



Regional
Housing
Programme

RHP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017





Completed buildings in Ovca complex, Belgrade, December 2017



Completed buildings in Konik complex, Podgorica, Montenegro, December 2017

Messages from Partner Countries' Representatives



Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thanks to the Regional Housing Programme, 435 housing units have been provided in BiH thus far, whereas 1 200 are scheduled for completion in 2018. This Programme has indeed gathered a considerable momentum in our country, which has also been recognized by the donors who decided, at the meeting held recently in Paris, to contribute additional EUR 3 million for its continued implementation. The construction of new housing units for refugees and displaced persons will continue in 2019 when close to 300 new homes should be delivered, followed by 550 in 2020. It is of utmost importance that the Programme be accompanied by measures supporting sustainable return, since merely having a roof over one's head does not guarantee a successful return - which constitutes our primary goal. The BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees is working on ensuring additional financial resources for the enhancement of the quality of life of the returnees, in the form of improved municipal and social infrastructure, creation of conditions for employment and business generation, or education and social protection, in which the local communities play a crucial role.



**Nikola Mazar, State Secretary,
Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care of the Republic of Croatia**

In the course of the year 2017, the Republic of Croatia has continued implementing projects within the scope of the Regional Housing Programme. In this light, we have successfully completed three sub-projects: the Home for Elderly and Disabled persons in Glina for 75 beneficiaries, construction of two apartment buildings in Knin for 40 families and the apartment building in Benkovac for 21 families. The sub-project "Purchase of 101 flats" is in a final phase with four flats remaining to be purchased. The focus is now put on the implementation of the sub-project - "Organized renovation, reconstruction and construction of 62 houses". The Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care is fully committed to continue with the implementation of RHP, also through new projects that are in the preparatory phase, in the forthcoming years until the last beneficiary is provided with a housing solution.



Kemal Purisic, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Montenegro

At end-2017, it is with great pleasure that I can say that Montenegro has again achieved remarkable results in the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme. We take most pride in the completion of 120 housing units in the Konik Camp, allowing 670 persons to move into their new apartments. The closure of this largest refugee settlement in Montenegro, scheduled for summer 2018 once the additional 51 housing units have been completed, will have an immense effect not only on the lives of this vulnerable population, but also on the urbanization of an entire part of the city of Podgorica. The year 2017 has also seen the completion of the home for the elderly in Pljevlja, which is expected to accommodate the first beneficiaries in early 2018. Furthermore, the construction of 94 apartments for vulnerable refugees from the collective settlement "Rudes" is currently on-going in Berane, scheduled for completion in mid-2018. Several other projects are also on-going or in the preparatory phase, which will in the next few years provide a dignified life for a number of most vulnerable families.



Vladimir Cucic, Commissioner for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia

The Regional Housing Programme in Serbia is currently in its full implementation stage. This year has been particularly important as we have completed the construction of 235 apartments for refugees in Ovca, Belgrade, and inaugurated more than 20 apartment construction sites, including also the largest one where 270 apartments will be constructed in Kamendin, Zemun. The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration will continue implementing the Regional Housing Programme in Serbia with the same intensity and commitment, and the desire to provide housing care to all vulnerable refugee families in Serbia that are still without a roof over their heads.





Milestones in 2017

11 construction sites with 632 apartments completed:

Knin (40), Glina (75) and Benkovac (21), [Croatia](#); Pale Praca (6), Foca Ustikolina (9), Tuzla (20), Bosanski Petrovac (20) and Ilidza (18), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); Konik (120) and Pljevlja (68), [Montenegro](#) and Ovca (235), [Serbia](#)

41 construction sites with 1 128 housing units inaugurated:

Berane (94) and Konik (additional 51), [Montenegro](#); 18 municipalities (326) and Kamendin (270), [Serbia](#) and 20 municipalities (387), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

319 village houses purchased throughout Serbia

255 packages of building material delivered in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

