

## **Serbia is institutionalizing the relation between non profit sector and state**

According to the Serbian Minister for public administration and local administration Milan Marković, it is of high importance to make more intensive the relation between state and non profit sector. That's the reason why it is necessary for Serbian parliament to undertake new law for establishing new civil society organizations and then to establish department for non profit sector at the government.

Non-governmental organizations are established in Serbia according to the law from 1989. Serbia has been working on the new law draft since 2001. According to Minister Marković new law will be a good one, due to a long preparation period. Serbian government realized the importance of civil society. He stressed that without civil society there is no chance to ensue or to have the successful democratic society.

One of the big benefits of the new law will be that certain civic associations will have opportunity in the future to receive assistance from foreign donors.

A good example of cooperation between state and non-governmental organizations in Serbia was a process of creating Strategy for Youth. In the process of creating the Strategy for Youth 37 civic associations were included and 16 000 young people – said Serbian Minister for youth and sport Snezana Samardzic-Markovic. This strategy was also listed in the manual of good case studies of European Council.

Source: [www.srbija.sr.gov.yu](http://www.srbija.sr.gov.yu)

## **Croats are learning from Serbians how to deal with organized criminal**

Week after the editor of weekly magazine *Nacional* was killed Croatian government started with establishing of special courts against organized criminal. Croatia is also working on improving the system for the protection of witnesses.

Weekly magazine *Nacional* recently brought information on connections between mafia and public administration.

According to Ivan Simonovic Croatian Minister for justice "situation is serious and it needs to be solved". "Organized criminal in Croatia is so powerful and it is endangering security for Croatian people and their European ambitions", said Minister Simonovic.

Special courts should secure fast and secure judicial proceedings. Milen Novakovic Serbian coordinator within action *Sablja* will share Serbian experience in combating organized crime which was done after the assassination of Serbian Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic in 2003.

Sources: Balkan Insight, Slobodna Dalmacija

## **New bid for Macedonian official name**

The newest bid for official name of Macedonia is *Republic of Northern Macedonia*.

Greece did not react so far on the latest draught. However Athens Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis reiterated that Skopje could hope for NATO and European Union accession only after settling the dispute.

In April, Athens blocked its neighbor's bid to join NATO arguing that Macedonia must change its name first. Athens argues that Macedonia's name implies its territorial claims over Greece's own northern province of the same name.

Source: Balkan Insight