



**INTERVIEW**

**Petar Filipović**  
President of Indija Municipality

## Recognized in the world - Indija Municipality

At the beginning of 2008, Indija received an award by The Financial Times ranking it among the best 25 European destinations for foreign investment.... P. 3-4



■ Bojan Pajtić

## Bojan Pajtić SJD | *President of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*

"In the future period, Vojvodina will invest additional resources into strategic areas, such as agriculture, infrastructure, industrialisation, water management, etc. In that sense, it is of great importance for us to establish contacts with regional partners in the European Union because regional cooperation is an instrument

for the promotion of our economic policies. Agriculture and food processing industry are also major priorities for Vojvodina. We are ready to accept new investments in those areas. The administration I am heading will surely be a reliable partner to future investors."

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# European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

**Ivana Đurica**

Deputy Director — European Affairs Fund AP Vojvodina

With the support of the representative office of Vojvodina in Brussels, we have been able to gain access to a greater scope of and better quality information on EU funds, and use it for our benefit. In the past period, more than 270 different projects from the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina have been granted EU funds, which have amounted to approximately €73 million in total, whereby the EU co-financing, i.e. the granted IPA funds to €54 million. In addition to cross-border cooperation, funds exceeding €50 million have been granted for projects of the whole country under transnational programmes, scientific and research programmes, entrepreneurship and innovation programmes, in which institutions from the territory of AP Vojvodina have also participated to a great extent. According to our data, more than 900 project proposals have been submitted for EU funding. The fact that such a number of municipalities, towns, secretariats and other institutions have developed those projects and participated in EU calls for proposals shows that we see our future in the EU and that we can apply for new EU funds and development. In our estimate, at least 200 projects, out of the 900 submitted, will receive funding, which will allow for the redirection of national sources to other purposes. The projects expected to receive support are in the field of local road network reconstruction, water management, flood prevention, innovation, business networking, energy efficiency, as well as support to schools, sports clubs, institutions in the field of culture, civil sector, etc. In 2012, the European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina visited 30 municipalities in order to build the capacities of local self-governments of AP

Vojvodina for the new 2014–2020 programming period and, together with development agencies and secretariats, it managed to increase our total capacity to a significant degree considering that the field visits were attended by more than 280 representatives of municipalities, towns and institutions. Moreover, within its action “Open Doors”, the Fund enabled a large number of institutions and individuals to obtain adequate support and information with reference to EU funds and conditions for their use. In order to enhance the absorption capacities of AP Vojvodina, as far as the use of available EU funds is concerned, in 2012, coordination working groups for municipalities and towns, public and utility companies and provincial government institutions were formed and 14 training courses were held for interested provincial institutions, municipalities and public companies, within which 250 attendees received training on the topic of project development in accordance with EU regulations and procedures, as well as project implementation. We also provided support to municipalities from the southern part of our country, which sought our assistance and with which we signed memorandums on cooperation. For the purposes of non-governmental institutions, citizens’ associations, culture and arts associations, sports clubs, schools, museums, town administrations, provincial institutes, private institutions and natural persons, the Fund made an assessment of their project proposals, held over 200 consultations and provided professional assistance in registering in EU database (PADOR) to potential applicants and new partners last year.

[www.vojvodinahouse.eu](http://www.vojvodinahouse.eu)

## VOJVODINA WELCOMES “4 Motors”

Organised jointly by the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, Euro-Institut Kehl and Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-government, with the support of the European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina, the seminar “Cross-border cooperation and civil-society”, as a part of the Mission of the Four Motors within the Framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, was held at the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the University of Novi Sad in July 2013.

The Four Motors has been a great interregional project since 1998. This alliance of regions is comprised of four industrially most developed European regions: Baden-

Württemberg (Germany), Catalunya (Spain), Lombardy (Italy) and Rhône-Alpes (France), which cooperate in order to increase economic growth by means of cooperating with each other and with other regions, as well as by organising joint political and economic missions.

The goal of the seminar was to provide an exchange platform for mutual learning of various actors, coming from the Danube Region and the Four Motors of Europe. Within 3 interactive workshops, independent experts provided special insights into EU-funding opportunities, development of good project proposals and the specifics of cross-border project work. The seminar was attended by representatives of local self-governments, regional development agencies, public enterprises, NGOs and University of Novi Sad. It is expected that the cooperation between the province institutions and those within the Fours Motors will continue in the future.



## INTERVIEW

# Pásztor István

*President of the Assembly of  
the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*

## 1. How do you see the role of the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina in the continuation of the European integration process of Serbia?

