



Republic of Serbia



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# THE YEAR OF RECONSTRUCTION

EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE  
FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA







Programme funded by EU

# THE YEAR OF RECONSTRUCTION

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EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA

Programme implemented by:



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Belgrade, May 2015

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*Obrenovac, May 2014*

**547,500**

people annually use the road Krupanj-Korenita which is well underway



**15,000**

people from Trstenik have regular water supply re-established owing to the revitalisation of water sources



**13,136**

students and teachers have good conditions for studying and work



**3,260 people**

live in their newly built or reconstructed houses



**143 houses**

constructed for flood affected families

**828 houses**

reconstructed to restore living for flood affected families

**18,800**

agricultural households received assistance in seed, fertilizer, fruit seedlings, animal feed...



# EUROPEAN UNION ASSISTANCE

## THE YEAR OF RECONSTRUCTION

**442**

entrepreneurs and small enterprises have their business activities revitalised owing to the EU assistance



**356**

workers employed or re-employed owing to EU assistance to small and micro businesses

**371**

families have regular income again owing to EU Assistance to their businesses



EU ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD RELIEF IN SERBIA

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# INTRODUCTION

In May 2014, the unprecedented rains in Serbia caused the floods and landslides that were unheard of, which left behind a significant damage. During the floods 57 people lost their lives, while over 30,000 had to leave their homes. The losses incurred in only a few days are estimated at 1.7 billion Euros. The damages were recorded in more than 100 local self-governments, while floods and landslides affected 24 towns and municipalities.

The European Union was among the first to provide assistance to Serbia, sending rescue teams and humanitarian assistance through the Civil Protection Mechanism. In order for the reconstruction of Serbia to start as soon as possible, 995.2 million Euros was secured in form of favourable loans and donations at a Donors' Conference organised in Brussels on 16 July 2014, 80 million of which was offered by the EU as non-refundable assistance. Out of this, 30 million Euros was provided through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2012, which funded the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme (implemented in 24 most affected towns and municipalities). The achievements of this programme, reached one year after the floods, are presented in this publication. The additional funds for rehabilitation and prevention projects are available to Serbia starting from 2015, through IPA 2014 funds. This has made the European Union the largest donor for flood relief in Serbia.

The programme of assistance for flood relief is funded by the European Union and all the activities are planned in close cooperation with the European Integration Office and the Flood Affected Areas Assistance and Relief Office of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The activities are implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, along with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Help - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. The Programme is originally implemented in 24 local self-governments most severely affected by the floods: Bajina Bašta, Valjevo, Varvarin, Velika Plana, Jagodina, Kosjerić, Krupanj, Koceljeva, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Lazarevac, Loznica, Ljubovija, Mali Zvornik, Obrenovac, Osečina, Paraćin, Svilajnac, Smederevska Palanka, Trstenik, Ub, Čačak, Šabac and Šid. Due to the need for construction of additional family houses outside the Programme area recognized by the FAAARO, nine additional municipalities were included: Ruma, Smederevo, Malo Crniće, Mionica, Lajkovac, Gornji Milanovac, Ljig, Požega and Kuršumljija.





## CONSTRUCTION OF PRIVATE HOUSES

One of the primary goals of flood relief was to build houses for the families that had lost their homes.

Through the European Union programme, 143 new houses were built in the first year. Within the Government Reconstruction Programme of Family Housing Units, the European Union funded the construction of 73 houses, while 70 families from the most vulnerable social groups were chosen using a pre-determined methodology, so that the assistance could reach those that were most in need. All the new houses were equipped with basic home furniture and appliances, because most of the families had lost all their possessions in the floods. For many of them, the life in the new houses marked the beginning of a living under considerably better conditions than before.



## Jokić family

Jamena village, Šid

When the village 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 (45) 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.



