac, April 3, 2004*

ILIC COMMERCE

50 workers will get a job in the first meat processing company Ilic Commerce. Primary school "Branko Radicevic" in Bujanovac will get meat products worth 400,000 for 900 students

In the frame of economic part of CRDA program, USAID and CHF will support the first meat processing company in the south of Serbia “Ilic Commerce”, which will employ 50 people and engage a large number of cooperates in providing fresh meat. In 2002, “Ilic Commerce” got a very favorable loan from the Republican Fund for development and construction of facilities and purchase of machines. In 2003, CHF and USAID donated 400,000 Dinars to *Ilic Commerce* for the purchase of a transformer that enables power supply of machines. In return, *Ilic Commerce* will be providing primary school “Branko Radicevic” in Bujanovac with meat products worth 400,000 Dinars.

CHF is the US NGO that has been implementing its programs in the south of Serbia since March 2001. CHF is devoted to development of local economy, improvement of infrastructure, protection of the environment, encouragement of civic participation, reproductive health protection and family planning. So far, CHF and USAID have implemented 554 CRDA projects in 98 communities in Eastern and Southern Serbia. CRDA program lasts for five years.



- *AIM – Alternative Information Network, April 4, 2004*

AGRICULTURE IS SALVATION

Long lasting political crisis in the south of Serbia has been permanently fueled with economic-social problems, unemployment and brain drain. Just when foreigners invested money, things are getting better.

During the last 12 years, about 80% of population in the municipalities of Peinja District subsisted on agriculture. Dilapidated mechanization, lack of investments in improving production, as well as fragmentary plots, hindered agriculture from becoming a source of income for families dealing with agriculture. To boost economic development and development of agricultural production in the south of Serbia, US development organization CHF, together with UNDP and GOAL, funded establishment of agricultural cooperatives in six villages in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipalities. One of the founded is a cooperative “Zunica” in the village of Zujince in Presevo municipality that collects 22 local agricultural producers. Each member “brought in” the cooperative a hectare of land so that in addition to 7 hectares that they rented, the cooperative “Zunica” has 29 hectares of cultivated land at its disposal. This cooperative deals mostly with production and processing of pumpkin’s seed and production of paprika, tomato, corn and wheat, to a lesser extent.

“All what we produce, we sell in Presevo, Bujanovac and Kosovo. Our cooperative “Zunica” has recently exhibited the total of 13 products at the agricultural fair in Bujanovac. Thanks to the cooperative and support from CHF and USAID, we managed to reduce production costs, thereby becoming more competitive”, said Director Mustafa Besim.

Not only do the members of the cooperative intend to deal with production, but they also intend to deal with packing of seeds and grained products. The cooperative is about to purchase new machines.

“Once we purchase a new packing machine, we will employ yet four people. Agriculture in our region is a secure job: soil is very good, there is no problem with water and there is a great market for these products. In Kosovo, only paprika from Zujince is in demand. Sometimes, other paprika producers falsely presents themselves as being from Zujince in order to easier sell their goods”, said Besim who, until now, was not officially employed and was not paid health and social insurance for his family and himself. As he himself said, public companies had collapsed and consequently, there have been no employment opportunities there. “That is why this project is a big thing for us and our families. 22 people are now paying contributions, pension and health insurance, thereby providing a possibility for better pensions. I therefore think that it is very good that CHF and USAID fund development of local agriculture and economy. The more people employed, the better situation for all”, said Besim.

Most of people from the cooperative did not have agricultural machines. Many of them were planting manually or were paying a rental fee for machines. In October 2003, they obtained from CHF sowing machines, fertilizing machines, machines for planting paprika and tobacco, as well as a mill and spraying machines for corns. The cooperative rents machines to other agricultural workers in the village. By doing so, it earned profit of 600 euros in three months.