In my view, it is an active role. We are also prepared to take an active role in the decision-making process in the period ahead of us. I think that the administrative capacities of the Province allow for such an ambition. Generally, I would mention that our administrative capacities do not lag behind the national ones. Therefore, we have people who can contribute to a more comprehensive presentation of the national interests in the discussions and negotiations by promoting and articulating the regional interest. In my opinion, this is primarily a political issue and it should be rationally perceived as a political issue focusing on making the best of things that are to be negotiated or resolved.

## 2. In your opinion, in which areas should the representatives of AP Vojvodina be involved in the accession negotiations between Serbia and the European Union?

I think that we should be involved in all areas, i.e. there should be a permanent presence. It does not mean that we should be present at every meeting, but we should find a solution for institutional or permanent presence in the process, so that we do not face a situation whereby we are destined to obtain information only from the newspapers. The areas where we should be directly involved are issues that have impact on our everyday lives, such as agriculture, infrastructure, spatial development, total revenues and expenses, the use of pre-accession funds and protection of human and minority rights.



■ Pásztor István

Those are practically the topics that would be of greatest interest. Of particular importance is cross-border cooperation, from which we have benefited the most so far, but in terms of process management and definition of priorities, we have been practically observers.

## 3. What can be the role of minorities in AP Vojvodina regarding the European integration and regional cooperation?

It is vital for us that Serbia is changing, developing, opening and putting more efforts into becoming attractive for new investments. I would also like to point out that the minority groups do not differ from the majority community, because the members of minority communities do not differ from the members of the majority. Of particular importance are bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, such as Hungary, Croatia, Romania, as well as with Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany. There is a trait of interest in which the interest of minority communities can be noticed, yet the interest of the whole country should need to be found. In that sense, I believe that the minority communities have not been a factor of destabilization; on the contrary, that they have been the factor that could strengthen the position of the state, and I think it should be so in the future as well.



■ Vojvodina Assembly





# Recognized in the world

## - Municipality INDIJA

At the beginning of 2008, Indija received an award by The Financial Times ranking it among the best 25 European destinations for foreign investment. Within the European Cities and Regions of the Future organised by the same magazine last year, the Municipality of Indija was declared the second best destination in Europe in terms of cost-effectiveness of foreign investments.



■ Tradeunique, Indija

### Main priorities for attracting investment to the Municipality of Indija:

The Municipality of Indija is situated in Sirmia, on the southern slopes of Fruška Gora. It is located halfway between Belgrade and Novi Sad, at the place where important Pan-European corridors intersect - the E-75 motorway and the Danube River, contributing to its favourable tourist and geographic position. Apart from agriculture, the main engines of economic development are industry and small enterprises. Moreover, Indija is one of the most successful municipalities in Serbia in terms of investment attraction.

Indija has two fully functional industrial parks with complete municipal infrastructure which have an extraordinary transport and geographic position - Belgrade being 42 km away, Novi Sad 35 km, the airport 35 km and the proximity of the Danube River.

- ★ Efficiency of the municipal administration, simplified administrative procedures: swift process of relevant document issuance and business licenses;
- ★ Long-term spatial planning aimed at the realization of investment projects;
- ★ Complete construction of modern infrastructure;
- ★ Investors' needs and environmental planning and management in accordance with the highest international standards.



## INTERVIEW

# Petar Filipović

President of Indija Municipality

*"If you are looking for a place for your new business, choose Indija - because you will find yourself at the heart of a three-million-consumer market; a half an hour from Belgrade and Novi Sad; in a town that takes pride in its entrepreneurial tradition, skilled labour force and outstanding working habits; in the wide central Sarmia region; in the area where the Danube and the Sava region connect; on the unavoidable rail and road connections of the Pan-European Corridor 10; near the international Nikola Tesla Airport; in the municipality with efficient and modern administration and developed infrastructure."*

A decade ago Indija was a place facing all the problems that underdeveloped municipalities usually have. Things started to change then. There were only four factories, now there are around fifty and most of them are the result of FDI. It took hours and days queuing in front of counters in municipal administration offices, now everything can be done in a few minutes... The key to success was reform of the local administration and the establishment of industrial parks with complete municipal infrastructure waiting for future investors.



■ Petar Filipović

In order to achieve the set objective: to reach a level of unemployment below 10%, in the coming years, the focus of the municipal administration and Petar Filipović, President of Municipality, will be on new job creation and commitment to attracting new investors.

