



# YEARS OF RECONSTRUCTION

EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA







EU ASSISTANCE  
FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA



Republic of Serbia



Programme Funded by EU

# YEARS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Implemented by:



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



AUSTRIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY



WORLD BANK GROUP



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## A Word from the Ambassador

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In this editorial, which I am writing as my term of office in Serbia is nearing its end, I can say that its contents reflect what could be the most outstanding activity I was engaged in as Head of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Serbia. It could be summarized in the following phrase "from reconstruction and tackling the consequences to preventing it from happening ever again." The last three years of my term of office in Serbia were undoubtedly marked by the devastating floods in May and September 2014. This is something that will always stay in my memory, wherever I may be in the world. I will also cherish a host of memories of wonderful, brave and determined people whose friendly faces I see in this book, and with many of them I have met and enjoyed their hospitality. I believe that all of us who have participated in this common endeavour, and continue to do so, can be proud of our results and of everything we have achieved. I am glad that Serbia became a member of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in 2015. In the coming years, the focus of our cooperation will be on prevention, on building infrastructure to ensure that a similar natural disaster never happens again, at least not on a scale that we saw in 2014.

**Michael Davenport**

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia



## Floods in Serbia:

1.7 billion Euros damage  
32,000 people fled their homes  
119 local self-governments affected  
57 cities and municipalities suffered serious damage

## 172 million of EU grants:

IPA 2012 – 30 million Euros  
IPA 2014 – 72 million Euros  
EU Solidarity Fund – 60 million Euros  
Regional project of Serbia  
and Bosnia and Herzegovina – 10 million Euros



## EUROPEAN UNION – LARGEST DONOR FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA

In May 2014, the unprecedented rains in Serbia caused the floods and landslides that were unheard of, leaving behind significant damage. During the floods 57 people lost their lives, while approximately 32,000 had to leave their homes. The losses incurred in only a few days were estimated at 1.7 billion Euros, and the damages were recorded in 119 local self-governments throughout Serbia. Only few months later, another flooding caused by the heavy rain hit the eastern part of the country in September 2014, leaving significant damage behind.

The European Union was among the first donors, sending rescue teams and humanitarian assistance through its Civil Protection Mechanism. In order for the rehabilitation of Serbia to start as soon as possible, the EU funded the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme with 30 million Euros, secured through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2012, that was implemented in 39 most affected cities and municipalities. Subsequently, with the allocation of 72 million

Euros through IPA 2014, the Programme was expanded to 57 local self-governments, not only to provide post flood relief, but also to rehabilitate and improve the flood protection system in Serbia. The EU support also encompassed 60 million Euros from the EU Solidarity Fund for the rehabilitation of public infrastructure, available to Serbia as if it were a member state, and ten million Euros for Cross-Border Programme Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**The European Union's support amounted to 172 million Euros, which made it the largest donor for flood relief in Serbia.**



EU ASSISTANCE  
FOR FLOOD RELIEF  
IN SERBIA

2014 - 2017

**57** LOCAL  
SELF-GOVERNMENTS



**225**  
houses  
built



**2,414**  
households  
renovated



**32**  
apartments for  
social housing  
constructed



**36,712**  
agricultural  
households  
assisted



**1,171**  
entrepreneurs,  
small businesses  
and farms  
assisted



**15** schools  
reconstructed,  
**1** constructed



**1**  
kindergarten  
reconstructed



**2** bridges  
constructed,  
**4** rehabilitated



**3**  
water supply  
infiltration lakes  
rehabilitated



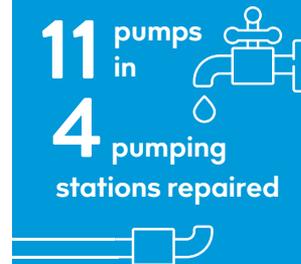
**12** km of  
Korenita - Krupanj  
road reconstructed



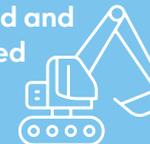
**24**  
landslides  
rehabilitated



**11** pumps  
in  
**4** pumping  
stations repaired



**60** km of  
river channels  
and riverbeds  
cleaned and  
dredged



# EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA PROGRAMME

The European Union allocated 102 million Euros from the IPA 2012 and IPA 2014 for the implementation of the EU Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme aimed at providing post flood support to 57 most affected local self-governments with the population of over two million people, as well as improving the flood protection system in Serbia.

