



Government of the  
Republic of Serbia

MARCH 2014

18<sup>th</sup>

NEWS ON SOCIAL INCLUSION  
LETTER AND POVERTY REDUCTION



*Solidarity is one of the fundamental EU principles and represents an overall goal of all European societies.*

*A more inclusive Europe is vital for the realization of EU objectives:*

*sustainable economic growth, new and better jobs and higher social cohesion. EU leaders established the social inclusion process in order to contribute more efficiently to poverty eradication.*

*The Government of Serbia takes active part in the social inclusion process to improve the quality of life its citizens. The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has been established to assist the Government and line ministries to develop and implement social inclusion and poverty reduction policies in a coordinated and effective manner.*

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TANJA MIŠČEVIĆ, CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR THE ACCESSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

## Serbia will Strive Towards Social Justice and Cohesion in the Process of EU Accession

The first Serbia-EU intergovernmental conference, marking the beginning of accession negotiations at political level was held in Brussels on 21 January 2014.

This is the key moment showing the commitment and devotion of both sides to the European future of our country.

Serbia is firmly committed to building a Europe of peace, justice, freedom, solidarity and security. In addition to wishing to take its place in the EU observing the rules of market economy in the process of EU accession, Serbia will strive towards achieving social justice in line with the highest European standards. This includes improvement of the adherence to human and minority rights, the rights of vulnerable social groups in particular.

The global economy and the financial crisis have pointed to the vulnerability of economies and societies around the world, including Europe. Regrettably, the effects of the crisis have not bypassed Serbia. The European Commission stated in its Progress Report on Serbia in 2013 that „the employment policy and the social policy continue to suffer due to the unfavourable economic conditions and scarce public finances“, but also that Serbia started to deal with the priorities in this domain. It is in the spirit of these assessments that the Government will have the accession negotiations taking care of the need to improve the social and economic cohesion in our society.

To that effect, it is especially important for Serbia that the EC, on the basis of the EU Enlargement Strategy 2013–2014, initiated a new process of establishing and monitoring priorities in the sectors of employment and social policy for the accession countries - Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP). ESRP is to be a strategic process, structured on the model of Europe 2020 that the Member States are already implementing. The focus will be put on a limited number of key reforms in the areas of employment and social policy. As in the EU Employment Guidelines, ESRP will present solutions in three areas: labour market and employment policy, human capital and policies of development of skills and social inclusion and social protection policies. In addition, the document will include horizontal aspects such as capacity building, governance and institutional reforms and use of budget funds of Serbia and EU funds for implementation of the planned reforms.

Drafting of ESRP in Serbia officially began in September 2013, and its adoption by the Government is expected in late 2014. It is very important to note that the entire process is open for the public and the civil society organisations.

It is our earnest intention to use the EU integration process of Serbia in the best possible way so as to improve the quality of life and social justice in the country.

News  
from the  
EU

- New EU Employment and Social Innovation Programme
- Annual EC Review on Employment and Social Welfare

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## The Founding of the Social Inclusion Fund a Good Way to Help the Most Vulnerable

The founding of the Social Inclusion fund would be of significant help, since all families with children are under the risk of poverty, while single mothers have a very difficult time finding employment, it was said at the "Perspectives of Sustainability of Financing Support for Children and Vulnerable Groups, Beneficiaries of Social Welfare Services" event, held on 7 March 2014 at the House of the National Assembly.

The president of the Assembly and president of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Nebojša Stefanović, believes the founding of the Social Inclusion Fund is a good

idea, and that financing support for children and vulnerable social categories needs to be one of the state priorities.

According to him, the Fund that would encompass donations, resources from EU funds and budget sources, would imply a better division of funds, as well as control of these funds both at the Republic, as well as local self-government level.

"Millions of Euros have thus far been donated to the most vulnerable groups of the population through various projects, but we lack full insight into the results, since no control was undertaken over this process, necessary for uti-

lizing this potential to the maximum," said Stefanović.

He stated that in regards to donations, France is an example of a country with developed systems for monitoring the results arising from projects, as well as control of funds from donations. Doubts regarding the regularity in use of donation funds are eliminated by applying control mechanisms.

Source: [www.parlament.gov.rs](http://www.parlament.gov.rs)

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit prepared the Study on Options for the Establishment of the Social Inclusion Fund. The contents of the Study are available at <http://goo.gl/plrDWD>

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION  
UNIT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA**Second National Report on Social  
Inclusion and Poverty Reduction**

One of the main tasks in the process of EU accession as defined by the Republic of Serbia is active participation of social inclusion and poverty reduction in the European process. In order to continue preparations of the Republic of Serbia to take part in the Open Method of Coordination in the areas of social protection and social inclusion (OMC), the minister without portfolio in charge of EU integration, supported by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, is starting the process of development of the Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia.