*"The main advantage of our municipality is certainly its geographical position. However, this is not of crucial importance since there are a lot of municipalities having*

*more favourable geographical positions they have not known how to make optimum use of. In comparison with the others, the advantage of Indija is its organization in terms of efficient public administration and shortened procedures, which ultimately led to the rapid development of the Municipality, not only regarding economy, but social life as well.*



■ Indija city

*Today Indija is a municipality with a rich and developed cultural life, a lot of cultural and sporting events. For the first time, we are able to offer potential investors land with full municipal infrastructure in the industrial parks on a turnkey principle. In addition to the efficient public administration, this is our main advantage in comparison to other municipalities.*

*The major investors in Indija are: Henkel, Thyssenkrupp, Grundfos, IT Park, Terraproduction, Metal Cinkara, Energozelena, IGB Automotive, Fashion Park Outlet Center, Izoterm Plama, Gombit, Tehnoeksport, Martini Gradnja doo, Farmina Pet Foods, Invej, Tradeunique, Gas-teh, and many others. Given that approximately half a billion euros of FDI have been invested into the Municipality, Indija has the highest percentage of FDI per capita, and at the state level this has granted the town the status of the best municipality in Serbia. If we take a look at the current economic situation in Indija, it can be concluded that the ambience is suitable for the development of different economic sectors. Although the manufacturing industry is the commonest, other types of production are also present, as well as wholesale and retail trade. Specific sectors for investment cannot be singled out because, apart from industry, the Municipality of Indija has great tourism potential (Stari Slankamen, Čortanovci, the Danube River, Fruška Gora, etc.) that could considerably be developed by investment inflow into this sector", said Petar Filipović, President of Indija Municipality.*

# MARKET – the main economic instrument

## Miroslav Vasin

*Provincial Secretary for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality*

Through its activities, the Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality aims to maintain the level of economic activities that make the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina the most prosperous region in our country. All economic indicators point to the great potential and level of development of economic resources of Vojvodina.

According to the number of foreign investment, balance of trade and ratio of production and nonproduction activities, Vojvodina is the most developed region in Serbia. With over 45% of all foreign investments in Serbia on its territory, over 30% share in exports of the Republic of Serbia, its geographical position, the European corridors in its territory, hydrological potentials, Vojvodina has all the preconditions for becoming an economically developed European region. Guided by this objective, the Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality implements its programmes for stimulating the economy, entrepreneurship and craftsmanship on the territory of Vojvodina, which are based on European experiences.

The programme is based on the assumption that it is necessary to accept the market as the main economic framework, which will harmonize our with European standards.

At the same time, the Provincial Secretariat implements its employment strategy which application has led to the employment of approximately 30,000 unemployed persons in the last five years. By accepting lifelong learning and gaining new knowledge as a European principle, with the help of our EU partners, the Secretariat has opened a modern educational centre in Serbia for providing training to unemployed people.

In addition, I would like to mention our outstanding results in the field of gender equality, gender empowerment, fight against domestic violence, encouragement of women entrepreneurship and affirmation of the position of rural women. Moreover, the unique Roma inclusion programme has significantly improved the position of this community in AP Vojvodina, especially in the areas of employment, education and housing.



■ Miroslav Vasin

# Improving agriculture of Vojvodina

## Goran Ješić *Provincial Secretary for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry*

The agriculture of Vojvodina is our great development potential, especially when considering the prices of agricultural products in the past 6-7 years.

Our main political goal is to increase the profit per hectare in AP Vojvodina. As a result, we get a better-off and more satisfied farmer, better infrastructure in villages, possibility to educate our children. In order to achieve that main goal, we employ all available resources. One of them is the canal network of Vojvodina with a length of 22000 km, into which

no investment has been made for a long time. One of the objectives is to revert the canals into their planned state by means of investments that would keep water off the arable land of Vojvodina at the time when it is not needed. Thus, we would increase crops per hectare, and where there are dual canal systems, we will provide water and irrigate the parcels in need of it.

The support to irrigation and arrangement of the canal network “weighs” a half of the budget, whereas the other



# Regional cooperation is our essential asset

## Maja Sedlarević, MA

*President of the Committee for European Integration and Interregional Cooperation of the Assembly of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina*

With the enlargement of the European Union (EU), new circumstances have arisen in the neighbourhood of Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina, thus we are now bordering EU member states to the north, east and west.