These funds have been used for the construction and reconstruction of damaged houses, the procurement of furniture and appliances for households, the reconstruction of public buildings, the repair of roads, the revival of economy and agriculture through income generating activities and assistance to agricultural households. Furthermore, the funds have been directed for the improvement of the living conditions in temporary shelters, for the purchase of biocides to decrease the mosquito population and to strengthen the capacities of the Government of Serbia Public Investment Management Office (PIMO) - previous Flood Affected Areas Assistance and Recovery Office (FAAARO).

The IPA 2014 funds assisted Serbia to improve disaster risk management and flood prevention systems, the rehabilitation of flood protection structures and the road transport network damaged by the landslides. The EU Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme was designed in close cooperation with the Government of Serbia's Public Investment Management Office (PIMO) and the European Integration Office (SEIO), and implemented by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. (Help), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the World Bank (WB).

The Programme was implemented in the following local self-governments: Aleksinac, Arandelovac, Bajina Bašta, Bogatić, Boljevac, Čuprija, Čačak, Despotovac, Gornji Milanovac, Ivanjica, Jagodina, Kladovo, Knić, Knjaževac, Koceljeva, Kosjerić, Kovačica, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Krupanj, Kuršumlija, Lajkovac, Lazarevac, Loznica, Lučani, Ljig, Ljubovija, Majdanpek, Mali Zvornik, Malo Crniće, Medveđa, Mionica, Negotin, Obrenovac, Osečina, Petrovac na Mlavi, Paraćin, Požega, Ruma, Sjenica, Smederevo, Smederevska Palanka, Surčin, Surdulica, Svilajnac, Svrljić, Šabac, Šid, Trstenik, Ub, Užice, Valjevo, Varvarin, Velika Plana, Vladičin Han, Vladimirci and Zaječar.





## CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES AND APARTMENTS

**225**

houses constructed and furnished



**2,414**

houses reconstructed and rehabilitated



**32**

socially vulnerable families accommodated through social housing



Thousands of people faced devastating housing conditions following the May 2014 floods as 490 houses were completely destroyed and over 25,000 damaged to various extents. The families, many of them belonging to socially vulnerable groups, that lost their homes with furniture, appliances and personal possessions, had to find temporary accommodation. Those whose houses were not completely destroyed, but unfit for living due to high levels of water, mud and moisture that penetrated the houses, were also searching for a temporary home.

The European Union's priority was the rehabilitation of houses and the enabling decent living conditions to families who were seriously affected by the floods. This support included the construction, furnishing and equipping of 225 houses, making almost a half of the overall number of destroyed homes. Apart from this, 2,414 houses were reconstructed, which encompassed mortaring, skimming and wall painting, flooring, replacement of joinery. Durable housing solutions were also provided for 32 socially vulnerable families that got their apartments in one new social housing building.

## Dorđević family

Svilajnac

Andrijana (66) and her son Ivica (42) with disability were among 700 people from the Village of Sedlare in the Municipality of Svilajnac whose houses were affected by the May 2014 floods. The damage caused by the high level of water was such that it required the reconstruction of the house. Within the EU Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, walls were repaired and painted, floors and joinery fully replaced, and as Andrijana said “a brand new home” was created owing to the EU assistance.



**“I could have never done it by myself with a minimum pension and a son with disability. It is a new life for us, you've turned an old home into a brand new. I have no words to describe how we feel now and how grateful we are,” Andrijana Đorđević said.**

## Jokić family

Šid

When the Village of Jamena near Šid on the border between Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was flooded in May 2015, the Jokić family of seven members lost their hard-earned home. War veteran Cvijan (47) moved to this village in Srem in 1991, married Radica and they lived together paying rent for over a decade. During the floods, Cvijan participated in the evacuation and saving of villagers, while his family was evacuated. Upon return, they found their home and furniture completely destroyed. The Jokić family spent several months in a tent put up in their garden, after which their neighbours offered temporary accommodation.

