Press release
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The text in Serbian follows the text in English.

Concrete results for a better life in 110 cities and municipalities across Serbia

Belgrade, 20 November 2026.— Improved electronic governance in 64 cities and municipalities, stronger environmental protection management systems in 27 local governments and support for more than 15,000 people from vulnerable groups through social protection measures and services are some of the main results of the four-year United Nations Joint Programme "PRO - Local Governance for People and Nature", implemented with the support of the Government of Switzerland.

The achieved results were presented today at the final event of the Programme, which, through activities with a total value of 10 million euros, contributed to the improvement of public services, social protection and environmental governance in 110 cities and municipalities throughout Serbia.

"The Programme showed what the United Nations can achieve when it combines different expertise to improve people's daily lives. Over the past four years, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNEP, with the Swiss Government financial support, have collaborated with numerous partners to achieve concrete results in local self-governments throughout Serbia. The completion of the Programme remains a model that shows how strong partnerships and coordinated action can turn results achieved at the local level into lasting changes for local communities," said Matilde Mort, UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia.

The Programme "PRO - Local Governance for People and Nature" was implemented with the financial support of the Swiss government, which has been continuously investing in the strengthening of local communities and the reform of the local self-government system in Serbia for three decades.

"In Switzerland, local self-governments are very important and represent the foundation of our democracy, because they are closest to citizens and make decisions that directly affect their daily lives. At the same time, they bear a great responsibility and should encourage the greatest possible involvement of citizens. We are convinced that this Programme, in cooperation with national, international and local partners, has helped cities and municipalities to build stronger institutions, provide more inclusive services and protect the environment more effectively at the local level," said Philipp Beutler, Head of International Cooperation at the Embassy of Switzerland in Serbia.

A key component of the success of this Programme was the establishment of a wide network of partnerships, both at the local and national level, including active support provided by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of the Republic of Serbia.

"A better performance of local self-government means a better and easier life for citizens. It is a strategic priority for cities and municipalities in Serbia to be more efficient, more open and accessible to everyone. This Programme has shown in practice how this goal is achieved and has directly supported the Government's efforts to build modern local administrations that serve citizens responsibly. Since the reform of public administration is a constant process that follows contemporary trends and challenges, it is crucial that we remain committed to its further strengthening," said Mila Stanković, Assistant Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government.

Today's event was also an opportunity for Programme beneficiaries to share their impressions about the practical impact of implemented initiatives. **Drago Popadić, president of the Municipality of Prijepolje**, particularly highlighted activities aimed at improving waste management, as well as support for the preservation of the "Sopotnica Waterfalls" nature monument, which further strengthened local capacities and cooperation in the field of environmental protection. At the same time, **Željko Vidanović, representative of the CSO Center for Digital Inclusion from Niš**, pointed out that the support of the Programme was much more than an opportunity to implement projects and that it helped them to strengthen their capacities, become independent and continue to develop ideas that bring concrete benefits to people in the local community.

The Programme "PRO - Local Governance for People and Nature" is jointly implemented by the agencies of the United Nations in Serbia - UNOPS, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNEP, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Serbia and with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland.

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Konkretni rezultati za bolji život u 110 gradova i opština Srbije

Beograd, 20. novembar 2026.— Unapređeno elektronsko upravljanje u 64 grada i opštine, snažniji sistemi upravljanja zaštitom životne sredine u 27 lokalnih samouprava i podrška za više od 15.000 ljudi iz ranjivih grupa kroz mere i usluge socijalne zaštite, predstavljaju neke od glavnih rezultata četvorogodišnjeg programa Ujedinjenih nacija „PRO – Lokalno upravljanje za ljude i prirodu“, sprovedenog uz podršku Vlade Švajcarske.

Postignuti rezultati su predstavljeni danas na završnom događaju programa, koji je kroz aktivnosti ukupne vrednosti 10 miliona evra doprineo unapređenju javnih usluga, socijalne zaštite i upravljanja zaštitom životne sredine u 110 gradova i opština širom Srbije.

„Program je pokazao šta Ujedinjene nacije mogu da postignu kada udruže različite ekspertize kako bi unapredile svakodnevni život ljudi. Tokom protekle četiri godine, UNOPS, UNICEF, UNFPA i UNEP, uz finansijsku podršku Vlade Švajcarske, sarađivali su sa brojnim partnerima na ostvarivanju konkretnih rezultata u lokalnim samoupravama širom Srbije. Završetkom programa ostaje model koji pokazuje kako snažna partnerstva i koordinisano delovanje mogu da pretvore rezultate ostvarene na lokalnom nivou u trajne promene za lokalne zajednice“, istakla je Matilde Mort, stalna koordinatorka UN u Srbiji.

Program „PRO – Lokalno upravljanje za ljude i prirodu“ realizovan je uz finansijsku podršku Vlade Švajcarske, koja već tri decenije kontinuirano ulaže u jačanje lokalnih zajednica i reformu sistema lokalne samouprave u Srbiji.

„U Švajcarskoj su lokalne samouprave veoma važne i predstavljaju temelj naše demokratije, jer su najbliže građanima i donose odluke koje direktno utiču na njihov svakodnevni život. One istovremeno snose veliku odgovornost i treba da podstiču što veću uključenost građanstva. Uvereni smo da je ovaj program, u saradnji sa nacionalnim, međunarodnim i lokalnim partnerima, pomogao gradovima i opštinama da izgrade snažnije institucije, pruže inkluzivnije usluge i efikasnije zaštite životnu sredinu na lokalnom nivou“, istakao je Filip Bojter, šef razvojne saradnje u Ambasadi Švajcarske u Srbiji.

Ključna komponenta uspešnosti ovog programa jeste uspostavljanje široke mreže partnerstava, kako na lokalnom, tako i na nacionalnom nivou, uključujući aktivnu podršku koju je programskim aktivnostima pružilo Ministarstvo državne uprave i lokalne samouprave Republike Srbije.

„Bolji učinak lokalne samouprave znači bolji i lakši život za građane. Strateški je prioritet da gradovi i opštine u Srbiji budu efikasniji, otvoreniji i dostupniji svima. Ovaj program je u praksi pokazao kako se taj cilj ostvaruje i direktno je podržao napore vlade da izgradi moderne lokalne administracije koje odgovorno služe građanima. Budući da je reforma javne uprave stalan proces koji prati savremene

tokove i izazove, ključno je da ostanemo posvećeni njenom daljem jačanju", poručila je Mila Stanković, pomoćnica ministra državne uprave i lokalne samouprave.

Današnji događaj bio je prilika i da korisnici programa podele svoje utiske o praktičnim efektima sprovedenih inicijativa. **Drago Popadić, predsednik opštine Prijepolje,** posebno je istakao aktivnosti na unapređenju upravljanja otpadom, kao i podršku očuvanju Spomenika prirode „Slapovi Sopotnice", čime su dodatno ojačani lokalni kapaciteti i saradnja u oblasti zaštite životne sredine. Istovremeno, **Željko Vidanović, predstavnik nevladine organizacije Centar za digitalno uključivanje iz Niša,** istakao je da je podrška programa bila mnogo više od prilike za realizaciju projekata i da im je pomogla da ojačaju svoje kapacitete, osamostale se i nastave da razvijaju ideje koje donose konkretne koristi ljudima u lokalnoj zajednici.

Program „PRO - Lokalno upravljanje za ljude i prirodu" zajednički sprovode agencije Ujedinjenih nacija u Srbiji - UNOPS, UNICEF, UNFPA i UNEP, u saradnji sa Vladom Republike Srbije i uz finansijsku podršku Vlade Švajcarske.

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