To boost development of agriculture, CHF funded the purchase and planting of about 24,000 seedling of the best sort of pears, apples and plums. New seedlings were planted in the land

Ljutice Bogdana 1a/III, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel/Fax: +381 11 3672 597, e-mail: office@chfserbia.org web site: www.chfserbia.org

of size of 42 hectares, in Trgoviste and Donji Stajevac. Before planting, Vranje Institute of Agriculture examined soil of each household and selected sorts of seedlings accordingly. In addition to that, regular supervision of fruit seedlings, as well as education of interested parties, have been carried out. This project is the first investment in development of fruit growing in this region. The aim of the project is to encourage development of fruit growing and provide extra income to residents of Trgoviste and Donji Stajevac. So far, USAID and CHF have invested 45,000 USD in development of fruit growing in Trgoviste and Donji Stajevac. Market for plums, peers and apples from Trgoviste and Donji Stajevac is provided. Plums will be sold in Croatia under very favorable price of 13 dinars per kg, while apples and peers are meant for local market and fruit processing.

- ***Politika Daily, April 4, 2004***

Predgar Salinger, Director of Leskovac Health care Center gave an interview to Politika Daily about investments that Leskovac Town, Health care center in Leskovac and U.S. NGO CHF International invested in mammography apparatus.

"Apparatus has already been used and women from Jablanica Region will no longer need to travel to Pirot or Nis for early breast cancer examinations..."

- ***Vlasina, newspaper from Vlasotince, April 5, 2004***

LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN VLASOTINCE

Zivan Susulic, Vlasotince Mayor speaks about situation in Vlasotince municipality. He says that each year Vlasotince municipality completes one high-priority project. In the 2003 it was completion of Waste water System in Vlasotince community supported by USAID and CHF, and in 2004 it would be water supply system important for several villages in Vlasotince and Leskovac municipalities. This project has been supported by USAID and CHF as well...

- ***Srpski venac, newspaper from Bujanovac, April 6, 2004***

CHF ANNOUNCES PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Belgrade – In the building of Bujanovac Town assembly, CHF representatives delivered a workshop on the occasion of the establishment of a working group for enhancing economic environment in Bujanovac.

The workshop was attended by Bujanovac Mayor, Nagip Arifi, Program Director of CHF International Serbia, Tim Madigan, private entrepreneurs from Bujanovac, representatives of public companies from Bujanovac and representatives of local communities of Bujanovac in which CHF implements CRDA program. Elected were members of Bujanovac working group for enhancing economic environment. Similar working groups were already formed in Aleksinac, Lebane, Vlasotince, Pirot, Sokobanja, Bor, Medvedja, Presevo, Zajecar, Knjazevac, Merosina, Babusnica and Bojnik.



Aim of the program

The aim of this economic program is to create favorable conditions for economic development at the level of the local community and thus increase employment opportunities and generate income in communities in Bujanovac and other towns in Eastern and Southern Serbia.

Enhancing of economic environment is just one among numerous activities of USAID and CHF in Serbia, which in the frame of CRDA program, boost economic development in local communities. CHF recently started a big grants program (maximum of 25,000 USD) for generation or expansion of businesses.

Likewise, in the frame of its small grants program, CHF supported more 350 individuals who applied with good economic projects for starting up or developing business. Apart from these activities, CHF and USAID invested 570,000 USD into public works in CRDA communities, thereby providing short-term employment for more than 2,000 people.

- *Danas Daily, April 7, 2004*

Conference "Influence of Corridor X on economic development of local communities" CHANCE FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Nis – "Municipalities along the corridor might profit a lot from projects accompanying construction of the corridor. In Nis, we still do not have a concrete project for the corridor X. Nis and other local self-governments are yet to come up with their development projects," stated yesterday Director of Development Sector of Construction Directorate of Serbia, Marko Markovic.

Markovic told a conference *Influence of the Corridor X on economic development of local communities* that the Corridor X was a chance for development of small and medium enterprises in municipalities located along the Corridor. He went on to say that the construction of a border crossing near Presevo towards Macedonia and a highway from Nis to Bulgaria was of extreme importance for Nis.

The conference devoted to the construction of the Corridor X was held in Nis in organization of the international development organization CHF International.

Program Director of CHF International in Serbia, Tim Madigan said the municipalities along the Corridor should unite and together profit from the Corridor as much as possible.

CHF set up working groups for enhancing economic environment in 10 towns of Southern Serbia and their representatives also attended the conference. In the previous two years, US governmental organizations USAID and CHF implemented more than 550 projects and invested more than 13 million USD in 98 communities in Southern and Eastern Serbia, in the frame of the program Community Revitalization through Democratic Action (CRDA).