**“When we finally made our home and our life, we were hit by the flood. But now, thanks to the European Union donation, we have a new home. We got furniture and home appliances. Our happiness and gratitude are immense, for our children can now keep on growing in peace,” Cvijan Jokić said with a smile on his face.**



## Marković family

Obrenovac

Milica Marković is the head of a four-member family from Obrenovac comprising her grandson Dragan, granddaughter Marina and Dragan's daughter Milica. Since suffering a stroke several years ago, Milica can barely walk. Milica's grandchildren are unemployed and the family only lives on her modest pension.

With the state flood relief assistance they managed to repair a bedroom, but everything else remained damaged including furniture and personal belongings. After receiving the EU support for the recovery, the family is resuming their life to normal in a fully rehabilitated home.



**"I am grateful mostly because of my grandchildren. I am old and my life wasn't easy, but I am happy they have a warm and safe place to live in and raise their children and families," Milica Marković said.**

## Housing for vulnerable families

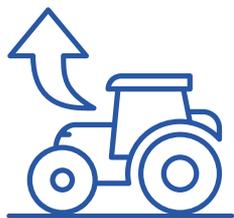
### Obrenovac

A social housing building with 32 apartments was constructed in Obrenovac for 32 most vulnerable families, who were neither eligible for the Government support nor have been considered for any other donation. As none of the families, who counted 118 members, had the ownership of the real estate, they were accommodated in the collective centres immediately after the floods. The worst affected were eleven Roma families who lived in extremely small housing units with poor sanitary solutions.

**“The apartment where we now live is great. I have a normal life, roof over my head and a place to spend time with my grandchildren”, Zlata Marinković, a beneficiary of the social housing apartment in Obrenovac, said.**



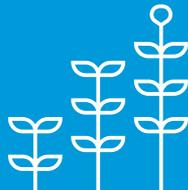




## SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESSES

**36,712**

families supported  
with agricultural assistance



After addressing the needs of the people from the flood affected areas, the next step was the assessment of the level of devastation of the agriculture land. To mitigate the damage in agriculture and contribute to rehabilitation also meant taking care of agricultural production cycles. The delivery of support to agricultural producers started in September 2014, and by May 2017, more than 36,000 farming families with approximately 150,000 members received animal feed, fruit seedlings, livestock, seeds, fertilisers, beehives, greenhouses and agriculture equipment, which substantially contributed the rehabilitation of the agriculture production.

**1,171**

small businesses, enterprises  
and farms supported



Significant funds were also allocated for the revitalisation of micro and small businesses that stopped working or reduced the scope of their activities due to the floods' damage. Consequently, many families were left without income, which negatively affected the quality of their lives. The European Union addressed the needs of these enterprises by providing equipment, tools, raw materials for further production and the material for the rehabilitation of premises. These grants assisted the rehabilitation of 1,171 businesses thanks to which over one thousand people continued working or were reemployed.

## Elektron

Loznica

The enterprise Elektron started the production of different types of machines – dryers, sterilisers and dental equipment in 1986. After suffering severe damage in the floods, Elektron was on the verge of bankruptcy, which meant 15 employees would be left jobless and their families without any income. The water level, which kept rising for four days, seriously damaged the building, while the machines were partially or totally broken.

Owing to the hard work of all employees and the EU assistance, enterprise Elektron is again producing machines, while all of its workers kept their jobs.



**“We didn't believe the good news when the people from the Programme approached us and told us they want to include us in the assistance measures. Up until that point not a single promise about the assistance was fulfilled. However the help came and the only thing we can do is to express our gratitude and say we are over thrilled,”** Luka Jamina, the co-owner of Elektron, said.

## My School

Obrenovac

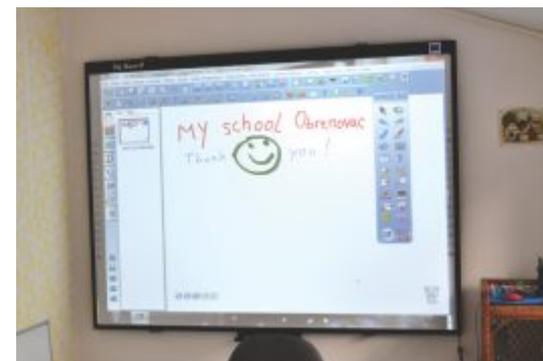
Mirjana Tešić is an English language teacher who had been working in Obrenovac Grammar School until 1999, when she left her job in the public service to try her hand at entrepreneurship. Studio "My School" was initially set in a one-bedroom apartment in Obrenovac and then developed into four classrooms at different locations by 2014.

