

Type of Project:	Education Schools	Country: Serbia		
Approach:	Repair/Rehabilitation	Realisation Year: 2002 - 2003		
Project name:	Rehabilitation/Extension of 6 Schools in Southern Serbia	Version:	1	Date: February 2004



Initial Situation, Context

As one of the consequences of the crisis in the Balkans the system of education in Serbia is functioning at the poverty level. The overall economical crisis in the country and the mismanagement of the former regime led to a drastic shortage in the state budget with dramatic consequences in the educational sector. The presence of 375'000 refugees and 200'000 IDPs led to additional burdens for the educational sector as the children of these groups had to be integrated into the Serbian school system as well.

The school systems owns 4613 primary schools, 30% of them are in need of significant repair while 15% call for major reconstruction. About 40% of all schools are located in urban areas which corresponds to 87% of all classes and 92% of all pupils. Most schools work in two shifts. 60% of all school buildings are located in rural areas with 13% of all classes but only 8% of all pupils are attending a school in rural areas. The poorest area in Serbia is the south-east part of the country where UNICEF recommended the International Community to support the renovation, revitalization and the upgrading of existing school buildings as an important short-term need. The necessary funds are used from the state budget, foreign donors and from communities.

Goals, Beneficiaries

The main goal is to assist the Serbian Government to rehabilitate the primary schools in South Serbia. Special attention is given to the valley of Presevo and Bujanovac in the GSZ, where the political and ethnic tensions between Serbians and Albanians need to be lowered by focused actions in the region, e.g. by assisting the communities in solving the problem in one of the most vulnerable sector.

Approach

Selection of schools for rehabilitation was done after an input from the relevant partners (MES and Municipality)

Partner(s)

- MES, the schools are under the responsibility of the Ministry
- Municipality of Presevo, the legal owner of the school buildings and responsible for repair and maintenance.
- SDC Housing Office (SDC-HO), developed concept, prepared, implemented and monitored the project. Funding the extension in Miratovac.

Implementations/Results

The implementation required 7 months:

2 months for the selection of the municipality, agreement, preparatory works, project designs, authorization, bidding and contracting (local contractors).

5 months for construction works, finalization and hand-over.

Local material was used and the construction is in line with the local building standards.

Technical details

Out of 6 schools selected for rehabilitation, the primary school “Abdulah Krasnica” in Miratovac (municipality of Presevo) was proposed for extension to enlarge the school working space. This extension was planned by the urban plan of the community but never realized because of lacking funds. The extensional new part of the school contains four new classrooms, two sanitary blocks (boys/girls). Stairway and corridors are connected directly with the existing school buildings.

Total usable surface of the extension is 378.1 m² divided into two floors.

Cost, Financing

The construction works for the extension in the school of Miratovac was financed by SDC (145'725 EUR). The Municipality was responsible for covering the cost for furniture in the new classrooms, reconstruction of boiler room and the rehabilitation of the roof for the existing school buildings.

Problems/Constraints

Main problem was the insufficient budget from MES for maintenance and the insufficient engagement of the school maintenance staff (lack of motivation and practice).

Limited budget of municipality prolonged the period furnishing the classrooms and other works.

Lessons learned What was useful in the approach?

The construction of a new sanitary block was improving quite a bit the condition of hygiene in the school. The extension of the school in Miratovac improved the school situation by giving the possibility to work in smaller groups of pupils in the classroom.

Lessons learned What should be done different next time?

In order to save time SDC-Ho should consider to include the delivery of furniture in similar future projects.

Preconditions and Limitations for this approach

Political acceptance of such a project by national and local authorities and a close cooperation among the partners is a must.

