



## IN BRIEF...

# Democracy and Good Governance

While considered to be of comparatively good standard until the 1990s, Serbian public administration today is characterized by centralized decision making, poor coordination between ministries and other government bodies, low salaries, nepotism and other forms of corruption and insufficient capacity to coordinate external assistance.

The Serbian government has adopted a strategy to develop a modern, democratic and efficient public administration in Serbia and Sweden is planning to support the reform of the public administration providing there is sufficient central government commitment to lead the way as well as coordinate donors in the implementing process.

Sweden provided extensive support to the education of judges and prosecutors through support to the Judicial Training Center in Serbia. Sida continues to provide capacity building programs to the judiciary and plans to be even more active in this area.

Sweden supports efforts aimed at combating organized crime, corrup-

tion and trafficking in human beings. One of the objectives of Swedish development co-operation in the area is to assist in strengthening and developing a functioning police and judicial system.

Police systems of Serbia and Montenegro have seen major transformations, in terms of institutional and legislative changes, which brought about an increased capacity to coordinate development activities. This new, more proactive role of the Police authorities gives ground to beliefs that the system will grow into a modern citizen service, a necessary precondition for democratization and the establishment of the rule of law.

### Ongoing projects and programs

A Swedish supported project has been initiated to create a database on foreign aid to Serbia. Further steps have been taken towards developing the project into a strong foreign aid management function within the Serbian government. Recently, the Serbian MIER (Ministry for International Economic Relations), Sida and DFID in Belgrade have worked very actively to harmonize Swedish and DFID support to MIERs capacity to develop the foreign aid management function and connect it to the government planning and budgetary processes.

A recent review of the support for the coordinating body for local communities shows good commitment and achievements. However, conso-



Two officers at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Sida supports a programme intended at improving the quality of statistics in Serbia and Montenegro and to create political understanding of the importance of reliable statistics in the development process of the country and its efforts to approach the EU.

Validation of achievements and further development is still needed in the years to come. It's capacity to prioritize among and coordinate donor support is particularly important in this phase.

Support to the Statistics Offices has progressed well and efforts are being made to create political understanding of the importance of reliable statistics in Serbia's development process.

A Swedish support to improve the efficiency of the National Employment Services in Serbia is being implemented by the Swedish counterpart, AMS.

A program in Southern Serbia aims at municipal capacity building, economic recovery and promotion of interethnic understanding in two districts.

In order to reform the magistrates system towards independence and impartiality a project aims at strengthening the system of magistrates' courts by providing training and developing magistrates' reform strategy.

Another project aims at promoting comprehensive and multi-disciplinary reform of the juvenile justice system in order to protect the rights of children at risk and children in conflict with the law.

Swedish support to police systems in the area of crime scene investiga-

tions has been designed to envelop the entire criminal justice system, from the scene of crime, through close co-operation between the Police and the Prosecution to the Court of Law, on both policy level and level of operational work. The project supports the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia through creating conditions for quality prosecution and better availability of high quality technical evidence in the criminal justice procedure to secure fair legal proceedings.

Sida has supported problem identification workshops and the formulation of two project proposals in order to support the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Montenegro to strengthen the Criminal Intelligence System.

Swedish support to efforts aimed at combating corruption is coupled with the government's recognition of the need to launch a more structured approach to fight corruption and mobilise as many resources as needed. Both Serbia and Montenegro have taken significant steps forward in setting up the institutional and legal framework to combat corruption.

Sida's view on corruption coincides with that expressed in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper in that it is seen as a threat on both, macroeconomic and microeconomic

level, since it obstructs foreign investments and contributes to deepen the poverty of common citizens. Furthermore, Sida treats corruption as a cross-cutting phenomenon, that is able to permeate almost every segment of the society and takes care to prevent and counteract corruptive practices in every specific development effort.

In addition to mainstreaming corruption throughout its activities, Sida is supporting two programmes in Serbia and Montenegro that are strictly targeting the fight against corruption as an objective in itself.

## Future Plans

Sweden will strive to achieve a coordinated sector wide support, where the Swedish efforts are well coordinated with recipient development planning and where there is improved coordination among donor activities. Sweden will try to play a catalyst role in these contexts with particular aim to work with other donors in the sector.

Efforts contributing to legislation and structural reforms in the legal sector will be given particular attention.

Sida will continue to support efforts aimed at combating organised crime and corruption within the wider context of promoting democracy and rule of law.

*Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.*



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