



Questions & Answers about the EU

Are Serbian smes eligible for EU funds?

Within the FP7 programme, European Commission has envisaged significant part of announced EUR 8.1 billion for small and medium-sized enterprises, as a boost to growth and jobs in Europe. Small and medium-sized enterprises have been recognised as vital for innovation and given special incentives to participate with EUR 1.2 billion in total. Out of this amount, EUR 250 million will be dedicated for the programme Research for the benefit of SMEs. Serbia, like other Western Balkans countries, participates in FP7 programme. Another possibility for SMEs to be supported is Competitiveness and innovation framework programme (CIP): Serbia participates in two of three its parts – Innovation and ICT Policy support part (ec.europa.eu/cip).

Travelling to the EU, is that a problem?

On December 19, 2009, Serbian citizens were granted visa free regime; that means that every citizen with biometric passport can travel without visa in 25 EU member and three non-EU countries that are part of Schengen area (Switzerland, Norway and Iceland). The exceptions are Great Britain and Ireland who

retained visas as obligatory for citizens of Serbia. Serbian citizens can travel in the Schengen area for up to 90 days within a period of 180 days.

Where to find info on EU funded projects in Serbia?

The list of projects funded by the EU in Serbia and all relevant information could be found at www.euinfo.rs and at the internet presentation of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia. Within the www.europa.rs presentation, an interactive map is available at <http://mapa.euinfo.rs/>. The site offers link to news relevant to project activities. Serbian government's Office for European Integration site (<http://seio.gov.rs>), as well as local FP7 contact points (<http://cordis.europa.eu/serbia>) offer information on ongoing projects and call for proposals. For Culture programme, local liaison is Cultural Contact Point Serbia available at www.ccp-serbia.org. Serbia participates in the TEMPUS programme from the year of 2000, more information available at: www.tempus.ac.rs. The most comprehensive information can be found at the official site of the European Union: www.europa.eu.



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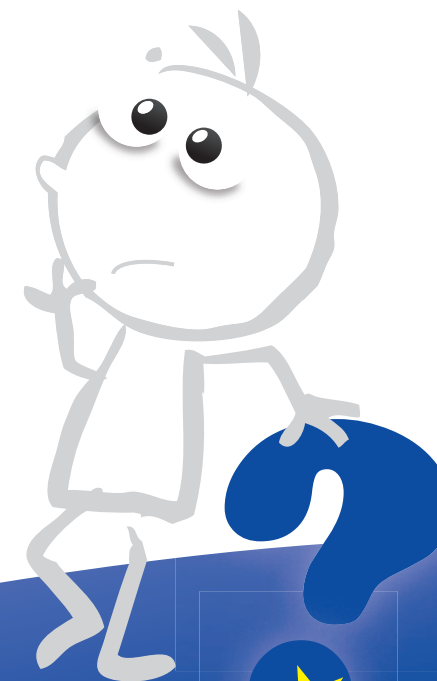


European Union



Ask us!

10 most
frequent
questions
about
EU integration





Questions & Answers about the EU



I would like to study in the European Union. How to do it?

Most educational and cultural programmes are open to Serbia. Serbian citizens can therefore study in the EU countries, within the framework of several programmes available for graduate and postgraduate studies. The ways to obtain EU financial support depend on whether you are already a student (in this case you would seek an exchange programme) or a degree-seeking student making a fresh start studying outside Serbia. Scholarships can be obtained primarily through Erasmus Mundus programme; tuition fees at the host university are waived. In its current Phase II, Erasmus Mundus offers to Serbian students BASILEUS, JoinEU-SEE, ERAWEB and EUROWEB actions. Another possibility is MARIE CURIE Scholarship for young researchers. Students with special needs, such as with physical disabilities, may get extra funds to help them cover additional expenses related to their stay abroad. TEMPUS programme promotes institutional cooperation between the EU and Eastern Europe, Central Asian, Western Balkans and Mediterranean countries, by financing common projects. More information can be found at: eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/index_en.php. Lifelong learning programme supports the development of education and training at all levels. It finances several actions: exchanges, study visits and networking activities, more information at: eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp. Like citizens of all other applicant countries, Serbian citizens can apply and be awarded traineeship in EU institutions.

I would like to work in the EU, is it possible?