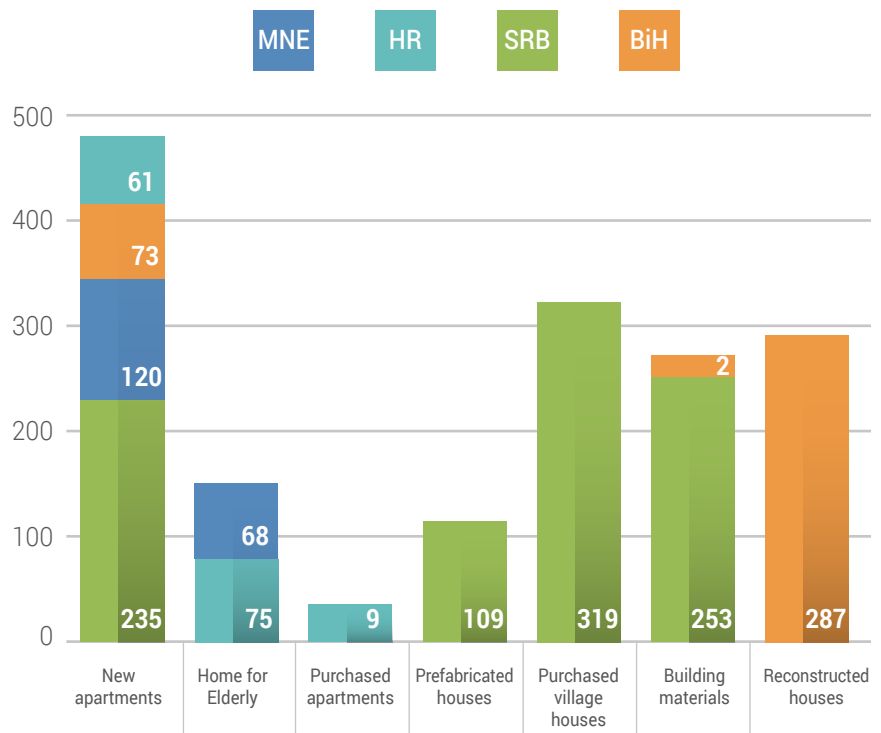
287 houses reconstructed in Bosnia and Herzegovina

109 prefabricated houses delivered throughout Serbia

9 additional flats purchased throughout Croatia

Overall, some 2 600 housing units have been provided to RHP beneficiaries at end-2017. The peak of delivery is expected in 2018, when over 3 500 supplementary housing units are planned to be completed. The number of housing units provided in 2017 per housing modality and per country are shown below:

HOUSING UNITS COMPLETED IN 2017



RHP IMPLEMENTATION STATUS - KEY FIGURES (AS AT END DECEMBER 2017)

Number of approved sub-projects	24
Total estimated cost of approved sub-projects	EUR 217 million
Total approved grant amount	EUR 183 million
Total national contribution	EUR 34 million
Number of households concerned	9 500
Number of beneficiaries concerned	28 000
Total amount disbursed	EUR 85 million
Housing Units delivered	2 600

SOME 8 000 VULNERABLE PERSONS PROVIDED WITH HOUSING SOLUTIONS AT END 2017



Implementation Highlights



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



Bosnia and Herzegovina made good progress in 2017 in the delivery of housing units through the implementation of four on going sub-projects. The re/construction of almost 300 destroyed and damaged houses for returnee and IDP families was completed by the end of 2017. Additionally, 73 apartments were handed over in the first RHP-financed buildings in Pale Praca, Foca Ustikolina, Tuzla, Bosanski Petrovac and Ilidza in the Federation of BiH. Furthermore, in the first half of 2017, the construction of apartment buildings under the BiH3 sub-project started in 20 municipalities throughout the country, with the completion of works expected in the second half of 2018. The process of selecting beneficiaries for the recently approved sub-project BiH5 - comprising the provision of 550 additional housing units - should be finalised soon and the implementation is expected to start in 2018. A new sub-project (BiH6) is under preparation.

Up until now, close to 500 housing units have been completed, while during 2018, over 1 000 further homes are planned to be delivered under the RHP in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The sub-projects currently under implementation should allow the delivery of 2 500 durable and sustainable housing solutions for the benefit of some 9 000 vulnerable persons by end-2020.



MONTENEGRO



In 2017, Montenegro saw the successful completion of the construction works on 12 buildings at the Konik Camp in Podgorica. These buildings now provide homes to 120 most vulnerable families who spent almost 20 years in tents and containers. Furthermore, thanks to savings made under the original project, additional 51 apartments will be constructed for the residents of the Konik Camp and the surroundings, thereby increasing the number of beneficiary families to 171. Construction works on the Home for the elderly/handicapped persons in Pljevlja were finalised in November, and all 68 tenants will be able to move in as soon the weather conditions allow it. In February 2017, the construction works were launched in Berane, to provide housing for 271 persons in 94 apartments by the end of 2018.