The development of the Report aims to contribute to alignment of the strategic, legislative and programmatic framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction in the Republic of Serbia with that of the EU Member States. The Report will present the current situation in Serbia as compared to the European social inclusion and poverty reduction indicators and represents a part of regular reporting of the Serbian Government to the public and the European Commission. The Report will offer trends, an overview of the current situation and the basic guidelines for solving the challenges of social exclusion and poverty in the country.

The process will be open and participatory. It will ensure participation of local governments, civil society organisations, trade unions, international partners, line ministries and institutions in the Republic of Serbia dealing with different aspects of social inclusion and poverty reduction. The process of drafting of the Report represents an opportunity to initiate national dialogue on the future of social reforms, defining concrete steps of implementation of the reforms and achievement of goals.

In the final stages of the process – during the second quarter of 2014 – the Government of the Republic of Serbia will adopt the Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, and thereafter ensure and monitor its implementation.

**Mapping of Social Protection  
Services at the Local Level**

The report: Mapping Social Protection Services, was completed on the basis of a research conducted by the Centre for Liberal Democratic Studies and at the initiative of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF Serbia.

The aim of mapping was to collect data on the existing non-institutional social protection services within the mandate of local governments.

Mapping of Social Protection Services is to allow better overview of social protection services that the local governments are competent for from the aspect of accessibility, efficiency and quality of the services provided; ensure better insight into the level of development, distribution and sustainability of services; collect data that would feed into future analyses and recommendations for improvement of service provision; serve as a baseline for the regular system of collection and processing of data on social welfare services provided by local governments and to note the potential challenges of improvement of social services at a local level in the future.

The mapping exercise was conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy in the period September 2012 to February 2013.

To download the Report, go to [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

**“Social Protection in Old Age: Long-Term  
Care and Social Pensions” Published**

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Belgrade Faculty of Economy, Finance and Administration and the Centre for Social Policy published a publication entitled “Social Protection in Old Age: Long-Term Care and Social Pensions”.

The first part of the publication deals with the models of long-term care of the elderly in some of the European countries, demand for these services in Serbia as well as recommendations for policy development in this area. The second part of the study represents an analysis of options for introduction of social pensions in Serbia.

Publication available at <http://goo.gl/ngIVif>.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit  
Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

**Development of the Programme of the  
Employment and Social Policy Reforms**

The new Strategy of EU Enlargement 2013-2014 initiated a new instrument that will define and monitor priorities in the areas of employment and social policy in the accession countries – the Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP). ESRP is a strategic process that would follow the process of EU integration as the main mechanism for dialogue about the priorities in the domain of social policy and employment. It is structured against the model of the strategy Europe 2020 that the Member States apply.

ESRP will be focused on a limited number of key priorities in the areas of employment and social policy.

In the Republic of Serbia, the process of elaboration of ESRP officially began in September 2013, and the final document that the Serbian Government is to adopt is expected in late 2014.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia established an intersectoral working group and an expert body headed by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy. The expert assistance will be provided by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

The working group and the experts have prepared the first draft of the key challenges by 2020.

This draft will be put to public debate in the spring, with an invitation to the partners to submit concrete proposals for solutions in the area of public policies, and this will represent the second component of ESRP.

The institutional capacities and funding challenges for implementation of the proposed measures will represent the third component of the document.

The entire process is open and the partners.

**Working Group for Social Dialogue Formed**

The Working Group for development of the labour law comprised of the representatives of the Government, trade unions and employers became operational on 3 February 2014. Its aim is to develop a draft law by 1 May, put it for public debate till the end of May and have the law passed by 30 June 2014.

This is the beginning of a new social dialogue in which the Government of Serbia and the Alliance of Independent Trade Unions of Serbia will seek to approximate their opinions on all the important issues, in particular about the Proposal of the Amendments of the Labour Law with a view to protecting the rights of the workers.

Contact: Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy  
Phone: 011 3614 621, [www.minrzs.gov.rs](http://www.minrzs.gov.rs)

**Survey on Income and Living Conditions**

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia published a press release with the basic data obtained in the Survey on Income and Living Conditions for the first time in Serbia. This survey allows for the analysis of comparative indicators of living conditions in Europe and the Republic of Serbia.

According to the indicators published, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in 2012 was 24.6%, while the poverty threshold at a monthly level for individuals totalled RSD 13,680.

In the Republic of Serbia, 42.1% persons are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This basic indicator of the living standards of Europe 2020 indicates the percentage of persons in a country living in one of the three situations: risk of poverty, expressed material deprivation or are members of households with low labour intensity.

The key data for Serbia may be downloaded at: <http://goo.gl/8ZUYBA>, and the detailed information for Europe at: <http://goo.gl/vh3b2r>.