As a Serbian citizen, you can apply for a job and to work in the EU if you obtain the appropriate work permit. To obtain it, you should apply in advance at the embassy of the country you want to work in and check the conditions. The official EU Job Mobility Portal – EURES is a useful source

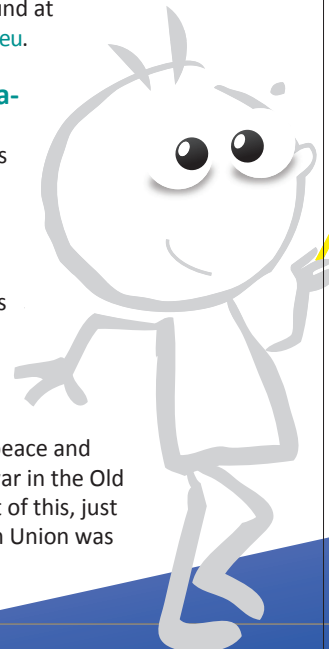
when searching for a job: it lists vacancies and offers tips for searching and getting a job (ec.europa.eu/eures/). Moreover the EU Blue Card Scheme has been established in 2009 with the idea to make Europe a more attractive destination for highly educated persons from outside the EU. (www.apply.eu/BlueCard). European CV format, Europass (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>) was established for facilitating studying and learning in Europe.

What are the conditions for volunteering in the EU?

Volunteering in the EU countries is possible for Serbians, in accordance with the directive that regulates conditions of third country citizens' admissions for voluntary service, pupil exchange and study. The EU has celebrated 2011 as European Year of Volunteering. If you are between 18 and 30 and want to become a volunteer, European voluntary service (EVS) and Youth in Action programme are the right choices. Information about volunteering for older people in the EU could be found at www.eurofund.europa.eu.

What is EU integration?

The European Union is an economic and political partnership that represents a unique form of cooperation among its member states. The European project has started after the World War Two, with the idea to preserve peace and prevent any further war in the Old Continent. As a result of this, just recently the European Union was awarded with the



Nobel peace prize. The Nobel peace prize for 2012 was awarded to the European Union "for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe"; it was announced by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. From cooperation in strategic fields like coal and steel production in 1950's, through economic and trade cooperation, the European integration project has grown into a single market where goods, people, capital and services move freely, and lately into a unique political union, a community of values based on fundamental rights and freedoms. From 6 to 27 member states and from economic to political integration over the years, EU is attracting more European countries applying for full membership, such as Serbia.

Where is Serbia in the EU integration process?

In March 2012, Serbia was awarded the status of candidate country for membership in the EU. The candidate status, apart from political significance, means that the applicant country can benefit more from EU funds. Already until candidate status, Serbia was one of the most important destinations of EU grants (funds which do not have to be reimbursed) of an amount of around 200 Million euros yearly. Being a candidate country, Serbia has access to all five components of Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance which is important in preparing for full implementation of whole EU legislation (the so called *acquis communautaire*) at the time of accession. The next important step is the start of accession negotiations with the EU. The *acquis* is divided into 35 chapters

that will be thoroughly discussed between national authority and the EU, in order to be fully integrated into national legislation.

What are the benefits of EU integration?

Being a European country in geographical, historical and cultural terms, the EU is both a natural partner and a choice for Serbia. Numerous reforms necessary to be implemented during EU integration should modernise the political and economic system and speed up the democratisation process. Advancing towards EU membership attracts foreign investors and creates new jobs. From late 2009, Serbian citizens can travel in the Schengen area without a visa. In future as a fully-fledged EU member state, Serbian citizens will be free to move and work in every EU state, the country will have access to Structural funds and to a large market of 500 million citizens.

Which EU funds are available to Serbia?

As a candidate country, Serbia benefits from all five IPA components – Support for transition and institution building, Cross-border cooperation, Regional development, Human resources development and Rural development. The total value of the EU's financial assistance to Serbia through IPA funds for period 2007-2012 amounts to approximately EUR 1,1 billion. Within the Framework Programme 7 (FP7), the EU financially supports research and innovation projects in different fields. Competiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), Erasmus Mundus, Tempus and Culture are other programmes open to Serbia. If you need more information, the EU Info Centre will direct you where to find it and tell you where you can apply.