



YOUTH ACTIVISTS PRESENTED POTENTIAL INITIATIVES AT SECOND DIVAC IDEAS FORUM

Belgrade, May 18, 2012 – The Second Divac Ideas Forum was held on Friday, May 18th, 2012 at Dom Omladine, Belgrade.

The main objective of the second Ideas Forum was to present the potential projects and results of the six working groups, composed of more than 250 youth activists, within the project Shared Values of Serbia's Youth supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and its implementing partner the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC).

Following the successful First Divac Ideas Forum, held in October 2011, Serbia's youth have been working hard to identify and create initiatives and solutions for the most pressing problems and issues faced by youth. Partnering organization Krovna Organizacija Mladih Srbije (KOMS) monitored and coordinated this process. Participants of the First Ideas Forum agreed on the need to strengthen efforts to inform and mobilize society to understand youth issues and to advance intergenerational discussions aimed at promoting positive values. Youth activists then took the problems and potential solutions identified and used them to design projects which will be presented to potential donors and partners by group coordinators at the Second Divac Ideas Forum.

The Second Divac Ideas Forum hosted Ms. Mary Warlick, the U.S. Ambassador to Serbia, Mr. Zarko Obradovic, Serbian Minister of Education and Science, Ms. Ana Divac, President of the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, Mr. Milos Bikovic, actor and promoter of the project and media campaign *Stvarno vazno*, as well as representatives of numerous donor agencies.

The working groups were designed to address youth issues and problems such as security, volunteerism, health, culture and free time, environmental protection and employment.

Time was provided for audience members, including representatives of bilateral and corporate donors to pose questions to the working groups on the design of their projects and intended goals.

Since 2002 USAID has invested more than \$662.7 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>