**The Jokić family is one of the 13 families in the village Jamena that now have a new roof over their heads owing to the assistance of the European Union.**

*“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,” says Cvijan, with a smile on his face.*



## Ilić family *Paraćin*



*“The old house was in very poor condition, it nearly collapsed. Jovana ran in and yelled - Granny, water is coming! – We barely saved ourselves because in a few minutes the house was filled with water. Now we have a new home, stove, kitchen... Jovana has her own room where she is very happy,” Živka is pleased to report.*

Živka Ilić (64) moved to Paraćin in 1961, where she graduated from high school and found a job in the textile factory. Being a big-hearted woman, she applied for and won custody of ten-year-old Jovana, with whom she was living in a decrepit house when the flood wave hit this municipality. The water reached a meter and a half in some places, so their home and personal effects were lost forever. For two months the family lived in a flat provided by the Centre for Social Work, while the construction of their prefabricated home was completed. When they returned to their new home, Živka and Jovana also got furniture and household appliances.



The European Union provided the funds for the construction of 18 houses in Paraćin for the families whose homes were completely destroyed in May 2014.



## Koković family *Svilajnac*

A young married couple, Đurđija and Aleksandar Koković from Svilajnac, and their two sons lost their home and furniture to the floods. Aleksandar is employed in a private veterinary station, while Đurđija works in the Natural Centre in Svilajnac. Their income is modest so, as they say, they could never have a new house built on their own.



The European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme built 11 prefabricated houses in Svilajnac and equipped them with basic house appliances and furniture.

*"We could hardly wait to be able to have people over in our new home. We are eternally grateful that our children have a roof over their heads once again," says Đurđija.*



## Ivanović family *Obrenovac*

The home of Slađana Ivanović's family in Obrenovac collapsed in May 2014, when the Rvati settlement was completely flooded and all their property was destroyed. The Ivanović family live a modest life because Slađana is unemployed; her husband works occasionally, while their two sons are in school. When the water withdrew they lived for months in a tent in front of their old home.



*"We are happy because we finally have a new home again and we can live like everybody else. We knew that our house would be beautiful, but we got more than we expected. We will try to start from the beginning with a new roof over our heads. We survived the damned flood that befell us, moving from relatives to friends, to collective accommodation - we were all in different places. Now we are back together, we are a family again," says Slađana Ivanović.*

Sixteen families in Obrenovac were given new houses owing to the European Union assistance.



## Despotović family

*Krupanj, Tomanj village*

The landslide in Tomanj village, caused by the rainfall in Krupanj, ruined the home of Despotović family of four. The father Radenko with his wife and two children was at home when the walls started cracking. In addition to their house, they lost their field where they were growing corn, raspberries, blueberries, etc.



With the European Union support, ten houses were built in Krupanj for the families that had lost their homes to the floods and landslides.

*“There have been rains, but the floods and landslides like this have never happened in Tomanj before. Suddenly the hills started right at us. The house was so damaged that we were afraid to get inside. We only managed to save a few things. Now we have a beautiful new house, not far from the old one that was destroyed, so we can carry on in peace. Only heaven knows how grateful we are,” says Radenko Despotović.*



## Vasić family Straža village, Loznica

An unemployed single mother Ljiljana Vasić (42) lives with her five children in her family house in village Straža near Loznica. Her greatest backup is her family which wholeheartedly supports her. Their home has suffered huge damage in the floods that stroke Loznica in May 2014, and when water started to penetrate into their house in the middle of the night, they were completely shocked.



*“We moved over to our cousins, and our neighbour was bringing us flour. I baked bread so that the children would have something to eat. Floods used to happen here, but it had never been like in that May. I hate to remember it. I was petrified, but I had to be strong because of the children”, says Ljiljana.*



Through the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, ten new houses were built in Loznica for the families whose homes were destroyed in the floods.





## RECONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES

The floods left thousands of houses soaked and muddy, which are conditions unfit for people to live in. The owners of taller houses most often organised their lives on the higher levels, while the families with ground-level homes had to find temporary accommodation and wait for their property reconstruction to be completed. The European Union set as its priority to reconstruct as many houses as possible, and the funds set aside for works were complementary to the Government assistance received by each family. Until the end of April 2015, 828 family houses were reconstructed with EU support.

The works most often included mortaring, skimming and painting the walls, replacing the floors, replacing doors and windows. Many families say that now they have better living conditions than before.



## Sredojević family

### Krupanj

A wave of water and mud, almost two metres high, flooded the houses in the centre of Krupanj. The home of Milan Sredojević's family of five was one of the most affected. The Government assistance received by the family was enough for the most urgent repairs, but with the European Union funds for mortar and paint, new tiles, floors and doors, their home became fully functional. The works were completed in time, so winter saw the Sredojević family in their reconstructed home.



Through the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, 165 households damaged in the floods were reconstructed in Krupanj.

*"When the centre of Krupanj was flooded, the water in my house reached 1.8 metres. What was the most important for me was for us to survive. When the water withdrew, leaving heaps of mud around the house, it seemed as if we would never be able to clean it. Our home is now shiny again thanks to the European Union support," says Milan.*



## Cvetković family Svilajnac

An unemployed married couple Nenad and Slavica Cvetković from Svilajnac have been living on social welfare and compensation for the care of their son Bojan (37), suffering from cerebral palsy. Only ten hours before the flood they left their home, where later the water level reached 1.5 metres. The damage was huge. With the support of the European Union, the Cvetković home was completely rehabilitated, a new wheelchair access made and the household equipped with basic appliances and furniture.



*Owing to the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, Bojan received a new wheelchair as well. "We didn't hope we'd be able to recover our home, nor that our son would get a new aid. This is one of the first nice things that happened to us after the flood," Slavica says.*



EU assistance in the reconstruction of private houses damaged in the floods has so far been received by 88 families in Svilajnac.



## Petrović family

*Bračić Jugović settlement, Obrenovac*

Four connected houses sharing a garden, with 27 members of the family Petrović living in them, were completely under water, over the roofs, when the river Tamnava flooded in Obrenovac and the entire Bračić Jugović settlement. A seven-metre high wave flooded all the houses in the settlement, leaving all four Petrović families without their possessions.



The reconstruction of 110 houses in Obrenovac settlement Bračić Jugović, funded by the European Union, was completed in December 2014, so the families could spend the winter in their homes.

*"We barely survived; you couldn't see our houses under all that water. I feared that we would lose the children in the panic. We lived in temporary accommodation for a few months. Now our houses look like new, thanks to the European Union assistance. It means a lot, because we are living a normal life again," says Samira Petrović.*



## Popović family

*Rača village, Bajina Bašta*



*"I could never fix the house on my own. Now I feel like we have a new home and I say - God exists! I can't compare our house before and after it has been repaired. We are really happy, especially that we could celebrate Christmas in our new home," says Milutin.*

The home of the Popović family of three from the village Rača in Bajina Bašta, with mother Branka (62) and sons Milutin (27) and Nenad (23) suffered great damage, when outer and inner walls cracked because of the landslide caused by the floods. The Popović family live on modest income - Branka is seasonally employed on raspberry picking, while Milutin works occasionally for wages. Nenad has been disabled since birth, so he receives benefits for care and assistance.

After the despair they found themselves in, the Popović family are now endlessly happy because their home is completely renewed. The cracks on the walls and the ceiling have been fixed; the roof, floors and doors and windows replaced.



**With the European Union assistance, 22 damaged houses were reconstructed in Bajina Bašta.**



## Milošević family

Jamena village, Šid

The house in which Milivoje Milošević's (40) family of four live in the Srem village of Jamena suffered great damages when torrential floods filled up their entire home. Milivoje, together with the other people of Jamena, helped rescue and evacuate people. The loss of their home was difficult for the children and they could not wait to return home. In addition to the house, the Milošević family lost a plum orchard and garden, which supplied them with food.

