



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 11 January 2013

**Closing of the EU-funded project: "Empowering
Relevant Actors for Social Inclusion at Local Level"**

**Award of Certificates
(The City of Skopje)**

Speech by
H.E. Mr Aivo ORAV
Head of EU Delegation

**Dear Minister Mr. Ristovski,
Dear Mayor Mr. Trajanovski,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure being at today's event when we jointly share the results of the EU-funded project: "Empowering Relevant Actors for Social Inclusion at Local Level". Trainings for professionals and volunteers working in Local Self Government Units and civil society organisations throughout the country were implemented and all of you have successfully finalised these trainings – documented by the certificates you will receive today.

This project is part of the Human Resources Development Programme for which the European Union provides about 54 million EUR, for the period 2007 - 2013. Social inclusion is one important priority of this Programme which is dedicated to social sector reforms in the country.

The EU supported programme for social inclusion combines assistance to institutions as well as assistance to people who directly face social exclusion.

Assistance to institutions will strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in charge of creating and implementing

effective policies for the promotion of social inclusion. In this context, the EU supports governmental and non-governmental institutions through trainings, workshops and the exchange of best practices with EU experts. In addition, whenever needed, we supply the necessary equipment and refurbish buildings like some of the centres for social work.

Assistance to people is utilised through grants to civil society organisations who closely work with final beneficiaries to address the daily needs of disadvantaged people in the society.

We believe that the project we are closing today has significantly improved the knowledge and overall capacity of all involved municipalities and NGOs in order to prepare new projects in the field of social inclusion.

You had the privilege of being trainees in these trainings, but you also have a duty to help in setting up the highest professional standards in the sector. Now it is expected from all of you to prepare valuable project proposals for the upcoming EU Grant Schemes in the field of social inclusion which are to be announced soon.

Thank you very much for your attention!