Next year, 36 apartments are planned to be purchased for selected beneficiaries in Herceg Novi and 50 individual houses are scheduled to be constructed in various municipalities, bringing the overall number of RHP housing solutions provided in Montenegro to close to 500.



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



In Croatia, three construction sites were successfully completed in 2017. Two residential buildings with 40 apartments were finalised in Knin and the new tenants moved in at the beginning of October 2017. The reconstruction works on a home for 75 elderly and disabled persons were completed in Glina and the building was handed over to the Sisak-Moslavina County in July 2017. 75 selected tenants will move in at the beginning of 2018, upon recruitment of 30 employees. The construction of an apartment building for 21 families in Benkovac is also completed and the tenants will be able to move in in January 2018. Furthermore, in 2017, 9 additional apartments were purchased under the sub-project HR4, targeting the purchase of flats for a minimum of 101 beneficiary households.

By the end of 2017, 262 housing units have been provided to RHP beneficiaries in Croatia, while further 66 are planned to be delivered in 2018.



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



Serbia continued in 2017 to make good progress in the delivery of RHP housing solutions, in particular as regards the provision of village houses, construction of prefabricated houses and provision of building material packages. The delivery and installation of 109 pre-fabricated houses and purchase of 319 village houses was finalised at the end of 2017. In December, the construction works on 235 apartments in Ovca, Belgrade, were finalised. Another construction site was inaugurated in the Serbian capital in 2017, in Kamendin (municipality of Zemun), where housing will be provided for 270 RHP beneficiary families. Furthermore, important construction projects were launched in 18 different municipalities across the country, to provide altogether 381 housing units.

Over 2 000 housing solutions are planned to be delivered to RHP beneficiaries in Serbia in 2018, with almost 1 000 packages of building material, over 500 newly constructed/purchased apartments and around 500 pre-fabricated and village houses.



Meeting RHP Beneficiaries



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mirsad and Namira Ramovic spent the period between 1992 and 1996 displaced in Gorazde, Jablanica and Sarajevo. The family was traumatised when their son Benjamin survived a brain death at his birth. Due to a medical error, Benjamin is now 90 percent disabled and a child with special needs who can neither hear nor speak. This sad event determined the destiny of the Ramovic family. The vicinity of a hospital and everyday medical care forced them to remain in Sarajevo, where they lived in a rented apartment, until 2013. For the past four years, they have been living in a run-down house in Ustikolina, where the wind would just come in through the windows, so each year they needed a lot of firewood just to get through the winter.

A new apartment in a building constructed under the Regional Housing Programme in Ustikolina saved this family, as the living conditions are far better than before. Taking care of Benjamin is still taking much of the parents' time, as they take him to see a speech therapist, defectologist and a psychiatrist in Foca and Gorazde three times a week, but there is a possibility that Benjamin may speak and start school in two or three years. At the same time, their daughter Amila who is 12 years old, is now able to focus on school; she is a brilliant pupil with excellent grades.

Despite many misfortunes, there is a smile on Namira's and Benjamin's faces and a true desire for a new life in better conditions, thanks to the RHP.



Implementation Highlights

HANDING OVER KEYS TO BENEFICIARIES IN THE FIRST RHP FINANCED MULTI-APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN BIH



An event was organized on 31 October 2017 in Ustikolina, in the Municipality of Foca in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to mark the successful completion of construction of 9 apartments for refugees and displaced persons, under the RHP **sub-project BiH3**.

Another event under the same sub-project was organized on 7 December 2017 in Tuzla (FBiH), to hand over the keys to new homes to 20 RHP beneficiary families. BiH3 consists in the construction of 512 apartments in total, in 19 municipalities throughout the country, including in the Brcko district. The sub-project is advancing well: 73 apartments should be completed in 2017, 399 in 2018 and the rest - 40 - in 2019.



HANDOVER OF KEYS TO RHP RETURNEES CONTINUES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



On 10 February 2017, Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted a ceremony in Derventa to mark the handing over of keys to 24 beneficiary families. The selected beneficiaries are returnees from Croatia and will now be moving to their reconstructed pre-war houses, under the RHP **sub-project BiH1**.

The cost of the sub-project, which will be completed in 2018, is EUR 2.7 million.