Contact: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia  
Phone: 011 2412 922, [www.stat.gov.rs](http://www.stat.gov.rs)

**Results of the First Census of Agriculture**

According to the results of the 2012 Census of Agriculture – the first one in 50 years – show the total agricultural area to be Serbia is 3.8 million hectares; there are more than 630,000 farms on which almost 1.5 million people work. More than 100,000 households engage in agricultural production for their own needs on a total of 45,000 hectares. Of the total number of farms, 77% raise cattle. The average area of utilized land per household is 5.4 hectares, 95% of tractors are over 10 years old and only a small part of the utilized agricultural land is irrigated.

The Census data will allow for disbursement of direct financial support to farmers from the EU IPA funds. The Census was funded by the EU with EUR 9 million.

Contact: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia  
Phone: 11 2401 284, [www.popispoljoprivrede.stat.rs](http://www.popispoljoprivrede.stat.rs)



## Serbia-EU Negotiations Begin

The first Serbia-EU intergovernmental conference, marking the beginning of accession negotiations at political level was held in Brussels on 21 January 2014.

The chairman of EU and the representative of the EC presented the negotiations framework that the EU Council agreed upon on 17 December 2013, and the Serbian delegation gave its introductory statement.

The negotiations framework takes into account the experiences of the most recent enlargement exercises and the current accession negotiations, as well as development of the EU acquis. It also reflects the credit acknowledged to Serbia and its specificities.

The next conference Serbia - EU will be held on 25 June, whereafter 35 negotiating chapters will be opened. In the meantime, screening of chapters governing judiciary and fundamental rights, and the normalisation of Serbia-Kosovo relations will take place.

## Explanatory Screening for Chapter 19

The explanatory screening for Chapter 19 referring to social policy and employment was held in Belgrade 10 – 12 February 2014. The main themes of the negotiating Chapter 19 are protection at work, judiciary, social dialogue, employment policy, social inclusion, social protection, European Social Fund, persons with disabilities and equal opportunities.

The second day of explanatory screening saw the meeting with the representatives of the DG Employment, Social Issues and Inclusion where the strategic challenges in the area of employment and social policy for the Republic of Serbia were analysed.

These themes were presented in the introductory part of the strategic document of the Government of the Republic of Serbia – Programme of Reforms in the Area of Employment and Social Policy that Serbia is to adopt by end 2014.

The Serbian Government established an intersectoral group for development of the reforms programmes of employment and social policies chaired by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy. Source: [www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)

## EU Support – EUR 5.8 Million for Local Governments in Serbia

The representatives of 85 local governments in Serbia signed cash grant agreements funded by the EU "Exchange 4" programme amounting to EUR 5.8 million in Belgrade on 29 January.

The overall aim of the Programme is to contribute to the process of strategic changes at a local level through improvement of administrative capacities and efficiency in service provision in line with the public administration reform, national sectoral policy and EU practice.

The projects were approved in four areas: waste management, property management, improvement of agricultural cooperation and social protection services for the elderly. Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## Online Course "Guidebook through Serbia-EU Negotiations"

The Office for European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia posted on its website [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs) an online course "Guidebook through Serbia-EU negotiations".

The course targets civil servants directly involved in the negotiations as well as all the interested citizens who have the opportunity to learn about the subject, principles, stages and dynamics of accession negotiations, the negotiators, content of negotiating chapters, conditions for membership as well as get the answer to what the EU membership brings.

Contact: European Integration Office, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 3061 100, [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## 51% of Citizens in Favour of EU Membership

The membership of Serbia in the EU would be supported by 51% of Serbian citizens at a referendum, 22% would vote against, as shown by a regular public opinion poll conducted by the Serbian Office for European Integration published on 29 January 2014.

As compared to the research of June 2013, a slight increase of support to EU membership is noted.

Contact: European Integration Office, Government of the Republic of Serbia, Phone: 011 3061 100, [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## The Stabilisation and Accession Council between EU and Serbia Held its First Meeting

The Stabilisation and Accession Council held its meeting on 4 March 2014, the first since the coming into force of the Stabilisation and Accession Agreement (SAA) between the European Union and Serbia on 1 September 2013.

The Council analysed the progress of Serbia in implementing the political criteria and emphasized the role of independent regulatory and control bodies and the importance of effective reactions to their conclusions. The importance of consultation with stakeholders in the legislative process was also emphasized, along with the role of the Parliament in oversight over executive power.

The adoption of the strategy for the reform of public administration was assessed as significant, and discussions were held on the reform of local self-government in Serbia. Likewise, the importance of strengthening inclusive regional cooperation was emphasized.

The Council urges Serbia to accelerate reforms in the field of rule of law through adequate division of resources, regular monitoring and efficient coordination mechanisms, while upon the adoption of the strategy for the reform of the judiciary and the action plan for its implementation, work is forthcoming on improving the independence, functioning and efficiency of the judiciary. The adoption of the anti-corruption strategy and action plan was assessed as a significant positive step.

