



USAID
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA



Република Србија
КАБИНЕТ ПОТПРЕДСЕДНИКА ВЛАДЕ
ЗА ПРИВРЕДУ И РЕГИОНАЛНИ РАЗВОЈ

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2011

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

E-mail: hlipper@usaid.gov

Mirjana Vuksa, +381-11 306-4841, +381-65 316-4530

E-mail: mvuksa@usaid.gov

STUDIES CALCULATE THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN SERBIA AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S VIEW OF THOSE COSTS

BELGRADE – A study detailing the amount of money that businesses must spend on administrative procedures and a survey identifying obstacles that Serbian companies see hindering their competitiveness and growth will be released at 10:00 a.m. November 17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Belgrade.

The media is invited to cover the release of these reports, the first time that studies of this size and depth have been conducted in Serbia. They were funded by the USAID Business Enabling Project to identify problem areas where improvements can be made. The Standard Cost Model Study and the Business Survey will be conducted annually, allowing the Government of Serbia, the business community and USAID to track improvements.

The Standard Cost Model is used to measure how much regulations cost businesses. It is used in several European Union countries, but has never before been used in Central and Eastern Europe. The Business Survey polled 1,000 companies, the first large-scale business survey in Serbia.

Thursday's conference will detail the most costly administrative procedures and how much money can be saved by simplifying or reducing those procedures. It will also release what businesses say about corruption and bribery in Serbia and why businesses are not borrowing money to expand.

WHO: Deputy Prime Minister Verica Kalanovic

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Lee Litzenger

USAID Business Enabling Project Chief of Party Joseph Lowther

USAID Business Enabling Project Technical Expert Branko Radulovic

Economics experts Vladimir Gligorov, Aleksandar Vlahovic, Danica Popovic and Jurij Bajec will also discuss the studies and what reforms are most urgently needed.

WHEN: Thursday, November 17, 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Journalists covering the event should arrive 20 minutes early. **Press credentials are required. Keynote speakers will be available for interviews at 11:10 a.m. in the Hyatt Regency's Ellington's Club.**

WHERE: Crystal Hall, Belgrade Hyatt Regency Hotel, Milentija Popovica 5, New Belgrade

CONTACT: Strahinja Mitrovski, Communications Specialist, USAID Business Enabling Project, smitrovski@bep.rs, +381-60 13-00-577

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