Meeting RHP Beneficiaries



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Janko (68) and Slavka (65) Ivanisevic fled from Knin, Croatia, in 1995 with their two young children and came to Subotica, Serbia, where they found accommodation in a collective centre made of bungalows from the former vacation settlement near the Palic Lake. The family returned from the refuge in 1999 and came to their old house near Knin, rebuilt on the ruins of their devastated family house. In 2006, the house became unsuitable for living, so they had to move to a summer house built by Slavka's sister who lives abroad.

Janko Ivanisevic receives a small pension, earned while working on the railway before the war. Slavka is retired and receives a monthly pension of EUR 160. Their son Aleksandar, who lives in the same household with his wife and two children, is occasionally employed and currently works as a driver for a furniture store. Their daughter Mirjana works as a cleaning lady at the Knin hospital. She has three children.

Thanks to the RHP, Janko and Slavka finally succeeded to get an apartment in the newly constructed building in Knin, into which they moved in October 2017.



Implementation Highlights



40 APARTMENTS HANDED OVER IN KNIN, CROATIA

The Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care (CSORH) organised an event on 4 October 2017 to celebrate the completion of apartments for 40 RHP beneficiary families in two apartment buildings. The beneficiaries had previously lived in other countries of the region, in collective accommodation, or otherwise in substandard living conditions. The total cost of the RHP **sub-project HR2** - construction of two apartment buildings, each with 20 apartments - is EUR 3.5 million, 75% of which (EUR 2.6 million) is financed from the RHP Fund resources and 25% as a national contribution.



HOME FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS IN GLINA HANDED OVER

On 5 July 2017, Ivo Zinic, Sisak-Moslavina County Prefect and Nikola Mazar, Head of the Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care signed the Agreement on the Rights and Obligations for the Home for the elderly and disabled persons in Glina, under the RHP **sub-project HR3**, thus marking a ceremonial handover of the Home. The total cost for reconstruction and extension of the home amounts to EUR 4.3 million. The founder of the Home in Glina is the Sisak-Moslavina County, whereas the State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care was in charge of its construction and equipping, as well as of the selection of beneficiaries. The Home should become operational at the beginning of 2018, following the recruitment of 30 employees.



Meeting RHP Beneficiaries



MONTENEGRO

Semsija Gasi (28) came from Djakovica in 1999 with her parents and has lived through the whole Konik Camp history: first they lived in canvas tents, then in small wooden barracks that they built. In the summer of 2012, a big fire burned down all the existing tents and huts, leaving the Camp tenants without any belongings. Thanks to the fast reaction of the Government of Montenegro, UNHCR, CEB and other partners, temporary tents were provided immediately, and they were soon replaced by containers with water and electricity installations, fridges, stoves and basic furniture.

Semsija has a 13-year old son who goes to school by the Camp bus. The transportation to city schools is organised daily by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of Montenegro for all children from the Camp, lowering the school drop-out rate to a minimum. Semsija regularly participates at women's workshops organised by the Red Cross, which provide an opportunity for Roma women to discuss challenges in their everyday lives and to look for solutions. Educational workshops on health and social issues are also organised, with a high attendance rate by the Camp tenants, contributing to Konik residents' adaptation to everyday urban life.

In November 2017, Semsija and her son moved to the new RHP financed apartment in one of the 12 newly constructed buildings. The smile on their faces tells how much they appreciate this new chance to re-start their lives.



Implementation Highlights

120 FAMILIES FROM KONIK CAMP IN MONTENEGRO MOVE INTO NEW HOMES



On 15 November 2017, a ceremony was organised in Konik, Montenegro, to hand over RHP-financed apartments to 120 most vulnerable families from the Konik Camp. These 120 apartments will be completed by a further 51 apartments which will be handed over in autumn 2018.

This RHP **sub-project MNE2** complements an earlier action financed by the European Commission through IPA funds, where 48 apartments were delivered to vulnerable Konik residents in autumn 2015. Together with the IPA-financed apartments, the RHP project should contribute to the definite closure of the Konik settlement in late 2018.



FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR 94 HOUSING UNITS IN BERANE, MONTENEGRO



On 7 April 2017, Kemal Purisic, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Dragoslav Scekcic, Mayor of Berane and Leslie Freriksen, representative of the U.S. Embassy in Montenegro, laid the foundation stone for the construction of 94 housing units to accommodate displaced persons in Berane.