After the water withdrew leaving a wasteland behind, the Milošević family were living at their neighbour's who let them use his house.

The works, among other things, included repairs to the façade, inside walls and floors, putting new tiles, replacing doors, windows and installations, and the construction of a new septic tank. The house was then equipped with household appliances and furniture.



Twenty-two houses in Jamena were reconstructed with the European Union funds.



*"Everything we had was lost in a second. We were lucky to receive the European Union assistance. We are living on social welfare and child cash benefits, so we could not have the house reconstructed on our own. I am very grateful for this," Milivoje tells us.*



## Kajtazović family Smederevska Palanka



Tefik Kajtazović lives with his wife Irena Memetović, eight children, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren in Smederevska Palanka. The ground-level house, in which this socially vulnerable family lives, was damaged in the flood wave that reached the level of 1.5 meters, destroying all the joinery, furniture and their personal effects.

Even with the damage caused by the floods, the Kajtazović family kept on living in the damaged house during the summer of 2014. When poor hygienic conditions started causing serious health issues for them, the family was forced to find temporary accommodation not far from their home. The family received the Government assistance, but they needed additional funds for complete reconstruction of the house because all family members are unemployed.



*“The floods destroyed our entire house with everything in it. We didn't have anywhere else to go, so we stayed in rooms full of mud and dirt. We thought that we would be able to rehabilitate our household with the Government assistance. Our family with 13 members belonging to three generations lives in this house. It was difficult for us, but the European Union helped us have even better living conditions, than we had before the floods,” says Tefik Kajtazović.*

**With the European Union funds, 28 damaged houses were reconstructed in Smederevska Palanka.**



IZLAZ



# RECONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The return of students to schools after the reconstruction of public buildings (schools and kindergartens), was one of the most important tasks of the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme. This is why the first reconstruction works funded by the European Union started in the schools of Obrenovac.

In the first year, 14 primary and high schools throughout Serbia were successfully reconstructed, as well as one kindergarten, so today more than 13,136 children, students and teachers once again have adequate working conditions. All the schools were equipped with desks, blackboards, cabinets, and other furniture and teaching aids that were destroyed in the floods.

Addressing the needs of a large number of people in Trstenik, drinking water supply system was rehabilitated in this municipality, which brought stable water supply in the homes of more than 15,000 citizens.



## 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 is working regularly again, after the walls and floors have been 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.



With the European Union funds, five schools in Obrenovac were reconstructed, primary schools Posavski Partizani and Jefimija, Technical School and School of Agriculture and Chemistry being among them.



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



## Agriculture and Chemistry School *Obrenovac*

The most significant damage caused by the flood, whose level rose to 1.4 metres in the Agriculture and Chemistry School, occurred in its five classrooms and the gym.

The reconstruction works undertaken in order to recover adequate learning conditions for 646 pupils included plastering, painting, flooring, replacement of internal joinery, painting of the radiators, electrical works and reconstruction of the walls and floors in the gym. Apart from this, the school received desks, chairs, lockers and other necessary furniture. The European Union funded the works in this school with 74,000 Euros.



*“Thanks to the EU donation, we managed to reconstruct the damaged school during the summer, so the classes started without interruption”, says Dragoljub Zlatanović, Director of the Agriculture and Chemistry School.*



## Kindergarten Dečja radost Svilajnac

The kindergarten Dečja Radost (The Joy of Children) 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 the replacement of joinery and floors, mortaring, painting, tiling, roof and façade repairs. The reconstruction of the building provided again the children from Svilajnac with adequate conditions for play and learning.



With the European Union support, the High School and School for Agriculture and Veterinary Science in Svilajnac were also reconstructed.

