

On the Road to EU

2021

- The ninth Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) of the EU Committee of the Regions and Republic of Serbia was held, co-chaired by Niš City Mayor Dragana Sotirovski, together with Franz Schausberger from Austria. JCC

representatives of institutions, civil sector and local self-government the most important findings and comments regarding Serbia's progress in the process of European

excellence is to create a collection which will be

strengthening resilience and working to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable and Resilient Communities) involving citizens. Climate change is one of the most important threats to modern society and has a direct and indirect impact on our communities and citizens. Responding to climate change requires immediate and effective measures at all levels of governance, with local and regional authorities at the forefront of reducing the negative impacts of environmental change in their communities. Plans to build resilience and strategies to tackle climate change are not as effective as they should be if they are not supported by citizens' efforts and adopted behaviors.

- The City of Niš, the Center for Civil Society Development Proiecta and the Science Technology Park Niš organized the Round Table Opportunities and Challenges for the Establishment of Energy Cooperatives in the Republic of Serbia. The Round Table was one of the

maps existing municipal energy policy and identify innovations, as well as obstacles and barriers. Through city-to-city conversations best practices that have led to more equitable, just and participative energy policies are identified and shared. What energy cooperatives are, how to register them, what the experiences in Serbia and the region are, who benefits of these cooperatives, are just some of the issues discussed at the Round Table. The panelist with a lot of experience in this field focused on issues such as ensuring a market-sustainable system based on renewable energy sources, sustainable energy use, involving the local community in energy-related projects. The representatives of the only two energy cooperatives registered in Serbia, Ana Đokić and Dubravka Ivković on behalf of the Energy Cooperative Elektropionir from Belgrade, and Slobodan Jerotić, the representative of the Energy Cooperative Sunani krovovi from abac, addressed the gathering. Goran Raić from the Green Energy Cooperative from Krievci shared Croatia's experiences, and Bojan Gajić, City of Niš Energy Manager, spoke about the capacities of the local self-government to help citizens switch to alternative energy sources. From the point of view of the business sector, Andrija Petruć, the energy manager of the company United Green Energy, spoke about the problems that arise in the purchase of electricity produced in this way and the challenges of commercialization of the use of alternative energy sources. Milan Stefanović, the representative of the Center for Civil Society Development Protecta, spoke about the role of civil society, networking of the sector and education of citizens. The representative of the RES Foundation, Jasminka Oliverić Young, drew attention to the issue of legal regulations, and professor of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš, Goran Vučković, spoke about the need for greater Svi, ti spoke

Educational activities for citizens in the coming period regarding energy cooperatives and energy efficiency were announced at the occasion. The meeting was opened by Milan Randjelović, the director of the Science Technology Park Niš, where the round table was held. Science Technology Park Niš is the part of the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology) Climate-KIC (Knowledge and Innovation Community) Hub working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon, climate-resilient society by building an active and vibrant ecosystem of professionals, businesses and citizens that will drive the shift towards a regenerative, circular society.

- Within the implementation of the Program for financing activities and measures to improve efficient energy use in 2021 and in order to achieve energy savings and its rational use, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the City of Niš and the Ministry of Mining and Energy provided 19 million dinars to co-finance energy rehabilitation measures for residential buildings, family houses and apartments on the territory of the City of Niš in 2021. The program under which these subsidies are provided envisages that the ministry and the local self-government provide half of the subsidy for each investment, and the owners themselves the other half. Citizens will be able to apply for the replacement of carpentry (2.4 million RSD) and for thermal insulation (4 million), as well as for the installation of solar collectors for heating sanitary water (1.2 million RSD). Housing communities can apply for carpentry replacement (6.4 million RSD) and for thermal insulation (5 million RSD). On the occasion of the Public Call for co-financing of energy rehabilitation measures for residential buildings, family houses and

apartments on the territory of the City of Niš for 2021, the City of Niš and the Office for Local Economic Development organized an Open Day at the City Hall. Open

project was created as an epilogue to the training of the Camp of Young Leaders, of which Anastasija was a participant, with the objective to show in a simple and practical way how much change a recycled bottle can bring, and encourage fellow citizens to be more careful about the waste they leave behind, but also encourage young people to join such actions. During the podcast numerous questions arose, related to Anastasija's work, but also to the protection of the environment, numerous

Western Balkans and will improve connectivity in the region, but will also speed up ties with the rest of Europe via Corridor 10. Niš is becoming the most important crossroads between Serbia and the Balkans. The total value of the modernization of that section is 59.9 million euros, and 85 percent is financed from non-refundable funds provided from the IPA 2015 fund, and 15 percent from the budget of Serbia. This railway is part of the important Corridor 10, which connects Europe in the north-south direction, and the entire section will connect Belgrade with Preveza (border with Northern Macedonia). Investments will continue in the modernization of the railway lines between Belgrade and Niš with the support of the EU, the EBRD and the EIB, while preparations are underway for the rest of the railway corridor 10.