The total cost of the **sub-project MNE4** is estimated at EUR 4 million, out of which EUR 3.6 million will be financed from the RHP Fund resources. The works contract with the selected contractor was signed in December 2016 and the works should be completed in the second half of 2018.



Meeting RHP Beneficiaries



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Milena Tintor was 13 years old when she fled together with her parents and two younger brothers from the village of Varivode, near Knin, Croatia. They took with them just a few photo albums, and left all their belongings in the big family house, surrounded by the fertile land the family had been cultivating for decades.

Milena's mother, Dusanka, was a bookkeeper, her husband a journalist and, as Milena repeated many times with tears in her eyes, they had a very comfortable and happy life in Croatia, until the war began. Upon their arrival to Serbia, they settled temporarily in Dusanka's cousin's small house. As the house was in a very bad condition, they moved out and started renting apartments all around Belgrade and its suburbs, one worse than the other. Milena's father, Jovan, was writing for some refugee magazines, and her mother Dusanka managed to find a job in a bookkeeping agency. The three children had a few difficult years while getting used to the new, urban environment, where their school friends mocked them because of the different accent and lack of money for books and clothes.

Dusanka and Jovan managed to buy a piece of land in the Belgrade suburb of Krnjaca, and started building a house in 2003, with some help from their relatives and a bank loan. This is where Dusanka, Jovan and Milena, with her three children, still live. They applied three times for a package of building material, but were always rejected. Finally, when Dusanka heard about the possibility to get an apartment in Ovca, she convinced her daughter to try one more time. Milena says that she didn't believe at all that this would be possible. Even when she got the confirmation that her application has been accepted, she still couldn't believe that she would finally have a place of her own, for her and the three children.

In December 2017, Milena and her children moved to the new RHP financed apartment in one of the newly constructed buildings in Ovca.



Implementation Highlights

CONSTRUCTION OF 270 APARTMENTS STARTED IN KAMENDIN



The Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration hosted an event on 17 November 2017 to lay the foundation stone for the construction of 270 apartments in Kamendin, in the municipality of Belgrade. This project is part of the **sub-project SRB5**, approved by the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors in November 2014 which aims at providing housing solutions to 1 712 vulnerable RHP beneficiary families in Serbia. With a total estimated budget of EUR 46.8 million - of which EUR 10.4 million is to be covered by the national contribution – up to 1 267 new apartments should be constructed in 27 municipalities throughout Serbia. In addition, the sub-project covers the delivery of 200 building material packages and the purchase of 241 village houses. The works in Kamendin are scheduled to be completed in early 2019 when the beneficiaries – refugees from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina - will move in. The beneficiary selection for the apartments is in progress, with close to 2 000 applications received.

BENEFICIARY FAMILIES IN SERBIA RECEIVED KEYS TO PRE-FABRICATED HOUSES AND CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING MATERIAL PACKAGES

On 1 September in Belgrade, 302 refugee families from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia were awarded agreements for the delivery of building material packages in the City of Belgrade. The delivery started in October 2017 and the installation is expected to be finalised by July 2018. These 302 housing solutions are part of the third RHP sub-project for Serbia (**SRB3**). The total value of the sub-project amounts to EUR 13.6 million and it will provide a durable housing solution to some 700 families in the City of Belgrade. 69 village houses have already been purchased under this sub-project and a further 235 housing units were completed this year, following the completion of the construction of apartments in Ovca, Belgrade.



CONSTRUCTION OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS STARTED IN SEVERAL TOWNS IN SERBIA

In March 2017, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia hosted four events - in Sremska Mitrovica, Krusevac, Prokuplje and Paracin - to mark the start of construction works on multi-apartment buildings which will provide housing for 40 refugee families in Sremska Mitrovica and 20 in Krusevac, Prokuplje and Paracin each. The works should be finalised within one year. These are four of the nine municipalities participating in the implementation of **sub-project SRB2**. In the other five municipalities – Vrsac, Bajina Basta, Sabac, Kikinda and Sid – works on the construction of further 100 apartments will start at the beginning of 2018.





Enhanced Regional Cooperation



The RHP has strengthened neighbourly relations and enticed the Partner Countries to cooperate and build trust with each other



Minister Semiha Borovac

Minister Borovac was selected by the newspaper "Nezavisne Novine" as the best Minister in the Council of Ministers in BiH

"I am especially touched because this is an acknowledgement of the support of readers, the citizens of BiH. This is not a recognition to me alone, but to the entire Council of Ministers. I'm here to express the recognition to the media and journalists and their honourable profession. Everyone in BiH needs more dialogue, understanding, respect and self-critical review of their own positions. I am sure that if all of us follow this path, we will have strong partners in the struggle to build a more secure future for our children".