The EU is the path towards peace, institutional stability, competitive market, decentralisation, better life for the citizens of Vojvodina and Serbia and protection of their collective and individual rights. Only by European integration can Serbia become a growing engine in the Balkans, which will have an immeasurable contribution to the development of AP Vojvodina. Membership in the EU is the most efficient way to achieve a higher standard of living for Serbia's citizens.

The Assembly of Vojvodina is, after the European Parliament, the most multilingual parliament in Europe. With six official languages, Vojvodina is Europe in miniature. Vojvodina aspires to establish closer cooperation with other regions with which we are connected by common cultural, historical and/or linguistic characteristics, but more impor-

half is targeted at capital investments. Since granting direct subsidies is within the competence of the republic, we, for our part, can focus on actions that will increase the average production per hectare, and it has been done for the first time here. By that, I mean fruit and vegetable growing: we finance drop-by-drop systems, well digging and protective nets. The idea is to increase our export of agricultural products to all parts of Europe.

Also, we have started a project with the Provincial Secretariat for Economy to aid job creation, whereby in the next four years, we want to establish 80 retail facilities with local self-governments, where fully controlled dairy products and milk from the milk vending machine under our control would be sold: food, technology and final product certified by us. The idea is to employ, first of all, women from rural



■ Maja Sedlarević

tantly, by common problems, interests and economic circumstances.

In addition to cross-border cooperation, in the spirit of interregional cooperation development, AP Vojvodina has worked intensively and established exceptional contacts with a large number of European regions in the past few years. With the German State of Baden-Württemberg, apart from very good economic, scientific and cultural cooperation, we have also been linked through the Donaubüro Ulm that connects cities and regions along the Danube. Manifold regional cooperation (politics, economy, transport, infrastructure, education, etc.) has been developed within the Danube-Kris-Mures-Tisa (DKMT) Euroregion.

I believe that Vojvodina is the greatest asset of Serbia on its way to Europe. Helping Vojvodina's autonomy today means helping Serbia in the most efficient way to overcome the burdens of the past and accelerate European integration.

areas. A joint project with Vojvodina Investment Promotion (VIP) has been initiated in order to detect the potential of vegetable growing in the places where there used to be factories. With the assistance of local self-governments, sites are being defined, the local self-governments are providing the infrastructure and we are carrying out a joint partner search as a support for all agricultural producers.



■ Cultivation

# SKCNS



studentski  
kulturni  
centar  
novi sad

## Student Cultural Centre of Novi Sad

The goals of SKCNS are the following:

- ★ Encourage talents, especially students, to take an interest in certain projects (including the arts and cultural policy);
- ★ Support young people's programs and projects in the field of contemporary artistic creation:
  - musical and stage programs, projects and production;
  - programs and projects in the field of applied and visual arts, design, photography and production;
  - programs and projects in the field of theatrical and cinematic arts and production;
  - literary programs;
- ★ Support young people's programs and projects in the field of international cultural cooperation in all areas of cultural activities;
- ★ Encourage partnerships (co-management) between the state and civil sector in planning and implementing cultural programs;
- ★ Take an active role in the design and implementation of cultural policies at all levels.

The major events organised by SKCNS are: RITAM EVROPE! (The Rhythm of Europe - a celebration of Europe Day / Day of victory over fascism), TO BE PUNK FESTIVAL (the first ever punk festival in Serbia), NOVI SAD COMIC WEEKEND (the first comic festival in Vojvodina), GRAD NA RECI (City on River), KANTAUTORFEST (Composer-Singer Festival), etc.

The program space of the SKCNS Institution:

**FABRIKA** (Factory), as a new program space on the cultural map of the city, contributes to the promotion of the broader environment where it is situated, as the "future Arts Quarter", one of the greatest assets of Novi Sad when applying for the European Capital of Culture, by its selection and promotion of programs, their attendance rate and its impact on the cultural policy.

**OMLADINSKI CENTAR** (Youth Centre) is, under the management of the SKCNS Institution, available for use to all citizens' associations, institutions and entities of local self-government dealing with the youth in order to realise projects in the field of non-formal education – training courses, seminars in the field of: education, information, health care, ecology, social policies towards young people, youth participation in the society, employment, etc.

[www.skcms.org](http://www.skcms.org)

# EXIT 2013

## Revolution

The 13th edition of the festival took place on Petrovaradin fortress in July this year. During 5 festival days there were more than 200.000 people from all over the world who enjoyed the numerous stages. Amongst the performers, there were: Snoop Dogg, Prodigy, Atoms for Peace, Bloc Party, Nick Cave and The Bad Seeds and many others.