The floods in May 2014 interrupted the school work as the classrooms were flooded and all basic assets - computers, blackboards, furniture and teaching materials destroyed.

The European Union donated two interactive whiteboards, two projectors and two computers to "My School" which enabled continuation of the work and promotion of foreign language learning both for children and adults.



**"The two smart boards donated by the EU have largely contributed to the magic of "My School". Our students are enchanted with new technologies and thus more motivated to learn. We are truly appreciative of the aid which helped us through hard times of disastrous floods in our country," Mirjana Tešić said.**



## Fish farm DB Food

Bajina Bašta

Dragan Jagodić's family of five in the Village of Rogačica live off a small but successful trout farm called DB Food which has been operating since 2007. When the river Rogačica flooded in May 2014, it destroyed the farm and left great damage on the tanks, with the damage estimated at over 20 million Dinars. The business operations were ceased, which also affected the families of 12 employees.

Through the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, DB Food received construction material to reconstruct the tanks and renew trout production.



**“Before the river flooded all our workers were mobilised to build a defence wall, but we weren't able to save the farm. Owing to the construction material that we received from the EU, we were able to complete the feed channel, part of the sedimentation tank, which the water took away in the floods. This assistance means a lot to us because we can farm trout again,” Dragan Jagodić said.**



## Marković family

Krupanj

Thanks to the donation of the European Union, the Marković family orchard in the Village of Cerova near Krupanj, which was damaged by the floods and the landslide, is blooming again. With 300 donated plum seedlings, Miodrag Marković's plum orchard amounts to 500 trees spreading across their land.

Besides plum trees, the Marković grow hazelnut and cherry trees, raspberries and blackberries, and sell fresh fruit to cold storages and fruit dryer facilities. They also process plums into brandy and jam and sell them in the green market. So far, they did not hire seasonal workers, but when picking season comes, neighbours and friends come to help.

**"Since agriculture is our only source of income, we highly appreciate the donation received from the European Union. Now we have two hectares of land covered by orchards and hope to soon have subsidies for fruit production," Jelena Marković said.**



## Pjević family

Valjevo

Since 2002, Božana Pjević, her grandmother, mother and sisters, who originate from Bihać in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been living in the Village of Divci near Valjevo. Only Božana is employed, so the family has always tried to use the relatively small piece of land around the house to grow vegetables and keep poultry and goats.

In May 2014, the river Kolubara flooded the Pjević house, ruining their crops, and killing their poultry. For several months they could not return to their property, and then, with the help of the European Union, their house was reconstructed. Currently they are recovering their agricultural production by purchasing egg laying hens. This was assisted by the EU donation of 320 kg of hen feed. They are hoping that, when they rehabilitate the building for the cattle, they will be able to expand their production.



**“The fear and panic came after the floods, when I realised what we had lost and that we had to start from the scratch. I saw that people in some parts of Serbia had it worse than us, so that made it easier for me to endure the strain. I have no words to describe how pleased we are for the support we've received from the EU, because I really don't know what we could have done by ourselves,” Božana Pjević said.**

## Milošević family

### Zaječar

Ivan Milošević lives with his wife Marijana and two sons, Miloš (12) and Nikola (nine), in Zaječar. Ivan and Marijana cultivate 42 acres of land in the Village of Veliki Izvor where they produce flowers. During the 2014 floods, torrential rains caused a neighbouring creek overflow, which destroyed three greenhouses and caused serious damage. The constructions were devastated, covering torn, irrigation systems ripped out, potted flowers destroyed. As soon as he heard about the EU Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, Ivan filled out the questionnaire and applied for aid. In spring 2016, the family received a greenhouse with the irrigation system. The family now has five greenhouses where they grow flowers - their main source of income, which they sell on the local green market and to wholesale agents. Marijana is in charge of the sales and her sons Miloš and Nikola, often give a helping hand.



**“Thanks to the support of the EU, we managed to restore and expand flower production. It means a lot to us. Now that we have more greenhouses than before, we plan to hire seasonal workers since volume of work exceeds our current capacities, and to install heating in the donated greenhouse for the safer production,” Ivan Milošević said.**





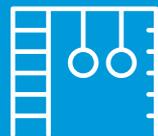


## RECONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

**15** schools  
reconstructed  
and equipped



**1** kindergarten  
reconstructed  
and equipped



**1** school  
constructed  
and equipped



The reconstruction of public buildings, especially schools and kindergartens, was one of the most important tasks of the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme. The floods interrupted the work of educational institutions and deteriorated learning conditions, thus undermining adequate education of thousands of pupils.

