

# Switzerland

2019

- Switzerland has been pioneering support to the development and modernization of local assemblies in Serbia. Most recently, through the project Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of the Parliament Phase 2, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Switzerland supported the introduction of digital platforms to modernize the work of local parliaments. The City of Niš Assembly is the first in Serbia to use software version adapted to the work of Niš parliamentarians. The system ensures greater efficiency of the Assembly's work, saves money and allows for more users to simultaneously search for information, while having access to documents at all times. In addition to these benefits for the members of the parliament (MPs), e-parliament also makes the work of local assemblies more transparent and accountable for citizens. Apart from the development of the e-parliament, Niš was supported in preparing amendments to the Rules of Procedure regarding the City assembly's transition. The Rules of Procedure will enable Niš City Assembly to adapt its work to digital way of working, as well as electronic voting, thus significantly reducing the time and cost of assembly sessions. Overall, the Swiss Government and UNDP assistance for the Niš Assembly encompasses 78 tablets, as well as expert support with a total value of 150,000 EUR. It is estimated that the City of Niš will thus save over 2 million dinars annually, which is the amount of savings in printing assembly materials. Strengthening the Oversight Function and Transparency of the Parliament Project is supported by Switzerland with 1,7 million EUR with the aim of achieving a more transparent and

efficient work of the National assembly and local assemblies across Serbia

- The satisfaction with local self-government authorities, administrative services and civil servants have been increasing continuously, and now almost one in two citizens in Central Serbia feels that local self-governments are taking care of their citizens and providing them with services adequate to their needs. This is demonstrated by the results of the public

▪ In September 2017, the National Dance Art Foundation and the Belgrade Dance Festival, with the support of the Art Mentor Foundation of Lucerne and the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government of the Republic of Serbia, started the implementation of the Dance Caravan project. The program covered 15 cities in Serbia, and the reactions of the audience exceeded the expectations of the organizers. That is why the Art Mentor Foundation has supported the second edition of this multidisciplinary project, which aims to bring classical ballet and contemporary dance to all interested participants and visitors through various activities. A total of 10 cities during 2019 and 2020 will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dance Caravan. The Dance Caravan is intended for the education and scholarship of talents. It is a project that involves a whole new audience in ballet and contemporary dance, and at the same time encourages local organizations to develop a production network and to lay the foundations of the creative industries, viewing cultural offerings as valuable tourism potential. Through intensive Dance Caravan programs, the level of interest of the audience, the possibility of f . 2 af

its own resources, from film and photo archives, to the involvement of professionals of different professions, i.e. numerous dancers, choreographers, educators, concert historians, composers, ballet critics, ballet school students. All the programs are free to the audience, and the goal is for the planned activities in each city to gather visitors and participants of all



anniversary of Edict of Milan signing.

## **2009**

- In 2009, the Regional Center for the Professional Development of Employees in Niš joined the Professional Development Project (PDP), which is being implemented on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in

## 2000

- The agreement was signed between the City of Niš Assembly and the Swiss Humanitarian Organization (SDR), which officially began the construction of 6 new residential buildings with four apartments each in Pasi Poljana. The value of construction works amounted to over 10 million dinars and the city provided land and municipal infrastructure (value of about 3 million dinars). In January 2001, the keys for 24 apartments were handed over. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees procured basic furniture and firewood.
- City Preschool Institution Pcelica received a transport vehicle to be used to deliver food from the central kitchen to the kindergartens. The vehicle, worth 15,000 German marks, is a donation of the the Swiss Embassy in Serbia and the Swiss charity SDR.
- PUC Naišsus received from SDR the device for analyzing the presence of organic carbon in groundwater and surface water. This donation, worth a total of 45,000 German marks, is the result of a project in which the SDR and PUC Naišsus jointly contribute to the monitoring of groundwater and surface water quality in Niš.