- The complete suspension of traffic and the closure of the streets in the city center, which were briefly occupied by cyclists, young football players, volleyball players, in order to promote a healthy lifestyle and draw attention to increasing air pollution, marked Car Free Day in Niš which is organized for the 15th time in a row. The City of Niš has implemented numerous measures to improve traffic, such as the construction of bicycle paths, the expansion of the pedestrian zone, and the planting of greenery. Significant funds have been set aside for the provision and equipping of cycling infrastructure to enable fellow citizens to use their bicycles in the prescribed manner. The city intends to set aside five million dinars for subsidies for the purchase of bicycles, with the goal of increasing environmental protection and reducing the number of vehicles on the streets. The installation of a rent-a-bike point, where citizens will be able to rent a

bicycle for free in accordance with their needs, is also planned. World Car Free Day aims to raise public awareness of the dangers of excessive environmental pollution, points out the increasingly serious climate problems and the growing damage done the ozone layer, as well as promote ecological and healthy lifestyles. Although it is only one day, Car Free Day aims to draw the attention to the burning problem of pollution, encouraging people to depend less on cars and try alternatives walking, cycling or using public transport.

- European Mobility Week was marked in Niš this year with the idea of promoting sustainable means of transport and looking for innovative solutions for preserving the environment. The City of Niš, as a traditional partner of the EU Info Corner in marking the European Mobility Week, is one of the 26 cities and municipalities in Serbia that participated in this event with numerous activities. On Saturday, cycling fans of all generations took a bicycle tour from the main city square

anniversary of the European Mobility Week, under the slogan 'Let's move sustainably! Let's Stay Healthy!'. This event aims to favor non-motorized modes of transport in cities over car traffic that uses fossil fuels, all with the aim of improving the quality of the environment in urban areas.

- City administration employees, workers in tourism industry and urban planners, together with Niš City Mayor Dragan Sotirovski, who is also the co-chair of the Serbian side of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)

took part in the meeting.

- Photo exhibition *Nišava Sustainable River Future* was opened in the park on the Nišava riverfront. Twenty exhibition panels tell the story about the life of the city, its residents and the Nišava River in the course of history and today. A special section of the exhibition was dedicated to the future and the significance the wastewater treatment plant with the sewage system in Nišava would have. Serbia, EU and Sweden will implement this investment together. The exhibition is a part of the EU Green Week marked this year from 29 May to 4 June throughout Europe with the same goal to achieve zero pollution and preserve the

Project PEI D. The estimated value of the future

and the region that implement EU projects and have cooperation with the EU Info Corner. The celebration of Europe Day in Ni and the arrival of the EU caravan was also supported by the City of Ni, with which the EU Delegation to Serbia and the EU Info Corner Ni have a

activities in southern and southeastern Serbia. In five years of operation, the EU Info Corner in Ni has organized more than 220 events, independently or in partnership with other organizations and institutions. The exhibition includes photos from workshops, forums, educational programs, study tours, visits by EU ambassadors and officials, social campaigns and other significant activities organized in the past five years.

- The project *EU for Natura 2000 in Serbia* starts with the *Healthy Nature for Healthy Life Campaign*. The goal of the project is to increase the awareness of citizens about the natural beauties of Serbia, but also to point out the importance of their protection. The bus campaign aims to show the citizens the incredible landscapes of Serbia and to emphasize the importance of biodiversity

Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress, Bryony Rudkin from UK and Mihkel Juhkami from Estonia, Congress Thematic Spokespersons on the ELDW, and Dmitri Marchenkov the Head of the Co-operation and External Relations Division. The activities of the Standing Conference of Towns O kin

activating open public areas was presented, and the Consul platform was also presented as a comprehensive tool for citizen participation in decision-making. Deputy Mayor Duica Davidovi held a presentation of good practice in the field of open administration, civic participation and e-democracy to students of the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, at the event organized by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities on the occasion of ENLD.

2020

- With the performance *From Darkness to Support* on the main city square, the City of Ni marked the European Day for the Prevention of the Most Serious Forms of Child Abuse, with a special focus on the prevention of sexual violence. The City of Ni was the first city in Serbia to accept the Council of Europe document for stopping sexual violence against children, entitled *One of the Five* in The city has adopted a Local Action Plan to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect, which it has been successfully implementing together with the relevant institutions since 2014.
- The City of Ni joined this year's European Week of Local Democracy (EWLD) whose leading theme is Local democracy: Building Trust; Co-designing Local Democracy Together with Citizens and Practicing Open Government. The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is an initiative coordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. This pan-European event is targeted specifically at local and regional authorities (local communities, cities,

municipalities, provinces, regions). The general aim is to promote and foster democratic participation at a local level throughout public initiatives which involve citizens.

- Niš City Deputy Mayor and at the same time the deputy member of the Republic of Serbia delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Mrs. Dušica Davidović participated in the Forum on participatory democracy at local level organized by Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities at which she presented the experience and good practices of the City of Niš in the area of open government, citizens participation and e-democracy to the students of Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade. Municipalities and cities are becoming increasingly aware that it is necessary for citizens to be involved in the permanent consultation process and in that sense the awareness of citizens in the local community must be raised, but the capacities of local self-governments for participation of citizens must be built. City of Niš tries to practice open government through various initiatives: open days for citizens at Mayor's Office, at all departments of the city administration and in local community assemblies, public hearings before the adoption of any strategic document, live broadcast of all the session of Niš City Assembly. When it comes to development of participatory culture among young people City of Niš has Youth Council (Youth Council is a mechanism that enables young people to take an active role in decision-making, as well as networking and cross-sectoral cooperation of institutions dealing with youth), Youth Office, allocation of the funds in the city budget for financing and co-financing of youth projects: supporting the young by supporting the work of

youth associations, in order to achieve the highest possible degree of connection between young people and local self-government. The participation of vulnerable groups in public life is secured through: Council of the City of Nis for work with persons with disabilities, allocating funds in the city budget for financing and co-financing programs of public interest implemented by associations-organizations of persons with disabilities in the field of social protection and protection of persons with disabilities in the city of Nis: strengthening the capacity of associations and organizations of persons with disabilities to implement programs; Commission for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities which monitors the achievement of gender equality, proposes activities and measures, especially those that implement the policy of equal opportunities at the city level. In the field of information dissemination and e-democracy: The City of Ni published a large number of data sets on the national open data portal realizing the value of opening data when it comes to quality decision-making and data-driven planning, as well as activating the vast practical, economic and creative potential of opening up a wide range of information and diverse data that the public sector collects and which in some ways has been captured making this data available in machine-readable form to citizens and the business community for the purpose of creating new opportunities for the development of the startup community, the economy and employment, as well as new values through new information, analysis and services. Thanks to the Open Data, City of Ni and City of Kragujevac became the first cities in Serbia to have public transport visible on Google maps. During the introductory panel, the participants were addressed by Djordje Stanicic, Secretary General of the SCTM Tobias Flesenkemper, Head of the Council of Europe Mission in Belgrade, Sasa Mbgic, Assistant Minister of State

Administration and Local Self-Government and Dejan Mlenkovic, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade. The representatives of cities of Kovin, Veliko Gradiste, Sombor, Uzice, Nis and the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade shared their experiences in the field of local democracy during the panel discussion. The Forum was broadcast live on Facebook and Youtube.

- The awareness raising campaign for active citizens participation in the preparation of the City of Ni Development Plan for 2021 – 2027 was launched through social networks, initially on Facebook and Instagram and later on Twitter and LinkedIn. The target groups of Instagram are children and pupils from primary and secondary schools, students and the young working

culture among citizens, especially young population. The Consul is a comprehensive tool for citizen participation in an open, transparent and democratic society. It is used by 135 institutions in 35 countries. CONSUL allows to start all the main citizen participation processes that are used by governments worldwide. For example it has a module for citizen initiatives, where citizens can make proposals and collect supports from other citizens for voting them. It has a module of consultations, of open voting on the important issues of the institutions; another module for participatory budgeting, where citizens can decide part of the budget of the government. And other channels of participation as debates, collaborative drafting, crowd law communities, etc. This tool can increase transparency and confidence in the democratic process and strengthen social cohesion in local communities. The purpose of this type of

representatives of the city and university, the representatives of the chamber of commerce, the students of architecture, representative NGOs and public institutions, residents, business and property owners from the area were invited to the workshop as stakeholders to discuss their needs and aspirations for that particular stretch of the city, to share their interest and influence for the project. On this occasion a placemaking planning technique was presented with the aim of activating open public areas. Participatory urban planning was discussed, as well as the economic, social and cultural impact of placemaking with the aim of creating additional value for the surrounding environment. The importance of involving residents and

Europe to introduce sustainable transport measures, develop infrastructure for sustainable urban mobility and offer their citizens alternatives to car use. The theme of this year's event reflects the European Commission's ambitious goal of making Europe a carbon-neutral continent by 2050 – that is, emitting as much carbon dioxide as nature can absorb, thus eliminating one of the main factors of climate change. A healthier environment, better air quality, lower noise levels, as well as greater traffic safety are the goals of the campaign that ended today with Car Free Day. This year, due to the special situation we are in, the European Mobility Week is held in specific circumstances, without organizing mass gatherings, characteristic for this event.

2019

- Roma Policy Officer in the European Commission, Marta Garcia Fidalgo and Project Manager for Social Inclusion and Minority Rights at the EU Delegation to Serbia, Mrjana Maksimovic paid a half-day visit to Niska Banja City Municipality and the project Establishi in in2

the first Roma Cultural Center in the Balkans, which opened in May this year.

- The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is a pan-European event which aims at boosting local democracy and citizen participation. It is an initiative coordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Local authorities from all the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, and their associations are invited to register and organize public events to promote and foster democratic participation at grassroots level. This year main theme of ELDW is Local Democracy: Building Trust. Since the right of citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs at local level is enshrined in the preamble of the European Charter of Local Self-Government of 1985, and detailed in its Additional Protocol of 2009, it is fundamental for an established and functioning local democracy to promote education for democratic citizenship among young people and children. Moreover, by engaging children and youth, local authorities will understand better their needs and will be able to develop more targeted responses for and with the younger generation, thus building a more inclusive democratic local. The first activity organized by the City of Nis within ELDW was the presentation of the Youth Council directed towards presenting the way how young people could approach the Youth Council and get involved in resolving youth issues. The Youth Council is commissioned by the local Assembly. The purpose of the Youth Council is to support, complement and monitor activities directed at youth policy development and implementation. Youth Council is a mechanism which enables young people to take an active role in decision

making, and for networking and inter-sectoral cooperation of institutions dealing with the young people. Then City of Ni s Office of the Mayor organized the visit of the members of the pupils parliament and senior classes of the primary school Njegos to Ni s City Hall. They had the opportunity to see what the Mayor

- Finnish ambassador in Serbia Mr. Kimmo Lahdevirta spoke about the priorities of the Finland chairing the EU Council in the second half of 2019 at the presentation held at Eu Info Corner in Nis. During the presentation of the priorities of the Finnish EU Presidency the Ambassador also emphasized the importance of enlargement of the Union as well as the unity of the entire continent. If we want to succeed in the future, I think we must all be together, not only EU member states but all European countries, said Ambassador Lahdevirta. Finland took over the rotating six-month presidency of

implementation of at least one sustainable measure of sustainable urban mobility.

- The Delegation of the European Union to Serbia and the EU Info Corner in Nis presented the report of the European Commission on Serbia for 2019 at Nis City Hall. The basic conclusion reached by the Commission is that Serbia has progressed in the field of economics, but not enough in the area of the rule of law and media freedom. The aim of the presentation was to bring together relevant stakeholders at the local level, which implies the participation of representatives of the business community, academic community, institutions, civil society organizations from Nis and southern Serbia. The participants were able to ask questions and actively participate in the discussion on this year's European Commission Report on Serbia. The key findings of the Report were presented in Nis by the Head of the European Integration Sector in the EU Delegation to Serbia, Ms. Radica Nursdorfer. The economic aspects within the process of European integration of Serbia were the focus of the presentation. The speakers before the discussion were Ivan Pavlovic, from the City of Nis Office for

which the Serbian audience will be able to see during autumn. The European Film Festival is part of the campaign # EU4YOU, which brings citizens closer to the European Union. The festival in Nis was organized by the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia and the EU Info Network in Belgrade, Nis and Novi Sad, in cooperation with Nis Cultural Center, Media and Reform Center, French Institute in Nis with the support of the City of Nis.

