



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SERBIA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2012

Hal Lipper, +381-65 504-6308

E-mail: hlipper@usaid.gov

Jelena Popovic, +381-65 306-6750

E-mail: jpopovic@usaid.gov

USAID PROPOSES CHANGES TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING

REFORMS WOULD LEAD TO FASTER COMPLETION OF PROJECTS, ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCREASE EMPLOYMENT

BELGRADE – A streamlined construction permit issuing process would reduce corruption, increase investment and boost construction activity, according to a study released today by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Business Enabling Project.

The paper, “Assessment of Constraints to Construction Permits in Serbia,” suggests reducing or eliminating the roles of several of the 20 government entities currently involved in the permitting process. It recommends that municipalities deal with investors rather than all of these individual Government entities. And it endorses increased transparency throughout the permitting process, educating government employees about innovative use of IT in construction permitting and changing the way agencies issue permits.

Serbia’s construction permitting process ranks 175 out of 183 countries, according to the 2012 World Bank “Doing Business” study.

“Investors wanting to build in Serbia face numerous difficulties including cumbersome procedures, high costs, unpredictable clearance times, and uncertainty as to the whether or not construction will be allowed in the end,” said USAID/Serbia Mission Director Susan K. Fritz, adding that USAID made streamlining the construction permitting process a priority due to complaints by both the government and the business community.

The study lists Serbian and international recommendations to reduce obstacles to construction permitting and to simplify the authorization process, says co-author Đorđe Mančić. “From the initial idea to the realization of projects, we’ve made suggestions to simplify permitting and make it less time consuming”, Mančić says.

END

For additional information, contact Represent Communications at +381-11 715-2500 or its representatives at nevena.martinovic@represent.rs or olivera.petrovic@represent.rs

Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$689.4 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>