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NEW RESOURCE CENTER IN KNJAZEVCAC TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

KNJAZEVCAC – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Municipality of Knjazevac today opened the Knjazevac Youth Resource Center to provide training skills for young job seekers and act a link between them and the business community.

The center is designed to provide long-term, sustainable solutions to youth unemployment in the Knjazevac area by helping maintaining a database of young job seekers, promoting their skills to local firms, and by simplifying and streamlining administration procedures once companies find qualified part-time employees. The center will also help young people gain work experience and develop skills demanded by the job market.

USAID/Serbia Mission Director Susan K. Fritz, State secretary in the Ministry of Youth and Sports Nenad Borovcanin, and Knjazevac Mayor Milan Djokic opened the Knjazevac Youth Resource Center. USAID matched the municipality's \$5,000 endowment and provided training for Center's employees and promo campaign. The municipality provided the office space and is paying the center's employees' salaries.

This project is using resources created during earlier USAID youth-employment activities. The center's software was developed by the Youth Office in Palilula (Nis) during an earlier Economic Security Project-supported activity.

USAID's Economic Security Project is currently active in the Knjazevac region through business and youth activities designed to reduce unemployment and speed South Serbia's economic recovery. USAID's activities include the development of Youth Entrepreneurship Action Plans – strategic documents that tackle youth unemployment in specific municipalities – training for Youth Office employees, and summer internship programs designed to help young people improve their employment prospects.

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For more information, contact the USAID Economic Security Project's Communications Office at tibor_jona@dai.com, or +381-11 363-9900, or visit <http://www.economicsecurity.rs>.

***Since 2001 USAID has invested more than \$689.4 million to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance in Serbia.
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