The Council welcomed the adoption of the comprehensive strategy for combating discrimination and emphasized the importance of the protection of the rights of minorities, including the Roma and LGBT population. The Council encouraged Serbia to complete and adopt the relevant action plan. It was stated that the efforts of Serbia in the field of economic and social inclusion of Roma are an important element for resolving the problem of unfounded asylum requests in EU and Schengen states. Emphasis was given to areas requiring intensification of efforts, such as the area of improving the control of state aid.

The EU will also continue to financially support Serbia in the accession process – nearly EUR 1.5 billion has been approved as accession support since 2007, while since 2000 the EU, with its member states, has been the biggest donor with 75% of the total grants received by Serbia. Source: [www.seio.gov.rs](http://www.seio.gov.rs)

## EU to Reduce Unemployment among Youth

The European leaders who met at a meeting on employment of young people in Paris on 12 November concluded that urgent actions are called for in order to reduce the number of unemployed persons in the EU, among the population up to 25. The leaders of EU Member States did not announce any new youth employment programmes, but expressed confidence that the ongoing plans would reverse the trend in the next two years.

According to the official data, approximately 5.6 million or 23,5% young Europeans were jobless in September, as compared to 23,1% one year ago. The youth unemployment rate in the USA is 16%.

As part of the Initiative for Youth Employment, EU earmarked EUR 6 billion which are being used as of 1 January 2014. In the period 2013-2015, a total of EUR 45 billion will be invested into youth employment. Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## Annual EU Employment and Social Welfare Review

The European Commission published an Annual Employment and Social Welfare Review for 2013, as an overview of the situation in this area in the European Union in 2013. The Review stresses the need to eliminate risk of in-work poverty. One of the most striking social consequences of the financial crisis is said to be a significant increase of poverty among the working age population.

Should the trend of wages polarization persist, primarily due to increase of half-time labour, there is a threat that gradual reduction of unemployment rates would not suffice to palpably reduce in-work poverty. This is one of the main findings of the review discussing also positive effects of social benefits on the probability of employability.

See Annual Review at: <http://goo.gl/7lkZRE>

Source: [ec.europa.eu](http://ec.europa.eu)

## Inequality - the Key Concern of the EC

Inequality in the society will be the main challenge for the future European leaders who will need to focus on the society instead of on economic growth, having in mind the persisting weaknesses of the European economy.

The report of an independent, non-profit research institute RAND Europe, commissioned by the European Union, indicates five themes that will mark the next legal mandate of the EU (2014-20) – global growth of a new middle class, population growth and ageing, employment and changes on the labour market, changes in migrations and their impact, and linking of societies and empowerment of individuals.

The unemployment rate in the EU in October 2013 reached a record 10.9%, and the poverty and social exclusion threatened more than 124 million persons.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

## Women and Children – Victims of Trafficking

Women represent 43% and children 42% of victims of trafficking in human beings in Serbia. The majority of cases is linked to prostitution, according to the Report on Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings by Serbia of the CoE Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).

In its first report, GRETA positively assessed the implementation of the previous Action Plan and civil society involvement in drafting of the new National Strategy and Action Plan, as well as the measures taken by the Serbian authorities through establishment of a comprehensive legal and political framework and specialised structures.

See GRETA Report on Implementation of the Convention at <http://goo.gl/1TQRP2>. Source: B92

## Research into Efficiency of Mechanisms for Combating Violence Against Women

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit started a quality survey of efficiency of mechanisms for combating violence against women in Serbia at national and local level.

The objective is to contribute to improvement of systemic mechanisms providing support to victims of domestic violence by mapping key gaps and obstacles in the systemic access to support for women and children – victims of violence in Serbia.

This pilot survey, implemented by Autonomous Women Centre and the Institute for Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade University in 10 municipalities, will last until March 2014.

The target group includes the relevant institutions, social welfare centres, police, health care centres and courts in particular.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## Women - the Most Frequent Victims of Discrimination in Serbia

Women are most discriminated against social group, followed by Roma, persons with disabilities, the poor and the elderly show the results of a survey "Attitude of Citizens to Discrimination in Serbia" conducted by the Commissioner for Equality and UN Development Programme (UNDP).

More than 30% of respondents believe that discrimination is most pronounced in the area of employment. The survey showed stereotypes and prejudices to prevail in Serbia. The majority of citizens would not accept a member of ethnic minority in their family, 49% respondents agree with the statement that homosexuality is an "illness that

needs to be treated", and 35% of citizens think that small religious communities "steal souls from other people".

The highest degree of ethnic distance exists towards the Albanians – 20% of respondents believe they should not be citizens of Serbia at all.

The fourth survey "Attitude of Citizens to Discrimination in Serbia" was conducted by Centre for Free Elections and Democracy. The survey was conducted by face to face methodology on a random sample of 1,200 citizens over 15 in the period 21 – 28 November 2013. Contact: Commissioner for Protection of Equality, [www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs](http://www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs)

## Discriminatory Attitudes in Institutions

The survey conducted by the Office of the Commissioner for Protection of Equality has shown that more than 20% of the representatives of the government in Serbia are not aware that the law bans all forms of discrimination, while many tolerate this kind of behaviour. The results of the survey were presented in January 2014.

