



EUROPEAN UNION

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- Since the start of the emergency due to overwhelming floods in Serbia, BiH and large parts of Croatia, the European Union showed solidarity with the affected countries and to help them overcome and recover from the dramatic situation.
- European support in the first response to the crisis - provided by the Member States and coordinated by the European Commission - has been an important part of the reaction to the emergency. This assistance has helped save lives, pump out water from flooded buildings, maintain electricity access, deliver supplies to affected areas and predict water flow evolution and assess the damage through satellite images. The European Commission immediately gave €3 million in humanitarian aid to help the most vulnerable people in both BiH and Serbia.
- As the situation evolved, the EU mobilised support to the recovery and reconstruction. For this purpose €30 million has been allocated by the European Commission to respond to short to medium term needs in the affected areas. This funding was re-allocated from previous programmes under the 2012 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and implementation is currently underway including support for public infrastructure such as schools, housing needs as well as basic equipment for enterprises and farms to restart their activities.
- The funds are used for the construction of 151 new homes, reconstruction of 870 damaged houses, procurement of furniture and appliances for 819 households, reconstruction of 15 public building, repair of 11.5 kilometres of a key road in the west Serbia, revival of the economy and agriculture through income generating activities to 492 small and micro businesses, and

agricultural assistance to 17,000 agricultural households. Furthermore, the funds have been used for improving the living conditions in temporary shelters, purchase of pesticides to decrease the mosquito population and strengthen the capacities of the Government of Serbia's Office for Flood Affected Areas Assistance and Rehabilitation (FAAARO).

- From its current national programme for IPA 2014, the EU also provided € 62 million mid/term grants for early warning systems, prevention and risk reduction as well as to cater to the remaining needs in housing and economic growth. Another € 10 million were granted from the IPA regional funds to cater to the needs of flood prevention in the Macva region close to the border with BiH.
- In addition, for Serbia alone the EU provided € 60.2 million from the European solidarity fund. In total, all IPA, humanitarian and solidarity fund grants to Serbia amount to € 170.2 million, which makes this the largest EU-funded operation in the history of the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism.
- In this context, we are happy that Serbia joined the EU Civil protection mechanism recently.