The Corridor X 2,360 km in length, of which 800 km runs through Serbia, connects Salzburg and Thessalonica. Upon completion of the construction, daily traffic is expected to increase by 3 or 4 times. It will open new possibilities for development of economy in Southern Serbia and at the same time, it will boost influx of capital.

Z.M.

- *Pregled Daily, April 7, 2004*

Influence of Corridor X on economic development of local communities TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY

A thematic conference *Influence of Corridor X on economic development of local communities* was held yesterday in Nis in organization of the international development organization CHF. The Corridor X 2,360 km in length, of which 800 km runs through Serbia, connects Salzburg and Thessalonica.

The aims of the conference are to provide more information for citizens living in municipalities along the Corridor and make them aware of possibilities for development of the given municipalities. Director of Development Sector of Construction Directorate of Serbia, Marko Markovic told the conference that the "Corridor X was a great chance for development of small and medium enterprises.

Municipalities located along the Corridor might see their chance for development in projects accompanying the construction of the Corridor. The Directorate does not have a concrete project of the whole corridor, but it expects local self-governments to submit their respective development project proposals. Construction of a Presevo border crossing towards Macedonia and a highway from Nis to Bulgaria is of extreme importance for Nis itself."

In the last two years, CHF in cooperation with the USAID, implemented more than 550 projects and invested more than 13 million USD in somewhat 100 local communities in Southern and Eastern Serbia. Program Director of CHF International in Serbia, Tim Madigan said the municipalities along the Corridor should unite and together profit from the Corridor as much as possible.

Similar information appeared in:

- *Glas javnosti Daily, April 7, 2004;*
- *Mreza, newspaper for NGOs in Serbia, April 2004.*

- *Politika Daily, April 8, 2004*

Sijarinska banja

REFURBISHMENT OF THE SOURCES

Rehabilitation Center *Gejzir* in Sijarinska banja and the US development organization CHF will soon start implementation of yet another joint project in these areas. It is refurbishment and protection of the sources of thermal-mineral and medical waters that this spa is abundant in (18).

Director of RHC *Gejzir* Dr Dragisa Popovic said several most exploited sources would be first fenced, covered with roof and lightened and added that the total of 12 spa sources would be refurbished by year's end.

G.B.



- *Niske novine, Daily, Nis, April 8, 2004*

800 KILOMETERS OF OPPORTUNITIES

The fate of South Serbia's economy is directly or indirectly linked to Corridor X, the construction of which offers opportunities for increasing employment, for economic growth and for the improvement of living standards. – Fruit, furniture, tourism and textiles - traditional Serbian sectors and new upcoming sectors competing with knowledge and technology.

Preceding the international conference on Corridor 10 scheduled next month in Belgrade, a kind of regional conference was held in Hotel Alexander in Nis yesterday on “The impact of Corridor 10 on Economic Growth and Local Communities”. Representatives of 10 cities in southern Serbia participated – Razanj, Aleksinac, Nis, Lebane, Vlasotince, Pirot, Leskovac, Medvedja, Presevo and Bujanovac. The meeting was organized by CHF International – Serbia and the SEDP, a USAID funded project.

At the conference, Biljana Kozlovic presented SEDP, a project aimed at promoting economic growth in the region scheduled to last until 2006.

“SEDP goals are to increase employment, promote economic growth and improve living standards, which it proposes to achieve by supporting exports, through export substitution and by attracting foreign direct investments”, said Biljana Kozlovic, emphasizing that the National Competitiveness Council, presided by Dragoljub Vukadinovic, plays a major role in this. The project will try to identify the industrial sectors with the greatest competitive potential on the international markets, according to general criteria.

According to her, traditionally strong sectors in Serbia are the fruit, furniture, tourism and textile sectors, as well as new sectors which rely on knowledge and technology – pharmaceutical testing and information and communications technology.

While explaining how the ten municipalities in Southern Serbia can benefit from their close proximity to Corridor X, Marko Markovic, Development Sector Manager of the Serbian Building Directorate also emphasized that the private sector has the greatest opportunity for development in this respect.