The survey covered 1,352 representatives of institutions from the Government of Serbia, Vojvodina Assembly, local courts and prosecutors' offices and its final objective is to identify measures to be taken so that the public services would work in the best interest of citizens and towards achieving zero tolerance to discrimination.

The results of the survey show that discrimination is lower in Belgrade and Vojvodina than in the rest of Serbia.

Contact: Commissioner for Protection of Equality  
Phone: 011243 80 20, [www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs](http://www.ravnopravnost.gov.rs)

## Comparative Analysis of Asylum Seekers in Serbia

The Asylum Protection Center (APC/CZA) conducted a survey "Comparative Analysis of Profiles, Needs and Inclusion of Asylum Seekers in Serbia and Serbian Citizens Seeking Asylum in the Developed Countries of Europe".

The survey, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), aims raise awareness of the expert and general public about these two

categories of migrants. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to better functioning of the asylum system and the migration management mechanisms in Serbia through research and presentation of results.

Contact: Centre for Protection and Assistance to Asylum Seekers  
Phone: 011 2457376  
[www.apc-cza.org](http://www.apc-cza.org)

## Publications on Role of Local Communities in Combating Trafficking

NGO Atina from Belgrade published the brochures "Local communities in Anti-Trafficking Efforts" and "Eight stories". Both publications were issued within the framework of the project "Local communities in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" implemented by NGO Atina in partnership with the Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

The project is supported by the EU and the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. Contact: NGO ATINA, Phone: 011 322 00 30, [www.atina.org.rs](http://www.atina.org.rs)

## BLOG ON SOCIAL INCLUSION – RELJA DERETA Why Should You Never Bath Again

"It's not worth doing 'cause it will boil to nothing tomorrow/nothing can succeed in this country" and similar, are the sentences anyone who ever proposed an action, creation, repair heard at least once.

The problem is that far too many of us, those who complain and those who are trying to do something, perceive activism not as a daily habit but as an action movie where it suffices to do something once, and the bad guys would end up defeated and the problem would be solved forever and everyone would live happily ever after. Since real life does not follow the principles of Hollywood, sooner or later a shock, disappointment and resignation come up to the stage, even after a success, the good things do not perpetrate by themselves.

I would mention a few things that make no sense doing as their effects will pass and we will have to do them all over again: eat, drink, sleep, spend time with the loved ones, exercise, study and, of course, bathe. Consequently, more or less the entire human experience is meaningless if perceived through a prism of an action movie. Our lives are comprised from processes and habits.

Certainly, there are Big Moments, but I will leave them aside for the moment, for it is precisely them that have the power to distort the rest of the picture. So, if we agree that it is obvious that we need to eat, drink and take a bath every day, then activism should be perceived as a process, a habit that must be built and practiced every single day.

A potential obstacle here is the idea that we are not accountable for a certain habit. There should be someone else out there who will clean outside our doors, worry about our future and fight for our rights...

Certainly, we cannot do it absolutely all, and the division of responsibility and work is a natural thing. However, I think we need to expand the basic set of habits each of us should have. What should this basic set contain?

\* \* \*

Read on this text and find out others at [www.inkluzija.gov.rs/blog](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/blog)

## Liceulice No 19 on Sale

After a longish break, the new issue of Liceulice is on sales again with the newsvendors in Belgrade, Zaječar, Novi Sad and Pirot.

Half of the proceeds from sales remains with the newsvendors who are homeless, the youth living in the streets, the poorest and the most vulnerable members of marginalised groups. The remaining proceeds are used for development, additional work on integration of salespersons and other programmes of inclusion bearing the same title.

Contact: [www.facebook.com/LICEULICE](http://www.facebook.com/LICEULICE)

## Delicious Monday

Delicious Monday, an initiative to cook for the homeless was launched by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Magazine Liceulice, with the support of the Kisobran team, was organised in Cultural Center Grad on 3 February 2014.

The event was organised as a form of support to the homeless persons who benefit of all the proceeds raised from sales of food prepared by the organisers.

In addition to an invitation to the homeless as special guests, the citizens were invited to bring clothing, food and hygiene items that were distributed to the homeless.



## Drafting of the Report on Implementation of Operational Conclusions of the Seminar begins

On 24 December 2013, the Serbian Office for European Integration, the Office for Human and Minority Rights and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit organised a first coordination meeting on development of the first Report on Implementation of the Operational Conclusions of the Roma Inclusion Seminar.

The Report should be finished by end March 2014, based on responsibilities delegated among line ministries.

Furthermore, the Office for European Integrations, the Office of Human and Minority Rights and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, are launching an initiative for establishing a mechanism of regular coordination meetings regarding projects advancing the status of the Roma population.

