

**Serbian European Integration Office is the initiator and coordinator of key activities in Serbia relating to Serbia-Montenegro's European accession process.**

### **Office Establishment**

The Office was established on 8 March 2004 and it assumed the activities that were previously performed by the Sector for European integrations with the Ministry for International Economic Relations. By establishing this Office, Serbian Government clearly expressed its determination to speed up the preparations for European Union integration in the institutional aspect as well.

### **Tasks for the Office**

The Office is a professional service of the Serbian Government, tasked with coordination of the process of harmonisation of domestic legal, economic and public administration systems of Serbia with the European standards.

Another task of the Office is public information on the EU association process, as well as education and specialization of civil servants in the fields relevant for successful implementation of reforms towards EU membership.

As the coordinator of overall European Union association activities, the Office:

- Manages the functioning of inter-ministerial Commission for Coordination of EU Accession process;
- Prepares the meetings of the Council for European Integrations of the Republic of Serbia, established for monitoring, reviewing, evaluating and directing Serbia's European Union association process and provides political support for activities in this process. The Council is comprised of Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Serbian Government, eleven Ministers and Secretary General of the Serbian European Integration Office. The Council is chaired, *ex officio*, by the Prime Minister.



**Republic of Serbia  
Government  
European Integration Office**

**Tel/fax: 011 3619 317  
Nemanjina 34/V  
Belgrade**

**[www.seio.sr.gov.yu](http://www.seio.sr.gov.yu)**

*Printing of the second edition of this leaflet is financially supported by the grant from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation*



# **Serbian European Integration Office**



## Office activities

Activities in the EU accession and transition processes are identical and include economic and social reforms in Serbia. Such approach was accepted by the Office, which initiated a number of activities within the public administration and in compliance with its competences:

- The Office has initiated and coordinated the drafting of **Serbian National Strategy for Serbia-Montenegro European Union accession**, which represents the professional basis for decision-making in the EU integration process. The Strategy contains a review and analysis of situation in the areas of significance for the EU accession, proposal of reform priorities and establishes the deadlines for their implementation. The Strategy clearly indicates that the preconditions for successful integration are the strengthening of competitiveness of domestic economy, powerful support of the entire society, EU knowledge, access to reliable and objective information and open dialogue between the government and citizens.
- In cooperation with the Ministries, the Office has also created the **Action plan for realization of European Partnership recommendations**, which was adopted by Serbian Government and which will serve as a guideline and map of activities until 2008. European Partnership, as the key instrument of the European Union's pre-accession strategy towards West Balkan countries, establishes short- and mid-term reform priorities in the preparation of the country – potential candidate – for EU membership. Realisation of these priorities is the condition for any European Union's financial assistance.
- Cooperation with the Serbian Parliament's Committee for European Integrations is of special im-

portance for the Office, which participated in the creation of the **Resolution on EU accession**, adopted by the Parliament on 13 October 2004. The Resolution is of key importance for achieving a wide social and political consensus on European Union accession, as well as the message to Brussels on seriousness of our European orientation.

- The Office has drafted the initial **Action plan for harmonisation of draft laws with the European Union regulations** that will be updated on annual basis. The Office estimates the degree of compliance of law-proposals with the European legal standards. Serbia has thus initiated an organised harmonisation of legislation with the EU *acquis*.
- At the proposal of the Office, Serbian Government has also adopted the **Communication Strategy of Serbian Government on the Stabilisation and Association Process of the State Union Serbia-Montenegro with the EU** that will keep the citizens timely and objectively informed on the EU accession process.
- The Office has signed the **Memorandum of Cooperation in the European Integration Process with the Non-governmental Organizations** dealing with the promotion of European values, which will ensure the coordination of activities and promote regular and objective information of citizens on the European integration process in Serbia.
- The Office has prepared the **Training Plan for Serbian Civil Servants involved in the European integration process**, in order to continue the professional education of civil servants on the issues significant for European Union association.

## Partner organizations to the Office

- **Serbian Chamber of Commerce** and the Office have signed the Memorandum of Understanding, regulating the partner relations in the European integration process.
- **Embassies of EU Member States**, which cooperate with the Office, among other, in realization of the programme of joint visits to towns in Serbia entitled «Europe at your door».
- **European Commission Delegation to Serbia-Montenegro**.
- **European Agency for Reconstruction** provided funds for realization of various projects, such as the Communication Strategy of Serbian Government in EU accession, which ought to introduce this process to the citizens.
- **United Nations Development Program – UNDP** supported realization of several different projects of the Office

## Serbian institutions responsible for EU accession :

