

Dear Ministers, Ambassadors, EIB VP, CEB VP, friends and colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to address you here and wish you warm welcome on behalf of Project Implementation Unit "Research and Development" (PIU R&D). This will be a short presentation of our achievements in first two years of implementation of investment program based on Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Serbia in period 2010-2015 and financial agreements signed with EIB and CEB. Especially, I would like to thank EIB VP Mr Scanapiecco and CEB VP Mr Dowglelewicz, who arrived to Belgrade to attend this event.

PIU R&D was established in August 2010 by the Governmental Decision, in accordance with obligations of Republic of Serbia stipulated in Financial agreement with EIB, and with the task to implement all segments of project plan outlined in Financial agreement with EIB and Agreements signed with CEB subsequently. Since then, PIU R&D took part in preparation of 15 projects, amongst which are these five buildings presented today on photo exhibition and documentary movie. Beside those five finished projects presented here today, there are another five in different stage of completion, and another 12 in different stage of planning process, whose completion will be executed according to the schedule, till the end of investment cycle planned for 2015.

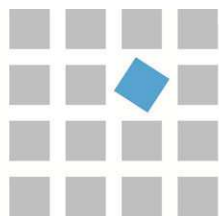
At the moment, Ministry and PIU are jointly taking efforts to complete administrative steps towards handing the built infrastructure to the final users, according to the Strategy of R&D development in Serbia and obligations taken by the Financial agreements, which we hope will be finalized by the beginning of 2013.

Looking back, from the perspective of PIU, the most important achievements which led to successful results in project implementation are:

- Establishment up the PIU as a limited liability company and swift set-up of operational functionality, which was the initial precondition for withdrawal of the first tranche
- Setting up excellent communication and trustworthy partnership with EIB and CEB staff, which resulted with high efficiency in following tender preparation, which is the key precondition for successful implementation of projects

In last two years, we have done the following:

- Withdraw 60 million EUR from EIB (cca 30% of contract)
- Withdraw 17,5 million EUR from CEB (50% of contract signed in October 2010)
- Executed 8 large tenders for construction of different buildings
- Launched one of the largest open international architectural competition in 2010 in the world for the conceptual design of future Science Promotion



Center building. This was the first competition of that kind in Serbia after 30 years.

- Designed centralized register of scientific equipment and started up a process of procurement of capital scientific equipment for R&D institutions, which is still in execution phase, with completion scheduled for the first half of 2013. Till now, for procurement of capital equipment (items above 100.000 EUR each) is spent around 10 million EUR and signed 30 contracts with providers. At the moment, we are in evaluation phase of a large tender through which we aim to procure 315 items worth between 30.000 and 100.000 EUR each, with total estimated value cca 13 million EUR.
- Designed software platform and set up the Centralized system for procurement of consumables for entire scientific community, through which we collected demands and successfully completed two tenders (third is ongoing) through which we procured around 40.000 different items. This is project of huge importance, since it can be customized for any other similar purpose, where the task is procurement of large number of different products, for large number of scattered users, and it essentially provides a platform which can be developed in e-procurement system.

It is also important to acknowledge that successful start up and later successful operations of PIU would not be easy without EU support through two technical support projects. In initial phase, of great help was Infrastructure Project Facility (IPF) delivered through COWI IPF, through which we prepared initial phases of two out of five projects we are presenting here today, and project of technical assistance financed through IPA, executed by Eptisa, whose experts assists us in our every day work.

We hope that in two years we would meet again on same occasion, when we will present remaining projects and announce the final stage of this investment program.

I thank you for your attention