Evaluations

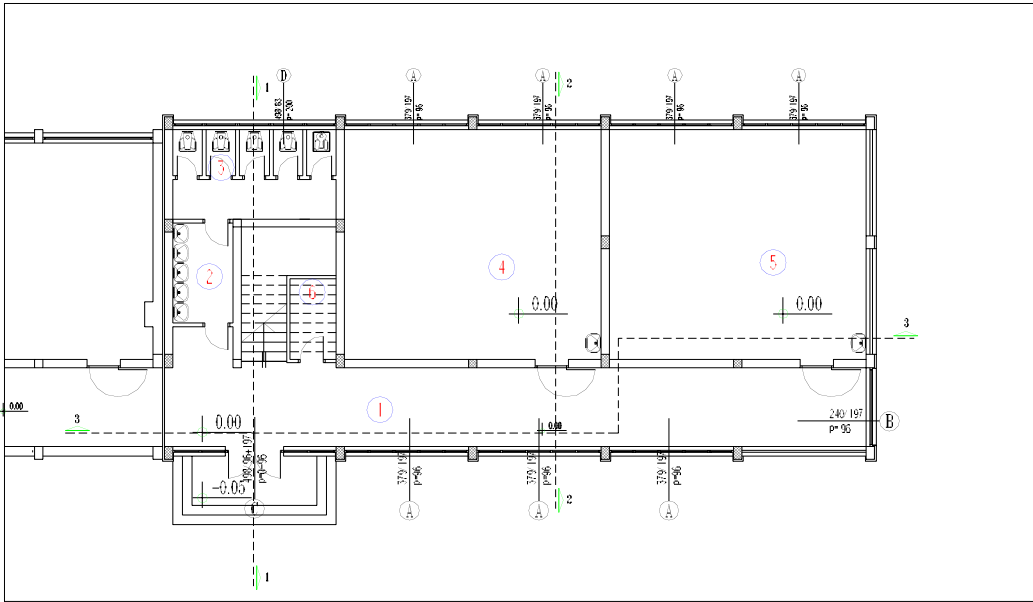
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For further information

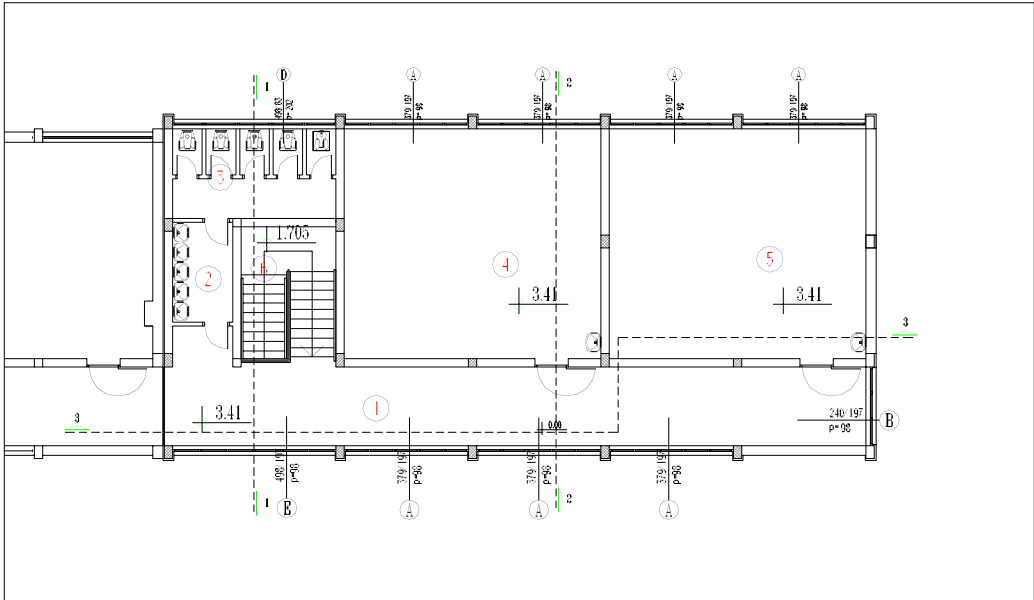
Recommended Contacts:	Ernesto Morosin, Head of SDC Housing Office Belgrade
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Fact Sheet 2002 “The Swiss Contribution”
Relevant other projects (links):	Similar projects in Kosovo