The first works commenced in Obrenovac, the municipality most seriously affected by the floods, marking the beginning of the recovery of the public buildings' infrastructure. These works were implemented in five municipalities in Serbia, where 15 primary and high schools, as well as one kindergarten, were rehabilitated, one school constructed and all equipped with furniture and teaching aids. Thanks to the EU support, more than 13,000 children and teachers once again have adequate learning and working conditions.

## Primary School “Jovan Jovanović Zmaj”

Obrenovac

The largest primary school in Obrenovac – “Jovan Jovanović Zmaj” – attended by over 1,300 students, was flooded for nearly two weeks in May 2014. The ground floor with classrooms, sports hall, library and offices was two metres under water. With the support of the European Union, this school has been reopened, after the walls and floors were renovated, and damaged doors and windows along with all electrical installations replaced. New equipment for the substation providing heating for classrooms, protective fence around the school, as well as teaching aids, blackboards, desks, chairs, cabinets and other necessary furniture were purchased.



**“The European Union was from the first day with our school. With the EU support, we managed to rebuild it fully and provide normal learning environment for the students,” Vera Đorđević, School Principal, said.**

## Kindergarten "Dečja radost"

Svilajnac

The kindergarten "Dečja radost" (Children's Joy) is the only pre-school educational facility in Svilajnac, attended by around 450 children. The rooms and playrooms for children, kitchen and administrative offices in the largest building of this institution were severely damaged in May 2014. The works funded by the European Union included replacement of joinery and floors, mortaring, painting, tiling, roof and façade repairs. The reconstruction of the building again provided children from Svilajnac with adequate conditions for play and learning.

**"During the first days of the floods, when we saw the damage to the buildings, reconstruction seemed like an impossible mission. But, with the help of friends, the Kindergarten is running normally again," Zorica Đorđević, Principal, said.**







## RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, LANDSLIDES AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

**12** km of Korenita -  
Krupanj road  
reconstructed



**24** landslides  
rehabilitated



**2** bridges  
built  
**4** bridges  
rehabilitated



**3** water supply  
infiltration lakes  
rehabilitated



The May 2014 floods seriously damaged public infrastructure and blocked or completely destroyed the roads and bridges. Heavy rains activated approximately 2,000 landslides, which caused the destruction of public facilities and private houses, along with infrastructure. Although the clean-up works organised immediately after the floods enabled opening of the roads, the existing landslides' reactivation and the risk of new structure breakdowns required an effective solution to the existing unstable areas.

In the first phase of the assistance, the EU funded the rehabilitation of the drinking water supply system in Trstenik, the reconstruction of the regional road Korenita-Krupanj and the construction of two bridges in Kraljevo. With the aim of improving the mechanisms of flood prevention and reaction in emergency situations, the EU is funding the remediation of up to 44 critical landslides and the reconstruction of up to 14 road structures damaged by erosions within the second phase of the EU Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme. By the end of May 2017, the remediation of 24 landslides in 13 municipalities and the rehabilitation of four bridges in Kovačica, Koceljeva, Knjaževac and Krupanj was completed.

## Road reconstruction

### Krupanj

Heavy rains and floods that hit Serbia in May 2014 severely damaged the state road connecting Krupanj and Loznica through Korenita. Around 1,500 passengers who daily use the road had to take longer routes to transport their goods or access the needed services.

In order to establish normal transport between Krupanj and Loznica for 547,500 passengers annually, the European Union supported the reconstruction of the 12-kilometre road section between Korenita and Krupanj which lasted from December 2014 to July 2015. Up to 120 workers were engaged not only to reconstruct the road itself, but also to rehabilitate and construct the stone embankments of the river, retaining walls, gabions, culverts and curbs, as well as to rehabilitate five new landslides, along this section.