“Corridor 10 is not only a line of communication, but also a great opportunity for the development of SMEs, first of all of the private sector” said Markovic. “All business is directly or indirectly linked to Corridor, for instance gas stations, hotels, motels, restaurants and everything else that logically goes with communication lines. And these ten municipalities must seek their opportunity right there, while the Serbian Building Directorate must provide logistical support for the implementation of these strategic projects. We must bear in mind that “Corridor 10” represents one of the greatest development opportunities for the Serbian economy, and the challenge for investors will be to construct related facilities of the highest standard”, emphasized Markovic.

Jovana Zecevic, CHF International Officer for Economic Development in Serbia, presented this US NGO present in Serbia ever since 2001, currently engaged on two USAID funded projects in the region of South and South-East Serbia. These are the CIDP program for promoting community initiatives with a budget of around US\$ 6.5 billions and the CRDA program for community revitalization through democratic action with over US\$ 200 millions available for investment.

“CRDA past activities in the field of economic development include over 75 public construction projects, 102 grants, 19 projects in the field of sustainable business development and 13 projects for the improvement of business environment”, said Jovana Zecevic and added that the main CHF goal was creating new jobs, increasing incomes, injecting cash into local economy, creating a favorable business environment, stimulating public and private investment and sustainable economic growth.

Waiting for Initiatives

“Currently, we do not have concrete projects related to Corridor 10 in Nis and we expect the initiative to come from the local competent bodies tasked with designing development projects directly linked to Nis”, said Marko Markovic, Development Sector Manager of the Serbian Building Directorate. “The priority for Nis is the construction of the Presevo border crossing with Macedonia and the completion of part of the highway, the stretch from Nis to Bulgaria. Otherwise, the Serbian Building Directorate in Nis recently completed a housing project called Stepan Sindjelic, consisting of 385 flats and we expect to continue our cooperation.”

Similar information appeared in:

- *TV Global, April 6, 2004;*
- *Radio TV Serbia, April 6, 2004;*
- *Beta Press Agency, April 6, 2004;*
- *Glas javnosti Daily, April 6, 2004;*
- *Kurir Daily, April 6, 2004;*
- *SBS Radio, April 6, 2004;*
- *Fonet Agency, April 6, 2004;*
- *Radio Free Europe, April 6, 2004;*
- *Vecernje novosti Daily, April 6, 2004;*
- *RTV Belleamie, April 6, 2004;*
- *RTV 5 from Nis, April 6, 2004.*

- *TV Knjazevac, April 15, 2004*

MINI-DAIRY IN RESNIK NEAR SOKOBANJA

As a part of economic development initiative within CRDA program, USAID and CHF invested 700,000 dinars in equipping Mini-dairy Jermencic in Resnik near Sokobanja (350,000 dinars of Dairy Jermencic's own contribution was acquired through receiving a bank loan). Owner of the Jermencic Mini-dairy is Resnik Cooperative.

With this donation USAID and CHF enabled production of four types of half-hard cheese, so called Sokobanja Hard Cheese. For the help received from USAID and CHF Dairy Jermencic will, within first year from the time when the machine has been purchased, donate Primary School in Resnik and Hospital for Mentally Challenged children in Sokobanja with dairy products worth 173,000 dinars. It is expected that Dairy Jermencic will hire 8 new employees by engaging new capacities.

Similar information appeared in:

- *TV Zajecar, April 15, 2004;*
- *M Radio, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio Djerdap, April 15, 2004;*

- *Radio Zajecar, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio Knjazevac, April 15, 2004;*
- *EM Radio from Knjazevac, April 15, 2004;*
- *RTV Sokobanja, April 15, 2004;*
- *Timok, newspaper from Zajecar, April 15, 2004.*

- *TV Belleamie, April 15, 2004*

PRODUCTION OF PORTABLE BEDS IN ALEKSINAC

USAID and CHF purchased machines for production of portable beds for company Almina in Aleksinac. Production of portable beds in Serbia ceased to exist at the beginning of the nineties. Company Almina from Aleksinac received investments from USAID and CHF worth 910,000 dinars for purchase of machines. Company Almina will soon hire five new employees that will work on production of portable beds for Serbian and East Europe market.

