

## THE EU AND SERBIA: A PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

### Construction of a new children's hospital - Tiršova 2

The construction of the new University Children's Hospital Tiršova 2 started in October in Belgrade, and the completion of the works is expected by 2025. The demolition of the building on the location of the future building of the University Children's Clinic, popularly known as Tiršova 2, began in November 2020, which started a project investment worth 117.2 million euros. The total value of the construction works is estimated at around 95 million euros, and the rest of the money will be directed to the purchase of equipment.

The complex will cover more than 57,000 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 36,000 m<sup>2</sup> is intended for medical space with eight state-of-the-art operating rooms. The remaining 21,000 m<sup>2</sup> is intended for a garage with 550 parking spaces, intended for employees and patients. The complex is designed for a total of 286 hospital beds, 37 of which are in intensive care, and which will be distributed in 154 rooms. The building will have a total of 11 floors: 3 underground floors of the garage space, 2 basements, ground floor and 5 floors.

The location of the new children's clinic will be located within the Clinical Center of Serbia, in the part along the highway and in the immediate vicinity of the existing building of this specialized institution. The hospital will have direct access from the highway.

The future hospital will aim at the latest advances in medical science and practice - more sophisticated diagnostic procedures, minimally invasive technologies for diagnosis and treatment, safer and more accurate surgical technologies, robotic surgery, more efficient patient follow-up, new diagnostics and therapies, including genetic research.

Funds for the realization of this project were provided partially from an EU donation in the total value of 35.7 million euros. The second tranche is provided through a loan from the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). This is one of the largest grants approved by the EU for projects outside the transport and energy sectors.

Therefore, this project represents a significant contribution of the European Union to the safety and health of children in Serbia.

**Total EU donation: 35,700,000 EUR**

#### BACKGROUND ON EU SUPPORT TO THE HEALTH SECTOR

Over the past two decades the EU equipped hospitals, laboratories, institutes of public health and blood transfusion centres and provided a total of 284 fully equipped ambulances for health centres around Serbia, 122 of which were equipped with ventilators, crucial in the fight against Covid-19.

In general, the EU supported Serbia's entire healthcare network: through the European Investment Bank funds in the amount of 250 million EUR were used for the reconstruction and construction of 20 large hospitals across Serbia, including the "Torlak" Institute, as well as the four University Clinical Centres in Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad and Kragujevac, all of them instrumental in the fight against coronavirus.

Thanks to EU's assistance, millions of Serbian citizens have better and more modern health care across Serbia.