*“During the first days of the floods, when we saw the damage to the buildings, reconstruction seemed a mission impossible. But, with the help of friends, the Kindergarten is running normally again,” says Zorica Dordević, Principal.*



## Rehabilitation of the water supply system *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 supplied to 70 percent of consumers in Trstenik. Because of 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 demonstrated that the water was adequate for use, they were reconnected to the system, so now more than 15,000 people in Trstenik once again has regular drinking water supply.



*“The European Union assistance in the rehabilitation of the water supply source was extremely important, primarily for the citizens of Trstenik, because in a short term, drinking water supply was fully stabilised. The assistance was also significant for the local self-government itself, because rehabilitation with limited funds from the local budget would have lasted much longer,”* says Julija Jovanović, Finance and Local Self-Government Assistant in the Municipality of Trstenik.





# **SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS**

After addressing the needs of the people from the flooded areas, the next step was to assess the damage to agricultural land. To mitigate and rehabilitate damage in agriculture meant also to invest in the upcoming seasons, taking care of agricultural production cycles. Within the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, eight million Euros was set aside for small farms in 24 most affected municipalities.

The delivery of support to agricultural producers started in September 2014, and by the end of April 2015, more than 18,000 farmers received cattle food, wheat, fruit seedlings, seeds and fertilizers. By autumn 2015, another 3,000 agricultural producers will get agricultural machinery, greenhouses, cattle, seeds and fertilizers, which will considerably affect the recovery of their production.



## Marković family

### Krupanj

Miodrag Marković lives with his wife and three children in Krupanj. Considering that only one son has regular income, they run a family farm in the village Cerova, where Miodrag's father lives. The majority of land, nearly two hectares, is planted with plums that are sold to cold storage and drying facilities or used to make brandy. In addition, the Marković family grow raspberries, blackberries and sweet cherries, and they also breed sheep.

After the floods on the Marković family farm, landslides were activated and damaged a part of their orchard. This is why they received 300 plum seedlings from the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme to expand and recover their crops.



Krupanj is among the municipalities that suffered most damage during the floods, which had a special impact on agricultural production. By May 2015, the European Union provided support in Krupanj for about 1,350 farms.

*"We were most worried about landslides taking away our land and fruit orchards that we invested in a lot over the past years, because we would have to save the money ourselves over the next three years. Like this, we can expect to make a profit from the orchard in three years," says Miodrag Marković.*



## 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 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.



*"The fear and panic came after the floods, when I realised what we had been through, 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. I am grateful to all that helped us return to a normal life," says Božana Pjević.*

**With the EU financial support, more than 700 agricultural producers in the area around Valjevo received assistance to recover production.**



## Kuzmanović family

### Lazarevac

Slobodan Kuzmanović (78) from the village Stepojevci is one of the 315 farmers in Lazarevac that impatiently awaited the EU assistance to farmers. Each farmer receiving two germinated corn seed units and 400 kg of fertilizer meant that they would all be ready for the spring sowing.

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Over 7,700 farmers in 24 municipalities received seeds for spring sowing: 200 kg of barley, 150 kg of cattle peas, 20 kg of clover and lucerne and two germinated corn seed units each. The farmers were delivered over 2,950 tons of mineral fertilizer so the sowing could begin. Owing to the EU support, this year crops will grow on over 5,780 hectares of fertile land.

In this municipality the programme of support to agricultural producers included 650 farms.



*"I came today for corn and fertilizer with my grandson; I cannot work anymore like I used to, the years have caught up with me. The assistance that we received here today from the EU is the only significant assistance and thank you very much for that, at least I don't think everybody has forgotten about us after the floods..."*  
says Slobodan Kuzmanović.



## Nikolić family *Paraćin*

The Nikolić family of three from Paraćin lost their corn and wheat crops, when their field was flooded in May 2014. Retired agricultural technician Milorad and his wife Lalica have always been farming, which brought them profit. With the European Union assistance, the Nikolić family were able to recover production on their land.