In return, during the first year after the purchasing of the machines Company Almina will provide a "social payback" to the Association of Private Entrepreneurs and to Aleksinac Medical Center worth of 227,000 dinars.

USAID and CHF approve donations for economic development in order to help newly funded companies or to support expansion of the existing ones. Program is providing financial help in machines, equipment, building material, etc. The aim of this program is to support economic growth, income generation and employment.

Similar information appeared in:

- *TV 5, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Nis, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Global, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Banker, April 15, 2004;*
- *City Radio from Nis, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio Nis, April 15, 2004;*
- *Narodne novine, Daily from Nis, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Pirot, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio Pirot, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV PI, April 15, 2004.*

- *Politika Daily, April 15, 2004*

Medvedja

DONATION FOR ELECTRICITY

Representatives of Medvedja Town Assembly and Kapit local community populated by Albanians agreed with donors CHF and UNDP on a new joint development project of reconstruction of a complete low voltage electric network in this village. More than 2 million Dinars is going to be invested in this project. Residents of Kapit provided 10% of funds, Town assembly 40% and donors 50%.

G. B.



- *TV Leskovac, April 15, 2004*

USAID AND CHF DONATED MAMMOGRAPHY APPARATUS IN LESKOVAC

USAID and CHF recently donated mammography apparatus for early detection of breast cancer to Leskovac Medical Center (the old mammography broke down in 1998). USAID and CHF provided 1,800,000 dinars for purchase of the new device. The same amount was provided by Development Fund of Leskovac Municipality.

So far, the closest device was in Nis. Besides purchasing equipment for Medical Center in Leskovac, USAID and CHF provided additional training for the staff of Medical Center on how to use the new device. A great interest of women was recorded during recently held CHF campaign in Jablanicki County for breast self examination. By purchasing new mammography for early breast cancer detection USAID and CHF ended the cycle of cancer prevention in Jablanicki County. It is expected that more than 1000 women will be examined with the new mammography during one year.

Similar information appeared in:

- *Radio Leskovac, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV K1 Leskovac, April 15, 2004;*
- *Beta Press Agency; April 14, 2004;*
- *Vesti Daily, April 16, 2004;*
- *Radio Television Serbia, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Ris, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Studio MT, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Rosulja, April 15, 2004;*
- *RTV Vlasotince, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio Gaga, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio 016, April 15, 2004;*
- *Staff Radio, April 15, 2004;*
- *Radio Caricin grad, April 15, 2004;*
- *TV Caricin grad, April 15, 2004.*

- *Politika Daily, April 16, 2004*

USAID program in Southern and Eastern Serbia

PRODUCTION OF PORTABLE BEDS

USAID and CHF purchased machines for production of portable beds for company Almina from Aleksinac. Production of portable beds in Serbia ceased in the beginning of the nineties. "Almina" received investments from USAID and CHF worth 910,000 Dinars for purchase of machines. Consequently, the company will employ five new employees who will work on production of portable beds intended for both Serbian and East Europe market.

A press release issued by CHF, one of partners in this program, reads that in return, during the first year upon purchasing the machines, "Almina" will provide a "social payback" of 227,000 Dinars to the Association of Private Entrepreneurs and Aleksinac Medical Center.

The press release also reads that yet 700,000 Dinars has been invested into equipping a mini-dairy "Jermencic" in Resnik near Sokobanja. Part of funds (350,000 Dinars) was acquired through receiving a bank loan. Owner of "Jermencic" mini dairy is Resnik Cooperative.

Ljutice Bogdana 1a/III, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel/Fax: +381 11 3672 597, e-mail: office@chfserbia.org web site: www.chfserbia.org



With this donation, USAID and CHF enabled production of four types of half-hard cheese, so called Sokobanja Hard Cheese. For the help received from USAID and CHF dairy “Jermencic” will, in the course of the first year from the time when the machines have been purchased, donate Primary school in Resnik and Hospital for Children with special needs in Sokobanja with dairy products worth 173,000 Dinars.

By engaging new capacities, dairy “Jermencic” is expected to employ 8 new employees.

A.C.