**“Thanks to the efforts of the European Union, the inhabitants of Krupanj have a high quality road that can take them to the nearby City of Loznica or the River Drina,” Rade Grujić, former Mayor of Krupanj, said in 2015.**



## Bridge rehabilitation

Kovačica

The bearing capacity of the bridge over the River Tamiš in Kovačica, which connects almost 10,000 inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, was seriously affected by the substantially increased water levels during the May 2014 floods. Due to the scope of damage, the traffic was suspended since the bridge could not support initially allowed 12 tonnes of weight.

With the support of the EU funds, the bridge was completely rehabilitated and its capacity increased in line with the newly adopted traffic regulation in 2015 allowing a higher volume of traffic on the road important for the connection of Pančevo and Zrenjanin.

**“The inhabitants of the nearby villages will finally stop taking alternative routes and resume with their everyday activities by using the rehabilitated bridge in Kovačica. What is more, the capacity of the bridge has been increased, so heavier trucks will be from now on allowed to cross the bridge,”** Dragan Milošević from the Public Enterprise Roads of Serbia said.



## Landslide rehabilitation

Knič

The May 2014 floods caused the activation of two landslides on the Ravni Gaj – Kraljevo road, which seriously damaged a road lane in the length of 450 metres and led to unsafe transport conditions.

With the EU support, this bridge was rehabilitated and fortified to provide a long term solution and secure transport for thousands of its daily beneficiaries. The works included the rehabilitation of the road structure, as well as the construction of retaining walls and drainage channels which will prevent further activation of the landslide.



**“The fact that this road is categorised as the class 1B state road indicates the significance of this investment, not only for the Municipality of Knič but the whole region and the state,” Zoran Dorović, Mayor of Knič, said.**

## Water supply system rehabilitation

Trstenik

Through the cracks in the embankment, the River Zapadna Morava completely flooded the main water supply system - water sources Staro Korito and Zvezdan - from which drinking water is provided to 70 percent of consumers in Trstenik. Because of the large quantities of mud and water, the system was out of use, so the entire municipality was supplied from the Prnjavor source, which could barely meet the basic needs.

With the European Union support, three infiltration basins for water purification were fully rehabilitated - all the water was pumped out, mud and sludge was cleaned off the riverbed and the banks, and a new filtering layer was installed. After the analyses of the water from the basins confirmed that the water was drinkable, the sources were reconnected to the system. More than 15,000 people in Trstenik once again have regular supplies of drinking water.



**“The European Union assistance in the rehabilitation of the water supply source was extremely important, primarily for the inhabitants of Trstenik, as, in a short term, supply of drinking water was fully stabilised. The assistance was also significant for the local self-government, because rehabilitation with limited funds from the local budget would have lasted much longer,”** Julija Jovanović from the Municipality Administration of Trstenik said.





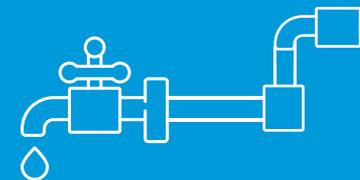
## REHABILITATION OF FLOOD PREVENTION AND PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

**60** km of  
river channels and riverbeds  
cleaned and dredged



The improvement of the flood protection systems in Obrenovac, Surčin, Valjevo, Paraćin and Svilajnac is the continuation of the EU support in the establishment of more resilient disaster management system in Serbia. These flood prevention efforts include the rehabilitation of 64 kilometres of drainage channels network in the Belgrade area (Obrenovac and Surčin).

**11** pumps in  
**4** pumping stations  
repaired



Thanks to the EU support, the procurement and installation of new hydro-mechanical and electrical equipment within the rehabilitation of damaged water pumping stations in five locations in the Municipality of Obrenovac has been initiated. Through the reconstruction of 24.2 kilometres of embankments of the rivers Resava, Buk (Svilajnac), Crnica (Paraćin), Kolubara, Jablanica and Obnica (Valjevo), the capacity of the existing river beds will be substantially improved to withstand the rainfalls similar to those in May 2014.

## Rehabilitation of channels

Obrenovac and Surčin

The capacity of drainage channels built in the 1980s was substantially reduced in previous years due to soil erosion. The floods in 2014 additionally exacerbated the situation when major amount of soil ended up in the channels, which required extraordinary maintenance intervention.

Dredging 64 kilometres of channels will improve the hydraulic condition of 700 hectares of agricultural land, while the retention volume of the channels will be restored to original capacity.