Annex: (technical drawings, schemata) see page: 3-5

Grund Floor School Extension in Miratovac



First Floor School Extension in Miratovac



Type of Project:	Education Schools	Country:	Serbia
Approach:	Repairs + New Construction	Realisation Year:	20002 - 2003
Project name:	Rehabilitation/Extension of 6 Schools in southern Serbia	Version:	1
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Procedures Checklist

General Information

The Serbian Ministry for Education and Sport (MES) as well as the municipalities are responsible for monitoring the functioning and maintenance of school buildings. Running cost are covered by MES, but the municipalities are the legal owner of school buildings and responsible for the implementation of the maintenance. Due to lack of finances, civil unrest and poor maintenance many of the school buildings are in a desperate shape. The economical situation in the area does not allow bigger investments from the Serbian Government.

The project covers the two municipalities Bujanovac and Presevo and the two towns of Surdulica and Bosilegrad. Five Primary Schools have been rehabilitated and one extended in Miratovac (Presevo).

Goals, Beneficiaries

The main goal is to support the Municipalities and MES to solve the problems of major maintenance and in the building works for the extension of the school in Miratovac. The situation in the most vulnerable sector of education in this area will be basically improved and the efficiency of the running of the schools will be facilitated by the rehabilitations and the extension of the working space. Beneficiaries are the pupils in the relevant schools.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1. Problem Detecting: Municipalities + SDC Initiative

- a Is there an awareness of the high number of pupils in primary schools in the area?
- b Is there a commitment of the Government to support the educational sector (National Strategy)?
- c How are the specific situations in the involved Municipalities (economical and political)?

2. Concept: SDC Initiative

- a Analyse the needs of pupils in the primary schools in the area
- b Analyse the needs of the municipalities in solving the problems in school maintenance
- c Analyse the capacity/potential of the municipalities to participate in the project
- d Define the concept in coordination with all partners
- e Present already existing implemented similar projects (if existing)

3. Assessment of Project solution: SDC Initiative + Municipality + Primary Schools

- a Update the school situation in the municipalities
- b Develop appropriate solutions
- c Assess the requirements for finalising the technical project documentation
- d Propose the layout plan and the preliminary design

3. Motivation: SDC Initiative + Municipality + Primary + Schools

- a Check the willingness of the authorities in the Municipality and in the Primary Schools
- b Motivate, if needed, the Municipality to find potential and resources
- c Strengthen motivation by defining benefits for school pupils

PROJECT STRUCTURE

5. Partnership: SDC Initiative + Municipality + MES

- a Approach other partners, organize a round table discussion
- b Preliminary discussion about project concept
- c Prepare first draft of Agreement based on preliminary discussion
- e Collect partners comments and remarks, create second draft of Agreement
- f Define and sign final Agreement with all partners

6. Responsibility (Agreement): All Partners

- a **SDC**: Initiates, funds construction, technical documents, implementation
- b **MES**: Ensures the legal framework
- c **Municipality**: Provides all permits and authorizations, performs day-to-day supervision of the construction

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**7. Building works: SDC + Municipality**

- a Elaborate the main and executing design and documents
- b Provide technical check-up of all project documents
- c Provide approval from the relevant organizations
- d Organise the necessary "Building Permit"
- e Organise Tendering
- f Organise Contracting
- g Open the construction site
- h Run the project monitoring
- i Find and organise the project acceptance
- k Organise the final account
- l Organise the documents for "Permit for use" and handover

Legend

MUN: Municipality

MES: Serbian Ministry for Education and Sport

SDC: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

For further information

Recommended Contacts:	E. Morosin, SDC Housing Office Belgrade e-mail: sdc.ho@eunet.yu
Recommended Institutions:	SDC/SHA, desk Europe + CIS
Recommended books/reports:	SDC/SHA Fact Sheet June 2002: "The Swiss Contribution"
Relevant other projects (links):	Similar Projects in Kosovo