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UN Public Service Day Celebrated in Montenegro

In its Resolution 57/277 the UN General Assembly designated 23 June as the United Nations Public Service Day and encouraged Member States to organize special events on that day to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process.

This year the UN Public Service Day in Montenegro was celebrated in all the levels of public governance. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Interior of Montenegro, Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), The Human Resources Authority of Montenegro (HRMA), the National Association of Municipalities of Montenegro in collaboration with Institute Alternativa from the civil society.

ReSPA contributed to the UN Public Service Day by conducting three large activities. The activities included networking events on General Administrative Procedures (GAPA network), the networking event on Public Private Partnership (PPP) as well as the accredited training seminar on Leadership training on anticorruption institutions.

The event was officiated by **Mr. Suad Music**, ReSPA Director who in his opening remarks extended his gratitude to the organizers as well as highlighted that all the activities organized by ReSPA are at the very heart of the good governance concept and are of vital importance for the establishment of an efficient government which is open and accountable to its citizens. He also invited the guests to join the networking events.

After Mr. Music, the UNICEF Representative in Montenegro **Mr. Benjamin Perks** highlighted the importance of this day, stressing the significance of this day globally and in Montenegro particularly. He also said that "we need to continue to recruit young and committed public administration professionals", and stressed the collaboration of the UN in Montenegro with the authorities in their path the European Union Accession in promoting social inclusion, supporting democratic governance and ensuring sustainable economic development.

After him, the Mayor of Old Royal Capital of Cetinje **Mr. Aleksandar Bogdanovic** highlighted the work of the local government in respect to the implementation of projects that bring the public officials closer to the citizens, informing also about the new projects and programmes of his municipality.

At the end, the Minister of Interior of Montenegro **Mr. Rasko Konjevic**, said that at the foundation of a democratic society is an efficient and professional citizen oriented public administration. He recalled that EU membership is a strategic goal of Montenegro, stating that it cannot become a full member of the European family, without the reform process necessary to develop the public administration. "The aim of the activities carried out in the public administration sector is creating professional and depoliticized public administration, in which the system will be based on the progress of work and knowledge. The quality of services provided by public administration is crucial to the quality of life of citizens creating a favorable economic and social environment, "he said.

After the opening remarks by the esteemed guests, the tow networking events convened. What made these events very special was the presence of many other guests from the public administration institutions in Montenegro in addition to the permanent network members.

A cocktail was provided by ReSPA at the end of the celebrations to commemorate this unforgettable day.

Within the framework of the UN Public Service Day an Open Day was organized in all Montenegrin municipalities, in the Directorate for Human Resources in Podgorica, in the regional offices and branches for internal administrative affairs of the Ministry of Interior, centers and departments, in the Directorate of Security Police and

as well as local governments. Event Management Personnel event was primarily intended for final year students as well as other citizens who wanted to learn the procedures for employment in the public sector, while in all other institutions, citizens had the opportunity to talk about the problems and dilemmas with managers.

The 2014 <u>UN Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum</u> was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 23 to 26 June 2014 on the theme "Innovating Governance for Sustainable Development and Well-Being of the People".

For more information on the events organized by ReSPA please contact: Eris Kasmi ReSPA PR and Documentation Officer e.kasmi@respaweb.eu