*“The floods ruined our corn crops that we had been growing for years. When we were offered assistance, we decided to change production; we studied the technology and set up an orchard. Now we have 300 sour cherry trees, and we are expecting a solid yield from it,”* says Milorad Nikolić.

The Nikolić family are one of the 23 farming families in Paraćin that received European Union assistance in the form of fruit seedlings.





# **SUPPORT TO ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

Many entrepreneurs, micro and small businesses that suffered damage in the floods stopped doing business or reduced their scope of work. The employees often lost their jobs and income, which affected the quality of life of their families.

The European Union directed assistance to those that needed it the most, in order to recover their business activities as soon as possible. After a detailed needs analysis, 404 beneficiaries of this support received equipment, tools and construction material to reconstruct the premises or raw materials for further production, in order to “revive” the companies as soon as possible. As the result of this support, 356 people were reemployed or kept their jobs.



## Car Service Španac Kraljevo

A car mechanic Marjan Španović (39) took over his father's garage and continued the family tradition of private entrepreneurship. The car service and repair shop is situated in the Grdica area in Kraljevo, and the May floods brought significant damage not only to the building but also to the equipment in the garage.



Thanks to the European Union Assistance for Flood Relief in Serbia Programme, 39 micro and small businesses in Kraljevo support enabling them to recover their business operations.

*“Our income was literally halved after the floods, because working without the machines that I lost would have taken me back 100 years. The EU assistance included an air compressor, pressure washer, pneumatic gun and injector cleaner machine, so I can start working again and attract my customers back. Now I can make money by working again. Without the equipment I couldn't do anything,”* tells us Marjan Španović.



## Fish farm DB Food *Bajina Bašta*

Dragan Jagodić's family of five in the village 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.



*“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,” says Dragan Jagodić.*

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



Entrepreneur  
**Obradin Ilić**  
*Bajina Bašta*

The entrepreneur Obradin Ilić's (72) family of seven from the village Rogačica near Bajina Bašta has for generations been living off greenhouse farming. The entire family has been involved in the growing of vegetable crops, being among the largest producers in this part of the country. However, their fields with 24 greenhouses were destroyed on 15 May 2014 when the river Rogačica flooded.



The Ilić family is one of the 38 businesses and entrepreneurs from Bajina Bašta that have received European Union assistance to recover their business operations after the floods in May 2014.

*"Suddenly there was a torrent that took away the greenhouses and the layer of fertile soil, where we produced the crops. When the water withdrew, I was set on succeeding in recovering it, and until now a large part of the work has been done. The assistance from the European Union has meant a lot to us, because we managed to complete the recovery of the greenhouses," says Obradin Ilić.*



Company  
**Izvor Stil**  
*Smederevska Palanka*

Family company Izvor Stil Ltd, a small family furniture production using board material, is situated near the river Kubrušnica that flooded the majority of households in Smederevska Palanka municipality in May 2014. During the floods, the company suffered great damage in the building rented from Goša Company and their raw materials and products were ruined. Because of the damage to the building, but also in order to avoid similar situations, the owner of the company, Miloš Radovanović, moved the factory to a new address and started production from the beginning



*“We received an industrial dust collector as a valuable donation from the European Union; this machine protects the health of our workers and the environment. In addition, we received a wood cutting machine with circular saw and raw materials for production. Ten of my family members depend on the company's operations, and now we can count on expanding our production,” says the owner of the company Izvor Stil, Miloš Radovanović.*

**In Smederevska Palanka, three companies received the EU assistance for renewing their business operations.**





# IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTION

The assistance of the European Union in flood relief will be continued in the upcoming period. Through the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance IPA 2014, the European Union has allocated the funds for financing flood prevention projects in order to reduce the risk for new catastrophes. With the support of these projects, stabilisation of critical landslides, reconstruction of banks/dams and gutters, rehabilitation of damaged roads and construction of river facilities for flood protection will also be realised in the following years.



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