- *Ekspres politika Daily, April 17, 2004*

CHILDREN

Bosilegrad – With help from Bosilegrad Medical Center, US non-governmental organization CHF launched an extensive campaign to fight “low birth rate” phenomenon that “emptied” majority of villages in this region.

CHF Coordinator for Serbia Zorka Zeba determined programs called “School for gravidity of women” and “School for parents” that would cover most of 37 local communities in the municipality.

V.V.

- *Blic Daily, April 19, 2004*

OPENED KINDERGARTEN IN BOJNIK

Bojnik – A refurbished kindergarten and the community center building were inaugurated in Stubla, one of the largest villages in Bojnik municipality. The project is worth 6,500 USD and it is a joint venture of the US organization CHF, Town Assembly and local community.

In the previous two years, Americans implemented more than 560 projects and invested more than 12,850,000 USD in Southern and Eastern Serbia.

M.Z.I.

- *Glas javnosti Daily, April 21, 2004*

REFURBISHED KINDERGARTEN

Bojnik – CHF, Town assembly of Bojnik and Stubla local community funded reconstruction of community center building and a kindergarten in Stubla, one of the largest villages in Bojnik municipality.

The project is worth about 6,500 USD. In the previous two years, US non-governmental organization CHF, in cooperation with municipalities and local communities, invested about 12,850,000 USD in Southeastern Serbia.

M.Z.

- *Ekspres politika Daily, April 22, 2004*

SPA

Sijarinska banja – With support from the US non-governmental organization CHF, Rehabilitation Center in Sijarinska Banja near Medvedja started implementation of a project of refurbishing vital parts of a pearl of the Serbian tourism.

The project is about refurbishment and protection of the sources of thermal-mineral and medical waters in the spa. According to what Director of RHC *Gezir* Dr Dragisa Popovic said, several most exploited sources would be first fenced, covered with roof and lightened.

A.D.

- *Slobodna rec, newspaper from Vranje, April 23, 2004*

DON'T MISS A CHANCE

Dusan Aleksic, Deputy Mayor of Vranje speaks about the possibilities to use warm spa water in Vranjska Banja (78°-110° C) for different purposes. International donors, CHF and UNDP are ready to support some projects but there are no prepared projects yet.

Mr. Aleksic says that people from Vranjska Banja has agreed to prepare concrete projects that could be sent to international donors.

- *Nasa rec, April 23, 2004*

"HARMONY" IMPROVES ELECTRIC NETWORK

In the village of Kapita near Medvedja, CHF, local self-government and residents funded reconstruction of electric network

In Kapita, a village in Medvedja municipality located on the very administrative line towards Kosovo and Metohia, preparatory works for reconstruction of dilapidated electric low voltage network has been completed.

The works are worth more than 2 million dinars. Apart from Medvedja self-government and the US humanitarian organization CHF, residents of Kapita also supported this project. Since all material for the reconstruction is provided, works are expected to finish by the end of August.

The contractor is Leskovac Power Supply Company the workers of which have recently completed electrification of households in the mountainous village of Petrovac located in the foot of Radan.

SL.M.

- *Balkan Daily, April 23, 2004*

AMERICANS IN BABUSNICA

Babusnica – This year, US non-governmental organization CHF, in cooperation with local self-government, will fund several projects in Babusnica municipality. CHF intends to allot 5,000 USD for each entrepreneurial program in the municipality and it also plans to provide 6 million USD for construction of a bridge across Berin river source.



Company "Serbia-waters" and Babusnica Town Assembly will take part in the construction of the bridge. Planned is renovation of a local market and construction of sewerage system for surface waters drainage. Town Assembly will provide material and CHF will provide funds for workers' wages.

T.E.

Similar information appeared in:

- *Mreza, newspaper for NGOs in Serbia, April 2004*

- *Sloboda, newspaper from Pirot, April 24, 2004*

SHEEP FLOCKS IN KRUPAC

Sloboda presents Krupac community in Pirot Municipality and positive changes happening in this community. Zivorad Andjelkovic, Krupac community president says that many for the village important projects have been supported by U.S. organization CHF. Waste Water System in Primary school and asphaltting of the road were CHF supported projects in this community... The article is also about sheep-breeding in this area of Serbia and opportunities that milk production can help people in this area to improve quality of life in their communities.

- *Politika Daily, April 28, 2004*

OURS ARE 11th IN THE WORLD - *Internet youth contest in making business decisions*

In the largest online Internet world contest in business decision making (MESE), 13 teams of "Junior Achievement from Serbia" (Vucje, Vranje, Leskovac, Nis, Bor, Belgrade, Zrenjanin, Kikinda, Novi Sad) won the first or the second place in their group and thus qualified for the next round of the contest. On the general level, this result puts Serbia at the 11th place in the world and the 4th place in Europe, among 100 countries from all continents.

"After the first part of the contest, our students will take part in yet two rounds that are leading to the finale to be held in Huston on September 29. For eight teams-finalists, giant world companies provided valuable prizes and scholarships, as well as opportunities of meeting some of the most successful world businessmen. Such a success of our teams resulted from creativity of our students, their abilities to think in a businesslike manner and support from Junior Achievement in Serbia (JAS)", said Executive Director of JAS, Dr Zvonko Brnjas. .

"JAS also initiated a national contest "MESE" that attracted more than 500 students from all over Serbia. The aim of this contest is to make students familiar with the business world and encourage them to take part in it. Due to increased interest, the number of teams increased up to 217. Apart from valuable prizes, the finalists will take part in European and the World MESE contest to be held in February next year", explained Dr Brnjas.

MESE (Management and Economics Simulation Exercises) is one of the programs that JAS implements in secondary schools with the aim to offer practical and theoretical education about entrepreneurship and business. Thanks to CHF that implements USAID project, "Junior Achievement" programs are introduced in secondary schools in Eastern and Southern Serbia (Nis, Leskovac, Vranje, Surdulica, Vucje, Bojnik, Zajecar, Majdanpek, Knjazevac etc.) and in two municipalities in Vojvodina (Kikinda and Zrenjanin).

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM (RH&FP)

These radio and TV stations have on daily basis informed people in Eastern and Southern Serbia about the lectures held in CRDA communities within WRH&FP CRDA program. They were also announcing press releases related to RH&FP issues that CHF distributed to media during April 2004. These radio and TV stations were broadcasting social marketing advertisements from RH&FP media campaign produced by CHF.

- *OK Radio Vranje,*
- *Radio Han Vladicin Han,*
- *Radio Bujanovac,*
- *Radio Ema Bujanovac,*
- *Radio Surdulica,*
- *Radio Bosilegrad,*
- *Radio Gong, Trgoviste,*
- *Radio M Medvedja,*
- *Radio Leskovac,*
- *Radio F, Leskovac,*
- *Radio DJ, Leskovac,*
- *Radio Dzin, Leskovac,*
- *Radio Babusnica,*
- *Radio M, Merosina,*
- *Radio Dzoker,*
- *Radio Gaga, Vlasotince,*
- *Radio Nis,*
- *Radio Dream, Vucje,*
- *Radio 016, Leskovac,*
- *Radio Pirot,*
- *Radio Medvedja,*
- *Radio Focus, Vranje,*
- *Radio Zajecar,*
- *Radio Joker, Vlasotince,*
- *Radio Vladicin Han,*
- *Radio Vranje,*
- *Daily Narodne novine,*
- *Sloboda newspaper from Pirot,*
- *Kablovska TV Razanj,*
- *TV Bujanovac,*
- *RTV Spektri Bujanovac,*
- *TV Vranje,*
- *TV Focus, Vranje,*
- *TV Leskovac,*
- *TV Caricin grad, Lebane,*
- *TV K1, Leskovac,*
- *NTV Nis,*
- *TV PI Canal,*
- *RTV Belle Amie, Nis,*



- *RTV Bor,*
- *TV Zajecar,*
- *TV Rosulja, Vlasotince,*
- *TV Vlasotince,*
- *ALT TV, Aleksinac,*
- *RTV Focus, Vranje,*
- *TV Pirot,*
- *TV Studio M Vranje,*
- *TV Belle Amie, Nis,*
- *TV PI canal, Pirot*
- *425 visitors visited official CHF CRDA RH&FP Program web site*
www.zdravlje.chfserbia.org