At the 11th RHP Steering Committee meeting which took place on 29 November 2017 in Paris, Semiha Borovac, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, delivered a joint statement by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, reconfirming their continued commitment to the RHP. In this statement, the Partner Countries highlighted the programme's uniqueness, in the region and worldwide, as post-conflict reconstruction programme. The RHP is also making an important contribution to addressing poverty reduction, social inclusion and economic empowerment as well as supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia in their EU accession process.

Based on the principles of the Sarajevo Process and the Joint Declaration signed by Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Croatia and Republic of Serbia, we, the representatives of the Lead Institutions of the four Partner Countries involved in the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), hereby reaffirm our dedication and commitment to ensure full political, financial, legal, social and other support necessary to end the long-lasting displacement resulting from the conflict that occurred in the region during the 1990s.

As noted on several occasions, the RHP is a unique programme in the region and worldwide as a post-conflict reconstruction program. It was launched as part of a broader political agreement and represents a partnership based initiative by our four countries. Cooperation between our countries has contributed to the restoration of mutual trust, regional stability, promotion of peace and coexistence in the region and, more importantly, produced concrete results.

To date the programme has provided durable housing solutions for 2,160 most vulnerable beneficiary families. This would not have been possible without generous support of donors led by the European Union. We would like to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to all RHP donors for their trust and support, which has allowed the Partner Countries to work together in building homes and better futures for those who need them most. The cooperation between the four Partner Countries, working together to identify and implement solutions, has proved critical to RHP's success. We would like to hereby emphasise the importance of maintaining and further enhancing the regional character of the programme.

We have committed ourselves to provide permanent and sustainable housing solutions for the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons. Importantly, we also recognise that vulnerable beneficiary families must be provided with access to utilities, economic opportunities and social rights to ensure their lasting and sustainable (re)integration. To that end, we have revised the needs assessment for sustainable return, developed sustainability plans and identified action measures in order to facilitate the (re)integration of RHP beneficiaries into their local communities. We have provided national contributions and improved our implementation capacities as well.

We all have a major responsibility to the programme beneficiaries. Their futures greatly depend on our work and continued commitment to the RHP.

Paris, 29 November 2017



RHP Visibility

EXHIBITION IN EU INFO CENTRE, BELGRADE

A photo exhibition, featuring 60 photographs and presenting the results of two refugee housing projects, “Regional Housing Programme” and “European Union Support for Improving the Living Conditions of Forced Migrants”, was organized in the EU Info Centre in Belgrade in the beginning of January 2017.

SHORT FILMS ABOUT RHP BENEFICIARIES

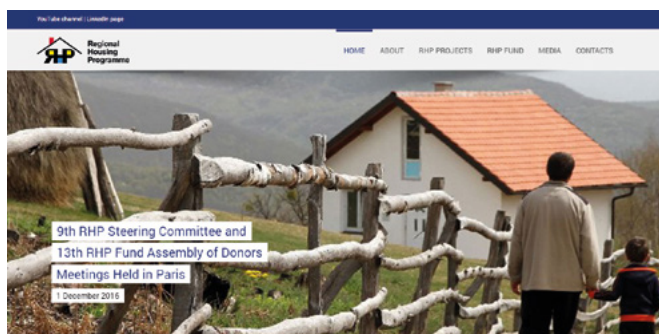
In March 2017, new short films were produced about the RHP beneficiaries from the four Partner Countries: the Gondzic family moved into their newly constructed house in Olovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ilinka Knezevic from Knin, Croatia received an RHP-financed apartment. Draga Vujovic moved with her son into her new apartment in Niksic, Montenegro. Nenad Tumara received a new pre-fabricated house in Pecinci, Serbia.

INTERVIEW IN NEDELJNIK

EU Ambassador to Serbia Michael Davenport and Serbian Commissioner for Refugees Vladimir Cucic gave an interview to the Serbian weekly magazine Nedeljnik on 14 February 2017. The integral interview in English is posted on the RHP website: [go to article](#)

ARTICLE ON RHP IN BIH DAILY “OSLOBODJENJE”

At the beginning of October 2017, the Bosnian daily newspaper “Oslobodjenje” published an article on RHP implementation in BiH. The article focussed on the results achieved so far and emphasised the importance of the whole programme for the returnees and for maintaining the stability in the region.