The goal of the initiative is that all relevant project beneficiaries, donors and implementation units contribute to a more efficient and effective utilization of budget and donor funds through a regular exchange of information and planned activities.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit  
Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## Seminar on Best Practices in Roma Employment

The Seminar on Best Practices in Roma Employment, organised by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and OSCE, was held on 12 February 2014.

One of the main objectives of the Seminar was to promote the current practices focusing on strengthening human capital and local development supporting Roma inclusion.

The Office for Roma Inclusion, YUROM Centre, RIC, HELP and CARE talked about how best to use the existing human capital and how to put the economic development resources to use in employment of Roma. The beneficiaries of the employment programme were introduced as well.

The Seminar was attended by the representatives of the Council for Improvement of the Position of Roma and implementation of the Decade for Roma Inclusion, the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, EU Delegation, civil society organisations and the representative of the civil sector of Czech Republic and the academic community of Spain who presented the best practices in the area of employment of Roma in Europe.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit  
Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

## Local Governments, EU and OSCE for a better Life of Roma

The OSCE Mission to Serbia, implementing the project "Technical Support to Roma Inclusion", published two public calls for implementing partners. The calls refer to assessment of the situation in Roma settlements in 20 pilot municipalities and a field research of all the Roma settlements in Serbia.

The assessment of Roma settlements will result in drawing of urban plans and obtaining technical documents necessary for their regulation and legalization for 20 settlements.

The field research is part of the technical support to the Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning towards establishing a Geographic Information System (GIS) of all Roma settlements in Serbia.

The deadline for submission of project proposals expired on 5 February 2014

Contact: OSCE Mission to Serbia, Phone: 011 3606 100  
[www.osce.org/serbia](http://www.osce.org/serbia)

## Invitation for Applications to the Programme of Support to Roma Employment

Within the framework of the programme Technical Support to Roma Inclusion, SeConS – Group for Development Initiative, is mapping successful economic initiatives for employment of Roma, and entrepreneurs and self-employed Roma.

One of the objectives of the project funded by the European Union and implemented by the OSCE Mission to Serbia, is increasing employment of Roma.

Being a partner on the project, SeConS invited the owners of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

owned by or employing Roma, and the representatives of citizens' associations or cooperatives engaging them, to register their initiatives /enterprises for participation in the Programme of Support to Employment of Roma.

The selected initiatives /enterprises that wish to create new jobs for Roma will be supported in equipment, expertise and training of new employees.

The deadline for applications expired on 17 February 2014

Contact: Group for Development Initiative – SeConS  
Phone: 011 412 12, [www.secons.net](http://www.secons.net)

## Report "Protection of Roma from Discrimination"

Praxis published a report "Protection of Roma from Discrimination" within the framework of the project "Contribution to Social Inclusion and Combat against Discrimination of Marginalised Population in Serbia".

The report presents the results and progress achieved as well as the remaining challenges in exercise of the right of persons to be recognized before the law, social and health care, education, labour and employment as well as the right to adequate housing.

The results of the survey illustrate the scope of the problems that Roma face on a daily basis.

The project is funded by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Contact: Praxis, Phone: 011 344 4482,  
[www.praxis.org.rs](http://www.praxis.org.rs)

## Scholarships for Research of Public Policies Targeting Roma

Think Tank Fund and the Budapest Roma Initiatives Office invited the young, highly-educated Roma (holding an MA or PhD diploma in humanities), interested in learning about public policy research and advancing their research and advocacy skills, to apply for the programme of Roma Policy Research Fellowship.

Deadline for applications: 31 March 2014.

For more information on the programme and an application form, go to: <http://goo.gl/8lhxE>.

Source: [www.mc.rs](http://www.mc.rs)

## Internship Programme for Young Members of Minorities in State Institutions

"Youth Internship Programme – members of minorities in state institutions in Serbia" was launched officially on an introductory workshop organised by the Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in early November 2013.

The aim of the project is to help members of minorities acquire work experience, knowledge and skills for active inclusion in the public life of Serbia and thus contribute to their own ethnic communities through internship in state institutions.

Contact: Office for Human and Minority Rights, Phone: 011 311 24 05

[www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs](http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs)

## BOSIFEST 2014:

### Call for a Film Festival of Persons with Disabilities

The fifth BOSIFEST 2014 – International Film Festival of persons with disabilities will be held in Belgrade 2 to 4 June 2014. The film festival will be organised by Hendi Centre Koloseum, and the call for films is opened until 22 March.

The aim of founding BOSIFEST is to turn public attention to the creative potential of participants on the public cultural scene as well as dissemination of the message that the persons with dis-

abilities should have the same rights and responsibilities as other citizens. This is the only festival of this kind in South Eastern Europe.

To date, more than 180 movies focusing on the life of persons with disabilities or created by persons with disabilities were shown on BOSIFEST.