- Visitors Center at Cerjanska Cave has been officially

Values is part of the European Union Delegation Campaign in Serbia and the EU Info Network in Belgrade, Nis and Novi Sad and is being implemented under the title #

Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs. Mobile
Roma Inclusion Teams are working bodies of the

Under the slogan Our Heritage: Where the Past Meets the Future, the EU Delegation to Serbia and the EU Info

funds, was organized. The reconstruction of the health

out new forms of mobility. From a city's perspective, it requires the political will to support alternative transport methods. On this occasion a Day without Car event was held at the main city square and along main city roads. Many athletes took part in the event as well as children of pre-school and school age. The recreational cycling ride from the main city square along the streets of the wider city center back to the main square was held. This traditional event was organized by the EU Info Corner and the City of Nis.

- The first cycle of this year's European Film Festival in Nis was held from June 20 to June 23 at Officers Mess Building in Nis. The festival was a part of the cultural heritage promotion campaign because the European Union declared 2018 the European Year of Cultural Heritage. The motto of the campaign and festival is Our Heritage: Where the Past Meets the Future with the desire to encourage the discovery and research of European cultural heritage through the film. During the festival, eight films from France, Portugal, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia and Spain were presented. The European Film Festival is organized by the Nis Cultural Center, the French Institute in Nis, the Media and Reform Center Nis, and in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union, the EU Info Center and the EU Info Corner Nis, and in cooperation with the Network of Cultural Centers of the European Union (EUNICC) and the City of Nis.
- At Nis City Hall the representatives of the EU Delegation to Serbia presented the Report by the European Commission on the progress of Serbia which covers the period of the last year and a half, from

October 2016 to April 2018. Nora Hairinen, the Head of the European Union Delegation in Serbia's Political Sector on this occasion stressed that the greatest progress has been made in the field of economic development and macroeconomics, and that additional efforts had to be done in the area of rule of law, independence of the judiciary system, fight against corruption and media freedom

- International Erasmus Games this year were held in Nis from 18 to 21 May. More than 250 foreign students from all parts of Europe met in Nis to compete in one of the biggest European sports competitions for students. The organizer of these games is student organization Erasmus Student Network Nis. The City of Nis is the fourth city in Europe to host the International Erasmus Games after Krakow, Milan and Porto. The purpose of this

the local administration. Within the project, trainings and e-training in the field of professional development and human resources management were held, more than 30 models of acts were developed for more efficient and better quality implementation in practice, and consultant support was provided in establishing human resource management functions in local self-governments. The motive of the City of Nis for participation in this project is the tendency to become a good administration tailored according to the needs of the citizens, which is oriented towards providing fast and efficient services. Also, changes in regulations require improvement of work of local self-governments in the field of human resources management. The City of Nis is one of the 20 pilot units of local self-governments that took part in this project.

- Within the European Mobility Week, the EU Info Corner Nis, the City of Nis and the City Administration for Public Utilities, Energy and Transport marked the day without cars, September 22. The canvas with the message Drive Less, Walk More! Take Care of the Environment! showing green tree created within the action green pedestrian crossing, held in Nis on the first day of the European Mobility Week, was put up at the shopping center Kalca in Ni .
- The main EU programme for culture was presented at EU Info Corner Nis within the KreNi conference the first

competitiveness and innovation in this area. The examples of good practice and planned public calls for cultural and creative spaces and cities, as well as projects for European cooperation were also presented. The KreNi Conference of creative Industries, held for the third time in Nis, is organized by the Association of Citizens Young Ambassadors with the support of the Delegation of Europe Union in the Republic of Serbia and the City of Nis.

- EU Library Corner, specially equipped part of the library for informing citizens about the European Union, was opened at the National Library Stevan Sremac in Nis. Eu Library Corner in Nis is one of 45 corners formed in libraries in 45 municipalities in Serbia, which are part of the EU Corner network of libraries which has been financed by the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia. EUTEKA EU in your library is a project aimed at providing concrete support to libraries throughout Serbia so that they can become places for informing citizens about EU related topics in their communities. More information on the project can be found at: euiinfo.rs/euteka.

- Young musicians from all over Serbia, sixteen soloists and bands presented their talents at Youth Stage within the renowned Nisville Jazz Festival in Nis Fortress. Youth Stage was estap

In order to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing

which would easily find its way to professors and students interested in studying the policy of the European Union, but also to all those of our fellow citizens who wanted to be informed about the European Union. It is very important that the academic community in Nis continues to cooperate with the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia in order to realize the foreign policy priority of our country, which implies future membership in the European Union.