MEDIA CONFERENCE

On 28 February 2017, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia (KIRS) and the Council of Europe Development Bank organised a press conference in Novi Sad, with the aim to present the latest results of the Regional Housing Programme. The press conference was organized in the context of KIRS’ annual trustees’ meeting, this year dedicated to RHP implementation in Serbia.

RHP on CROATIAN NATIONAL TELEVISION

Mr Ivica Preskar from Croatia’s RHP Lead Institution – Central State Office for Reconstruction and Housing Care - and Mr Neven Crvenkovic from the UNHCR were guests at the “Prizma” TV show in June 2017, presenting the results of the RHP and showing some inserts from the latest film on RHP implementation in Croatia.

Please click this link for the complete show: [go to show](#)

ARTICLE ON RHP IN “DEUTSCHE WELLE”

Following the visit of a Deutsche Welle journalist to Belgrade in June 2017 where he accompanied RHP stakeholders in the context of the Assembly of Donors/Steering Committee meetings, an article about the RHP was published on the Deutsche Welle website in Serbian, English and German. Please click this link for the complete article: [go to article](#)

RHP on TV N1

On 14 February 2017, RHP Partner Countries’ representatives were invited as guests to a programme on the regional TV channel N1. Their common message highlighted the positive impact of the RHP on the regional cooperation between the countries.

Please click this link for the complete show: [go to show](#)



In order to promote RHP regionally and beyond, a large number of visibility events are being organised throughout the year, celebrating various handing-over and inauguration events in all four Partner Countries.

With the aim to intensify local and regional media relations, a regional media caravan is scheduled for spring 2018, to be organised in close cooperation by the Partner Countries, CEB, UNHCR and OSCE as well as the donor community.

The objective of the caravan is to present the RHP activities and results in all four countries to the regional media, through visits to RHP beneficiaries, introduction to different housing modalities, interviews with national coordinators and other stakeholders, etc.





RHP Meetings

The 11th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Housing Programme and the 15th meeting of the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors took place on 29 November 2017 in Paris



The RHP governance bodies convened in order to take stock of RHP's progress and discuss future priorities. With nearly 3 000 vulnerable families housed at end-2017, the stakeholders jointly expressed their satisfaction with the current progress and with the impact that the programme has on regional reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

As a sign of recognition of the good progress, Norway and Germany also announced new pledges to the RHP Fund: Norway will contribute an additional NOK 15 million (approx. EUR 1.5 million) while Germany will provide a further EUR 1.5 million. These contributions come in addition to the pledge of the European Union to commit a further EUR 44.8 million to the RHP in 2017, and the third contribution of USD 10 million by the U.S., made in September 2017.

The Assembly of Donors unanimously elected the United States as the Co-chair of the RHP Fund Assembly of Donors and the RHP Steering Committee for the year 2018.

Please click this link for the complete press release: [go to article](#)



Key figures (1st December 2017):