Contact: Hendi Centre Koloseum

Phone: 011 263 78 20,

[www.hickoloreum.org](http://www.hickoloreum.org)

## First Gym in the Open Adapted to Persons with Disabilities

"Park for All" is the title of the first gym in open air in Serbia adapted to the persons with disabilities. It is located in Nis and has no architectural barriers, with equipment that the persons with disabilities, the elderly and the convalescents are able to use.

"Park for All" was created by the Association for Local Development Kamenica in partnership with the municipality of Pantelej. The construction was assisted by Serbian Petroleum Industry and USAID within the framework of the project "Civic Society for the Future".

Contact: Trag Foundation, Phone: 011 78 39 467

[www.tragfondacija.org](http://www.tragfondacija.org)

## INITIATIVE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

**Identity Cards for “Successful Villages”**

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia launched a project “Successful Village – Initiative for Promotion of Rural Development”.

The initiative aims to recognize villages characterised by unity of actions, innovations, taking care of its resources, work and to promote them as best practice examples.

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia invites the villages who recognize themselves in this description – the villages that have succeeded – to share their experiences by filling out an identity card form available at [www.selouspelo.rs](http://www.selouspelo.rs)

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

**Corporate Social Responsibility and the Business Sector Role in the Society**

Intersectoral panel on corporate social responsibility and the role of the business sector in the society was held on 28 February. It was organised by SMart Kolektiv, the USAID Institute for Sustainable Communities, Forum of Business Leaders of Serbia and in partnership with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the EU Delegation to Serbia.

The first Intersectoral panel on corporate social responsibility and the role of the business sector in the society focused on the analysis of the current situation of corporate social responsibility in the country with a view to identifying recommendations in this area.

This singular intersectoral panel gathered the leaders from all the sectors aiming to initiate a dialogue on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the cross-cutting topics, policies, strategies, key social challenges and the present and the potential role of the business sector in the society development.

Contact: SMart Kolektiv, [smartkolektiv.org](http://smartkolektiv.org)

## EU INTEGRATED INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

**Five Guides for Improvement of Companies**

The project team of the EU Integrated Innovation Support Programme created five how to guides for promotion of corporate innovations: “Innovation diagnostics and Innovation Priorities”, “Scoping Business Opportunities: Understanding the Market and the Customers”, “Product Development and Positioning”, “Reinforce Organisational Structures and Processes” and “Routes to the Market: Defining Strategies and Business Partners”. The guides target small and medium-size enterprises in Serbia, being handbooks for identification of innovation needs and definition of innovation priorities.

The Programme is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Economy, National Agency for Regional Development and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. To download the guides go to <http://goo.gl/RwtM3d>. Contact: Programme of Integrated Support to Innovations Phone: 011 362 09, [www.iisp.rs](http://www.iisp.rs)

## ONLINE SIGNING OF THE STRASBOURG DECLARATION IN SERBIAN

**Social Innovation Forum and the Belgrade Declaration**

Within the context of the Europe 2020 strategy the European Union presented the Social Business Initiative – an action plan for strengthening the social entrepreneurship framework. Over 2000 social entrepreneurs and adherents of social entrepreneurship met in Strasbourg in mid-January 2014, intending to define future priorities in this area.

This occasion confirmed the attitude whereby social enterprises need to have a greater role in the future of Europe, identifying new ideas and activities whereby their potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth would come to the forefront.

The Coalition for the Development of Social Entrepreneurship will present this strategic document at the Social Innovation Forum (SIF) on 14 March 2014, at the Rex Cultural Centre. This occasion will also mark the launching of the Belgrade Declaration on the Development of Social Entrepreneurship of the Western Balkans and Turkey Region, based on the principles of the Strasbourg Declaration, created with the aim of indicating, to the decision-makers in the EU and the countries of Western Balkans and Turkey, the steps required for the development of social economy as a relevant model for the socially sustainable development of the region.

The signatories to the Belgrade Declaration will participate in the first SIF panel discussion aiming to answer the following questions: how to create a favourable climate for the development of social entrepreneurship in the region and whether social entrepreneurship is the solution for social and economic problems.

The online signing of the Strasbourg Declaration is accessible at <http://goo.gl/LTRKjg>, while the contents of the Declaration in the Serbian language may be found at: <http://goo.gl/fk47Kt>.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

Tel: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

**SURVEY: Business Climate in Serbia**

The business climate in Serbia has slightly improved in 2013, though the protracted and costly legal procedures continue to affect competitiveness of companies, as proved by the results of the survey conducted by the US Agency for International Development.

The improvements were registered in decrease of the level of corruption and improvement of the inspection supervision. The persisting problems are inflation, fluctuations of foreign exchange rate and the fact that 70% of the companies market their products only in their own environment. The third annual Business Survey in Serbia included 1000 companies.