- The meeting of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic with the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia Michael Devenport and the ambassadors of the countries of the Union was held at Officers Mess Building in Nis. The meeting was attended by Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic.
- The Project of the Wastewater Collection and Treatment Plant in Nis was presented at the Eu Info Corner in Nis in the presence of the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, RS Minister for European Integrations Jadranka Joksimovic and RS Minister of Foreign Affairs Ivica Dacic as well as 22 ambassadors and diplomatic representatives of the Member States of the European Union. Through the program for EU pre-accession development assistance, IPA 2017, the grants will be provided for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant and the construction of a sewerage network in Nis.
- Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Devenport, together

member states of the Union and Nis City Mayor Darko Bulatovic visited the Nis fortress on the occasion of visit of Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic and the Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Devenport together with the ambassadors and the representative of 22 EU countries.

- The City of Nis was visited by the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Mrs. Stana Bozovic, the European Union Delegation in Serbia, Richard Masha, as well as representatives of the Office for European Integration of the Republic of Serbia. The occasion for the visit to the city of Nis was the presentation of a feasibility study for the project of waste collection and treatment of waste water in this city. The study should make it possible for Nis to enter the program of development assistance to pre-accession funds of the EU, IPA 2017, and obtain grant for the construction of waste water treatment and sewerage network. This project would represent the largest infrastructure project in the field of environmental protection, which would be financed from the EU pre-accession funds. The project of collection and treatment of wastewater for the City of Nis includes construction of a new collector, restoration of existing, afterwards, the city plant for waste water treatment, as well as additional treatment of sludge. Complete project and technical documentation for the plant and sewage will be funded from the new support programs of the Swedish International Development Agency to the environmental sector in Serbia, PEID, Preparation and Development of Investments in Environment.

- The 7th International Music Festival Constantinus in Nis was opened with the performance of the Norwegian choir

theatre performed at Nis National Theatre on the occasion of marking the Europe Day.

- Last year, the Delegation of the European Union to Serbia assisted financially the Nisville International Jazz Festival. Ambassador Davenport, in the name of good cooperation with the renowned festival, walked along Nis Fortress tressl

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regard to the transparency of ownership and media financing. It is a general impression that the Commission considers that Serbia has made enough progress to open the first negotiation chapters and this is certainly good news for all citizens. All interested in the City Hall had the opportunity to get acquainted with the economic elements of this report in more detail, followed by a discussion with the participation of business community representatives, the academic community and the media.

- The Interreg IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Program of Serbia and Bulgaria for the period until 2020 was presented at Nis City Hall. The total amount allocated for the first call for proposals is just over 12.5 million. This call gives the opportunity to potential candidates from Bulgaria and Serbia to apply joint projects in the territory of the cross-border region: for Bulgaria, these are Vidin, Montana, Vraca, Sofia, Pernik, Custendil, and the following districts in Serbia Borski, Zajecarski, Nisavski, Toplicki, Pirotski, Jablanicki and Pcinjski. The border region of Bulgaria-Serbia cross-border cooperation program covers the territory of almost 40,000 km² with 12 administrative units: 6 regions in Bulgaria, and 6 districts in Serbia, representing equivalent statistical territorial administrative units. The objective of this program is to strengthen the territorial unity of the border region of Bulgaria and Serbia, the competitiveness of the territory as well as the sustainability of development through economic and social cooperation and environmental cooperation along the administrative boundary. This project also provides support to the development of infrastructure that enables social and

both sides of the border as well as strengthening economic synergy in the region and capacity building

year, the cycling tour has gathered over 200 cyclists who rode the streets of the city in an organized column. Ni s City Mayor Zoran Perisic took active participation in cycling along the city streets.

2014

- The presentation of the European Commission s Report on the progress of our country on the road to the European Union was held at Ni s City Hall. The progress report was presented by the Deputy Head of the EU Mission to Serbia Mr. Oscar Benedict. In the second part of the conference, the EU Enlargement Strategy was presented, and all interested had the opportunity to participate in an open debate on all issues related to the EU enlargement.
- The European Union Delegation to Serbia traditionally organizes a cartoonist contest titled Myths and Prejudices, How Serbia Sees the EU and How the EU Sees Serbia. The exhibition of caricatures in Salon 77 in the Ni s Fortress, organized by the EU Info Corner Ni s in cooperation with the City of Ni s, was officially opened by Oscar Benedict, the Deputy Head of Mission of the European Union in Serbia, and Ni s City Mayor Zoran Perisic.
- Within the European Mobility Week, in which Ni s is participating for the 13th time, EU Info Corner Ni s organized the first cycling city tour, with over 400 citizens taking part. Ni s City Mayor Zoran Perisic also took part in cycling tour. After driving down the city streets, the tour ended at famous tourist

