

The Agreements in amount of 14,371,287 Euro for building of the 438 homes signed

Semiha Borovac, Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has signed today in Sarajevo agreements with mayors of 19 cities and municipalities of our country on cooperation in the implementation of the State housing project under the Regional Housing Programme. The agreements were also signed on behalf of the units for implementation by Edin Ramic, Minister of Displaced Persons and Refugees of FBiH, Davor Cordas, Minister for Refugees and Displaced Persons of RS and by Rifet Mujanović, Head of the Department for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Housing Issues of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The total value of the agreement amounts to 14,371,287 Euros, provided by the multi-donor Regional Housing Program Fund managed by the Development Bank of the Council of Europe, and with these funds 438 housing units will be built for 338 internally displaced families and 100 refugee families from the Croatia in BiH. The apartments will be property of the local communities who will provide the necessary land and infrastructure, as well as other contributions worth approximately about EUR 2 million.

The signing of the agreements marked the beginning of implementation of the third wave of the sub-projects of the State housing project under the Regional Housing Programme that is being implemented in Brcko District and the following municipalities / cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosanski Petrovac, Foca in FBiH, Gorazde, Novi Grad, Jajce, Olovo, Pale-Praca, Tuzla and Zenica, and of the Republika Srpska: Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Bileca, Brod, Derventa, Foca, Gradiska, Prijedor and Vlasenica.

All this would be impossible without the support of the international community, first of all without the European Union, who is the biggest donor with participation of 230 million euros, and without the United States. Other donors are Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Turkey, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Hungary. Programme is also strongly supported by partner organizations of the international community, namely UNHCR, OSCE and the Development Bank of the Council of Europe.

The Regional Housing Programme of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro will provide housing for nearly 27,000 households of refugees and displaced people in four countries of the region, in other words for about 74,000 beneficiaries. The total value of the Programme is estimated at approx. EUR 574 million, of which about EUR 101 million is for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The program consists of four projects each of the partner countries, and the goal of the State Housing Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to ensure durable and sustainable housing solutions through return and reintegration in their pre-war places of residence or local integration in places of displacement

During the planned implementation period of five years, the project will be implemented in waves, for which specific sub-projects are being prepared. Bosnia and Herzegovina has so far submitted applications for four sub-projects worth approximately 80 million, within which housing will provide for about 1,870 families.

In cooperation with local communities, these sub-projects are being implemented in more than 70 cities/ municipalities throughout the country. Delivery of construction material and construction of 20 housing units for local integration have been completed. Renovation and construction works of 50 buildings has started, and tenders for the construction of 100 houses for return of the refugees from the region to BiH were launched, as well as tenders for the design of about 400 houses for return of displaced persons within BiH.

Construction of the units will begin in the spring this year so move of nearly 1,000 families to their homes could be planned by the end of 2016. It is expected that all housing units are completed and users have moved to by the end of 2017, when the use of IPA funds expires.