**“The project of cleaning and revitalisation of the channels in Surčin is of huge importance for the Municipality and agriculture households as it will enable the prevention of future floods,” Aleksandra Jelesijević from the Municipality Administration of Surčin said.**

## Restoration of pumping stations

Obrenovac

Six pumping stations in Obrenovac were severely damaged during the May 2014 floods and caused the decrease of the municipality's drainage capacity, thus increasing its exposure to flooding.

With the EU flood relief support, 11 pumps in four pumping stations have already been repaired, while the procurement and installation of new pumps is planned. The works will also encompass the reconstruction of electric, mechanical and civil structures, aiming to improve the capacity of pumping stations on the Rivers Sava and Kolubara in Obrenovac and prevent future flooding.



**“Thanks to the EU funds, we will make huge progress in the process of modernisation of pumping stations in Obrenovac. Electronically connected and automated stations will greatly facilitate the functioning of the flood protection system,”** Vladimir Batalović, Executive Director of the Public Water Management Company “Beogradvode”, said.







## IMPROVEMENT OF FLOOD FORECASTING SYSTEM

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The improvement of flood forecasting system is one of the prerequisites for the reduction of disaster risks and one of the most efficient non-structural flood risk management measures. This includes the enhancement of the national capacity for monitoring, evaluating and forecasting dangerous meteorological and hydrological phenomena. The timely and up-to-date information, early warnings and alarms, provided by the management of the Republic Hydro-Meteorological Service of Serbia (RHMSS) to the Emergency Management Sector of the Ministry of Interior, local self-governments and agencies in

charge of disaster, is of utmost importance for the protection of population and environment.

With the EU funding the Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) aerial survey equipment, hardware and software for data processing will be provided and the production of the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of the surveyed areas enabled. Thus, the RHMSS will strengthen its meteorological and hydrological monitoring network of central Serbia for forecasting rainfall, water levels and discharge.

# European Union Solidarity Fund

**72** LOCAL  
SELF-GOVERNMENTS



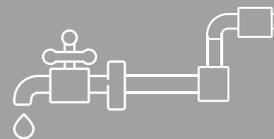
**73** bridges  
constructed



**13** sewerage and  
water supply  
systems restored and  
reinforced



**15** water  
distribution  
networks managed



**23** landslides  
rehabilitated



**8** roads  
reconstructed



**59** health and  
education  
public buildings  
reconstructed



**202**  
infrastructure prevention  
facilities constructed or  
reconstructed\*



**1** mine tailing  
landfill  
remediated



\* under the jurisdiction of PVMCs  
"Srbijavode" and "Beogradvode"

## EUROPEAN UNION SOLIDARITY FUND

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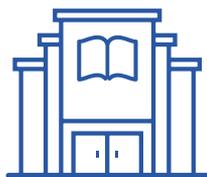
**In March 2015, the European Union granted 60.2 million Euros from its Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to help Serbia as the most severely flood-affected country in the region. The funds were available as if Serbia was an EU member state.**

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The EUSF aid was earmarked for covering and reimbursing extraordinary expenses for public works, primarily to restore critical infrastructure, repair the direct damage and address the pressing needs in the aftermath of the floods, as well as the expenses of rescue operations and the clean-up of the affected areas. The funds could also be used retroactively, i.e. for already launched recovery and reconstruction projects, as well as for reimbursement of already incurred expenses.

Projects funded from the EUSF grant, predominantly encompassing the construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation of major public infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges, water supply and water regulation systems, along with health and education institutions, have been implemented in 72 local self-governments.





## RECONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

**34** schools  
reconstructed



**2** day-care  
centres  
reconstructed



**12** health  
centres  
reconstructed



**11** outpatient  
care clinics  
reconstructed



Within the projects financed through the European Union Solidarity Fund, 59 public buildings in 23 local self-governments were completely rehabilitated or constructed. Many of these facilities could not provide adequate services to beneficiaries, due to the lack of regular maintenance and investment in the past years.

Thanks to the support of the European Union, 34 schools, two day-care centres, 12 health centres and 11 outpatient care clinics were rehabilitated. The works encompassed facilities in: Ub, Valjevo, Svilajnac, Kragujevac, Paraćin, Smederevska Palanka, Koceljeva, Mladenovac, Grocka, Mionica, Kraljevo, Petrovac na Mlavi, Ljubovija, Kosjerić, Krupanj, Lazarevac, Loznica, Ljig, Kučevo, Vladimirci, Smederevo, Lučani and Trstenik.





