

European programs for municipalities in Serbia – EPOS

Continuing the eight-year long successful cooperation of the local governments and European Movement in Serbia

Since 1997, the European Movement in Serbia has been supporting the local governments in their efforts to strengthen their role in the process of local development and European integrations. The main issues we were dealing with at the local level were the development of business and different aspects of good governance. *Support to the civil society of Serbia, Reforms of budgeting and public procurement in the municipalities of Serbia, Support program for municipalities, Best civil servant award*, are only few of the successful projects that were implemented by the European Movement in the past eight years.

The 10th project of the European Movement in Serbia for local governments – “European programs for municipalities in Serbia – EPOS (EPMS), will be implemented in 45 municipalities in Serbia and it has three main objectives:

- Strengthening of awareness about the importance of the European integrations and overall reforms in the area of local development;
- Organization of seminars for the representatives of municipalities and local Communities (NGO and media) where they will learn about the way of functioning and terms of applying for available European programs and funds;
- Solving of ecological problems at the level of local communities with emphasis on water supply and waste management.

The objective of **EPOS** is the improvement of expertise and technical capacities of local authorities and civil society in communication with the European partners, together with improving the capability of applying for European programs and funds that are of importance for local communities. Apart from that, including them into monitoring the realization of the project contributes to cooperation between administrations of municipalities, communal services and civil society, in acting together in order to gain bigger support of local and international partners, financial institutions and donors.

EPOS officially begins with the conference in Sava Center, where all relevant project participants (representatives of ministries, international organizations, NGOs, media, local government, public and communal services) will gather. The objective of the Conference is introducing the participants of the project with the objectives and activities of the project, and the exchange of opinions and experiences and creating a network of future partners in order to overcome the obstacles on the way to integrating into the European Union.

The Conference will be held on Friday, 11. March, 2005. at Sava Center, Milentija Popovica street, 9-11, Belgrade, from 10:00 to 19:00 hours.