Pledged to the RHP: EUR 284 million

Committed to the RHP Fund: EUR 171 million

Grants approved: EUR 183 million

Grants disbursed: EUR 85 million

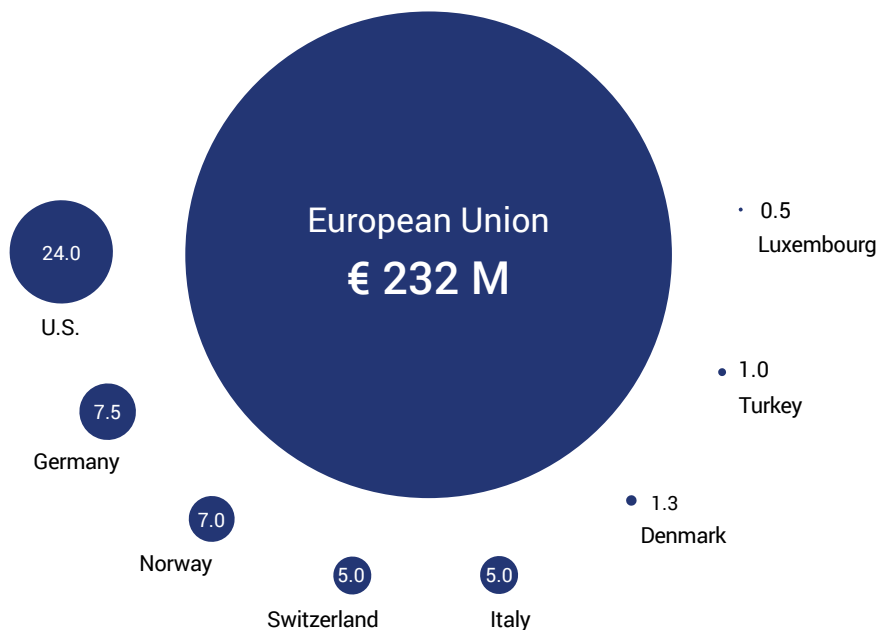




New Donor Contributions

During 2017, several donors pledged new funds to the RHP in recognition of the progress achieved over the past years. The European Union announced that it would commit a further EUR 45 million by the end of the year. The United States made a third contribution of USD 10 million in September. Norway contributed an additional NOK 15 million (approx. EUR 1.5 million) in December while Germany will provide a further EUR 1.5 million before the end of the year.

PLEGGED FUNDS BY DONORS EUR 284 million



Mr Colin Wolfe,
Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes, DG NEAR, European Commission:

“RHP’s social, reconciliatory and regional character showcase the fundamental principles of the European Union. Now that the implementation pace is solid, efforts must focus on ensuring the durability of the results.”



Ms Nancy Iris,
Deputy Director, Office of Assistance for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM/ECA), U.S. Department of State:

“The RHP represents a strong example of regional reconciliation. In total, the United States has contributed USD 30 million to the programme. In addition, the United States plans to continue contributing to complementary measures improving livelihoods and economic sustainability for RHP beneficiaries.”



Mr Georg Hagl,
Desk Officer, Division for Western Balkans, Federal Foreign Office of Germany:

“Germany has been and will be committed to the RHP. Our additional donation of EUR 1.5 million to the RHP Fund underlines this commitment and acknowledges the impressive results so far.”



Mr Olav Reinertsen,
Senior Advisor, Department for European Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

“I am very pleased to announce a new contribution of EUR 1.5 million from Norway to the RHP Fund, as a token of Norway’s confidence in the programme and appreciation of recent good progress.”



RHP People



Mr Eric Swinn has joined the Regional Housing Programme as representative of the United States Government. Mr Swinn works in the Office of Europe, Central Asia, and the Americas within the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM).

Mr Swinn is a member of the team that develops and manages the United States Government's response to refugee and migration issues in the continent of Europe. Specifically, he is the Lead Officer on these issues for the Western Balkans. In this capacity, he oversees and monitors the United States Government's financial contribution to the RHP; the complementary sustainability programming support managed by NGOs, as well as the United States Government's support for UNHCR, ICRC, and IOM operations within Europe. Mr. Swinn is a Foreign Service Officer within the U.S. Department of State, having recently served in Moscow, Russia, and Chennai, India.

Mr Swinn is replacing Mr Jerry Kalarickal whose contribution to the RHP is highly appreciated by all RHP stakeholders.

Outlook for 2018



2018 will be another important year for the RHP as over 3 500 housing units are expected to be completed and delivered to eligible beneficiaries in the four Partner Countries, among which:

- Construction/reconstruction of over 700 houses throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Construction of 400 apartments in various municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Delivery of close to 1 000 building material packages and purchase of 319 village houses throughout Serbia;
- Construction of 270 apartments in Kamendin, Belgrade and close to 200 apartments in other municipalities in Serbia;
- Construction of 121 prefabricated houses in Serbia;
- Purchase of 170 apartments in Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia;
- Construction of apartments for 51 beneficiaries in Konik, Podgorica and for 94 beneficiaries in Berane, Montenegro;
- Reconstruction of 62 houses in Croatia;
- Construction of 50 houses in Montenegro.

Based on the remaining funds and the announced new commitments that will be made to the RHP Fund in 2018, the Partner Countries have been invited to submit new sub-project grant applications in early 2018.



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Republic of Croatia



Montenegro



Republic of Serbia

The Regional Housing Programme is financed and supported by the international community.



The Regional Housing Programme (RHP) was set up to provide durable housing solutions to vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. The RHP is implemented by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia and mostly financed by the international donor community.

The main donor is the European Union. The other donors are the United States of America, Germany, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

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