



## Promoting the Civil Sector in Eastern and Western Serbia

With the aim of contributing towards strengthening the administrative, technical and operative functions of NGO networks in Eastern and Western Serbia and the Sandžak region, where, according to research, the civil society is at its weakest, EMinS – as the executive partner of the European Agency for Reconstruction, and in cooperation with G 17 Plus – is beginning a project for supporting civil society in 50 Serbian municipalities.

In order to stimulate an equal level of regional development, to bridge over the lack of trust towards the non-government sector that still exists among local authorities and citizens in Eastern and Western Serbia, and to seek solutions to socio-economic problems on a local level, EMinS will organize the following:

- formation of an NGO trainer network
- education of NGO activists
- seminars and workshops
- initiation of joint projects with local governments
- facilitation of grants for selected NGOs and projects
- supplies of equipment and office materials for selected NGOs

Through additional training and equipment, the project will provide the civil sector with the opportunity to influence and cooperate with local decision-making centers in a qualified manner, as well as to deal professionally with the most acute problems in their surroundings.

## Serbian Local Government Reform Program

The European Movement in Serbia is participating in USAID's Serbian Local Government Reform Program (SLGRP). In cooperation with DAI, EMinS experts are working on a four-year program for securing technical assistance in the areas of financial management, municipal services, administering public enterprises and information systems, as well as strengthening communication with citizens in 50 Serbian municipalities.

The synergy between this program, in which 14 EMinS experts are taking part, and other programs of ours, above all TASPP, results from the similarity of their goals and the necessity of providing complementary support for strengthening municipalities and civic initiatives.

