

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

Podgorica, April 10th, 2006

Presentation of UN Eco Building Project in Montenegro

Presentation of UN Eco Building Project in Montenegro will be held on April 11th, at 12:00, at Vila Gorica, Podgorica, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Montenegro and in the presence of Austrian Ambassador, UNDP Resident Representative in SCG and representatives from local UN Agencies and other International Agencies operating in Montenegro. The project refers to the future UN common premises which will be built using ecological principles and as such it will be the first of its kind in the United Nations.

United Nations agencies share premises in nearly 50 of UNDP's 166 locations globally and where such projects have been initiated, numerous benefits to the host nation and the United Nations Teams have been identified.

Since 2002, the UN Agencies in Montenegro agreed to pursue the idea of seeking support from within the UN, the Government and bilateral donors to establish common premises. The agencies felt that establishing a single location would strengthen the UN System presence and help in seeking to realize the UN universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and sustainable development. Thus, the idea was forged of developing an '*Eco Premises*' as both an innovative way of raising funds and a symbolic gesture of respect to the Montenegrin Constitution's claim as an ecological state.

The Government of Montenegro, through the Municipality of Podgorica, has provided a location for the construction of the building and have committed to provide all necessary service connections free of charge. Following the architects' competition in Innsbruck, Austria in January 2006, the Austrian Development Assistance (ADA) committed itself to design and to fund the specialist technology at a cost of almost Euro 600,000 with the Government agreeing to pay the remainder. Located on the banks of the Moraca River, it will provide office space for UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and UN consultants including World Bank, etc.

The Presentation at the Vila Gorica will also include the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Montenegrin Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Development Agency, and the revealing of the winning design.

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UNDP in Montenegro promotes sustainable development, which is economically viable, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly.