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MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC GROWTH ACTIVITY

ZRENJANIN (1) : AUBURN (0)

"I thought that energy and enthusiasm I felt and recognized around me at the seminars, trainings and roundtables that I attended as a young intern in 1972 will never repeat again. After 30 years, at the seminar organized by the MEGA Program, I had the same feeling again. Energy and enthusiasm are all around" – said Milijana Kladarin, Project Advisor, LED Office Loznica.



Workshop participants in Zlatibor

A group of thirty LED Office representatives from ten MEGA municipalities attend seminars organized every month aimed at strengthening their capacities and learning about new skills and good practices from the country, region and the world.

The seminars held in places from Palic to Presevo, added energy to each participant for carrying out daily tasks and duties. A sense of belonging to a group of people with different background was stronger after each seminar. Apart from new skills and knowledge, the employees of ten LED offices become more committed to fulfill their goals: creation of new jobs and attraction of investments. This was also a confirmation for MEGA staff that they were not alone in their enthusiasm. New friendships, easy exchange of experiences and practical application of new concepts were the most important benefits of these gatherings.

The question is how can this experience be presented to someone who has never participated at any seminar? This may be the right way to do it. The topic of the seminar: – LED office Organization and Interpersonal Skills Course. Trainers: Phillip Dunlop, Head of LED Office, Auburn, USA and Megan McGowen, his deputy. Auburn – a city to be used as an example. Unemployment: 2.5 %. Numerous investments. Tuesday was the first day at the seminar. Most participants arrived to Zlatibor in the afternoon. Subotica missed the way and went towards Nis. Team from Vranje came quickly – it took them six hours only (!?). The teams mingled and talked until late hours. Wednesday: wake up, breakfast, start at 9:00AM. The chairs are uncomfortable (no chairs are comfortable for 7 hour meeting), headphones ready, mobile phones off. Notepads ready, notes being written down. One presentation follows another, questions and answers, practical exercises, group work keep us busy all day. Kragujevac and Prokuplje, Kruševac and Novi Beograd are solving the problem of new investments together. The seminar was finished at 5:00. Shower, dinner, and fun until late hours. Thursday. Wake up call, breakfast, start at 9:00AM. The same as on Wednesday, except that the agenda was not followed because participants wanted to work longer, so the workshop ends at 7:00PM. Interpreters pale, participants thanking them for wonderful interpretation. "I have never seen a seminar like this one," whispered the busy waiter. Again the same routine: taking shower, dinner, fun, back to the hotel and table tennis. Zrenjanin team is the best. Friday. The work started at 9:00AM. Those who claim that five hours of sleep is not enough (three days in a row), should see the presentation on FDI attraction made by Uzice and Indjija. It seems that lack of sleep is good for concentration and eloquence. The Seminar ended at 3:00PM. After lunch, we packed our stuff and left Zlatibor. Bon Voyage and good luck - Everybody will get a CD with presentations and manuals. We will certainly not forget to send the pictures.