



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**SERBIA**

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 7, 2011

Hal Lipper, +381-11 306-4919, +381-65 504-6308

E-mail: [hlipper@usaid.gov](mailto:hlipper@usaid.gov)

Mirjana Vuksa, +381-65 306-4841, +381-65 316-4530

E-mail: [mvuksa@usaid.gov](mailto:mvuksa@usaid.gov)

## USAID PROMOTES YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN 5 SANDZAK MUNICIPALITIES

**Sjenica (December 7)** – The U.S. Agency for International Development’s Economic Security Project today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with five Sandzak municipalities to provide employment opportunities for youth. The municipalities are Sjenica, Tutin, Priboj, Prijepolje and the City of Novi Pazar..

“More than 30 percent of young Serbians are interested in entrepreneurship, a key component of the USAID project,” said Ivana Kovacevic, State Secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

USAID has long worked with municipal Youth Office Coordinators from the five municipalities to promote employment and self-employment programs, and it has worked directly with young entrepreneurs to develop their business plans into actual businesses.

USAID will work for a second year in Prijepolje and Novi Pazar on Youth Entrepreneurship Action Plans (YEAP), which provide local, tailor-made solutions to reduce unemployment by strengthening youth entrepreneurship initiatives. USAID will work in Priboj, Sjenica and Tutin to develop YEAP in those municipalities.

“The National Strategy for Youth in Serbia identifies youth employment as a linchpin issue, affecting every aspect of young people’s lives,” said USAID Mission Director Susan K. Fritz. “The U.S. Government recognizes that local Youth Offices can provide the tools to compete and succeed in the labor market and advance economic development in Serbia.”

USAID’s Economic Security Project has helped more than 12,000 young people since 2007. It has provided marketing and leadership training to Youth Coordinators from 87 of the country’s 123 Youth Offices. The remaining 36 office coordinators will be trained during 2012.

More than 1,550 Serbian youth have completed USAID entrepreneurship training to start a new business or strengthen an existing one. To date, 23 action plans have been adopted, providing employment and entrepreneurship support to more than 6,000 young people.

###

For additional information, contact Slobodan Perovic at the USAID Economic Security Project Communications Office at [slobodan\\_perovic@dai.com](mailto:slobodan_perovic@dai.com) or +381-11 363-9900.

For more information about USAID ES Project, visit <http://www.economicsecurity.rs>.

***Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$662.5 million to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance in Serbia.***

***For more information about USAID, visit <http://serbia.usaid.gov>.***