**“We are grateful for the EU support in the reconstruction of the Outpatient Care Clinic in Begaljica. The reconstruction of this health facility sets the standards for all the clinics in Serbia,”**  
**Andreja Mladenović, Deputy Mayor of the City of Belgrade, said.**

## **Begaljica Outpatient Care Clinic**

Grocka

The Outpatient Care Clinic in Begaljica was out of service after the floods when the water reached the height of 50 cm, remaining there for several days. The boiler room was completely overflowed, the plumbing and sanitation systems ruined, while the moisture penetrated the walls.

The EU funded the reconstruction of the building, including the restoration of walls, joinery, floors, façade, the plumbing and sanitation systems, and sanitary blocks.





## RECONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) supported the reconstruction of transport and local infrastructure, along with the rehabilitation of the damaged flood-prevention infrastructure.

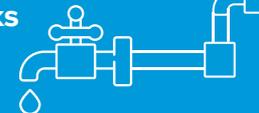
**73** bridges



**13** sewerage and water supply systems



**15** water distribution networks



**23** landslides



**8** roads



**202** infrastructure prevention facilities



The works implemented through the EUSF assistance encompassed the construction and reconstruction of 202 structures managed by the Public Water Management Companies "Srbijavode" and "Beogradvode", reconstruction of 13 sewerage and water supply systems, rehabilitation of 29 landslides, regulation of 14 local watercourses, reconstruction of eight local roads and construction of 73 bridges.





**“The entire town was paralysed when the bridge collapsed because of large amount of water. We had to suspend traffic over the bridge. Thanks to the EU funds, a new, bigger and more stable bridge was constructed,” Nemanja Gajić, architect in the Municipality of Svilajnac, said.**

## **Bridge over the Resava River**

**Svilajnac**

The structure of the bridge over the River Resava collapsed during the May 2014 rainfalls when Svilajnac was heavily flooded.

A new three-span 44.6 metre long bridge, designed as a frame structure, was constructed of reinforced concrete and erected to withstand the floods of the capacity resembling to the ones that hit Serbia in May 2014. The bridge connects the villages of Jasenovo and Subotica, as well as the Municipalities of Svilajnac and Despotovac.





**“It was worthwhile to invest time and money to save the lives of 15,000 people who suffered decades-long direct exposure to toxic materials from the tailings pond, but also the health of people who live in the municipalities downstream of Stolice. The European Union funded the works and owing to its generosity we managed to achieve so much after the flooding that hit us,” Marko Blagojević, the Acting Director of the Public Investment Management Office, said.**

## Rehabilitation of the Stolice Mine Tailing

Krupanj

The pollution of the Rivers Kostajnička, Korenita and Jadar flows, caused by the spilling of tailing from the flotation landfills of the antimony mine “Stolice”, has lasted for decades and peaked in May 2014 with the heavy rainfalls. Post-floods environment researches pointed out that 27 kilometre long riverbeds of the Rivers Kostajnička and Korenita and 360 hectares of flooded agriculture land, contained hazardous materials and heavy metals above the permitted maximum level.

The rehabilitation included the protection against surface waters, remediation and stabilisation of the tailings pond, clean-up and regulation of the most vulnerable section of the River Kostajnička downstream from the landfill in the settlements area. More than 15,000 inhabitants from nearby municipalities will be protected from the large-scale pollution caused by hazardous materials.





## **TOWARDS INCREASED PREPAREDNESS AND SAFETY**

Three years after the floods hit Serbia in May 2014, the assistance of the European Union to Serbia for flood relief is reaching its final phase. With hundreds of homes built and thousands reconstructed, hundreds of infrastructure and public facilities rehabilitated and thousands of small businesses and agriculture producers supported, the EU has provided crucial assistance to the Government of Serbia to get the lives of its citizens not only back to normal, but often provide better living and working conditions and services.

The initial phase of emergency reactions and immediate response and relief has been replaced over time with prevention and protection measures in order to reduce the risk of new catastrophes. The EU will continue to implement the initiatives that have already gained momentum through rehabilitating roads and landslides, dredging the channels and reconstructing the riverbeds and introducing early warning and flood risk management systems in order to enhance Serbia's preparedness and safety.

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