Source: [www.euractiv.rs](http://www.euractiv.rs)

**Foundation Ana and Vlade Divac – Leader in Change**

The foundation “Ana and Vlade Divac” are the laureates of the award Leader in Change presented by the US Chamber of Commerce in Serbia. The Foundation was awarded for leadership in the area of semi-corporate social responsibility, carefully designed and implemented initiative aiming to make a durable impact on the life of beneficiaries. The awards were presented in Belgrade in February 2014.

Contact: Foundation Ana and Vlade Divac, Phone: 011 33 41 755, [www.fondacijadivac.org](http://www.fondacijadivac.org)

**2013 Virtus Awards Presented**

The laureates of the 7th annual award VIRTUS of the Trag Foundation for corporate philanthropy for activities and programmes implemented in 2013 were announced in Belgrade late January 2014.

The awards were presented in 8 categories and the laureates are: NIS a.d. Novi Sad, Eurobank a.d. Belgrade, Slobodna zona Piroć a.d, Telekom Serbia a.d, Delta Holding Ltd, Concern Bambi a.d, Banca Intesa a.d. and Ekapija Ltd.

Contact: Trag Foundation, Phone: 011 78 39 467, [www.tragfondacija.org](http://www.tragfondacija.org)

## PHOTO NEWS



The figures are exact: 25 beds in 5 rooms; total area 200sqm. Since it opened, it welcomed several dozens of visitors from 20 states and, more importantly, they promised to return.

Two young men from Užice, Marko Ristovski (29) and Milan Bogojević (30) opened, in August 2013, “Republik” – the first hostel in Užice with 25 beds.

The house rules in eco hostel “Republik” in Užice are directly linked to environmental protection and recycling: the lighting and use of water follow the principles of environmental protection strictly – energy saving light bulbs, each drop of water in bathrooms is heated by solar energy, and the furniture is made of wooden europalettes.

In less than 6 months the hostel became a member of the global association “Hostelling international”.

Just one year back, both youths were on the list of unemployed at the local National Employment Service branch. Marko, hotel industry manager with substantial experience of working in hotels and overseas cruisers and Milan, a photojournalist and cameraman, decided to start their own business and judging by all the indicators – they have made it!



Eco furniture and nostalgic iconography

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF YOUNG PEOPLE: The First Eco Hostel**

For more success stories, visit the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit website [www.inkluzija.gov.rs/primeri](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/primeri)



## GUIDE FOR CSOs: Standards of Community Social Protection Services and Licencing Procedures

A guide for civil society organisations (CSO) "Standards of Community Social Protection Services and Licencing Procedures" was developed within the framework of the Project "Improvement of Civil Society Professional Capacities to Provide Community Social Protection Services" implemented by the Center for Liberal- Democratic Studies in cooperation with the Serbian Management Centre.

The guide aims to provide the consolidated information required by CSOs about the social protection services at a local level and the procedures required for an organisation to obtain a licence for provision of services.

The aim of the project is improvement of professional competencies and capacities of CSOs – social protection services providers through an established network and their active involvement in implementation of the new Law on Social Protection, as well as promotion of social services provision.

The guide is available at <http://konekta.org/images/publikacije/Vodic.pdf>  
Contact: Konekta, [www.konekta.org](http://www.konekta.org)

## OPEN CALL: Equal in Providing Social Services

As part of the project "Equal in Providing Social Services", Civic Initiatives and the Sandžak Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms, in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, issued a call for financing projects by civil society organisations acting in the field of social protection in Tutin, Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Nova Varoš, Prijepolje and Priboj.

The goal of the call is contribution to the increase in the social inclusion of vulnerable categories of the population in the Raška and Zlatibor counties through public advocacy and networking of CSOs, as well as the increase in the participation of CSOs from these counties in formulating policies and the decision-making process.

The deadline for the submission of projects is 31 March 2014.  
Contact: Civic Initiatives, tel: 011 33 98 637, [www.gradjanske.org](http://www.gradjanske.org)

## EC Public Call for CSO in the Western Balkans

The European Commission published a new call for proposals: "Reconciliation in the Western Balkans through Analysis of the Recent Past, Reporting on Transitional Justice and Promotion of Investigative Journalism in the Western Balkans and Turkey".

The deadline for submission of project proposals: 24 April 2014. The full call for proposals is available at <http://goo.gl/QnVu4N>.

The call for proposals is open to civil society organisations, media associations and academic institutions registered in the countries of the Western Balkans (IPA beneficiaries) and the EU Member States.

## CIVIL SOCIETY FOR THE FUTURE: Successful Fundraising

Within the framework of the programme "Civil Society for the Future", Trag Foundation is implementing the programme "Successful Fundraising". The aim of the programme is to support sustainability of citizens' associations through tapping onto diverse funding sources, research into the new methods of fundraising in local communities and promotion of corporate and individual philanthropy.

In all, 12 organisations were selected and they will get RSD 70,562.00 for technical support. Following completion of fundraising, the most successful organisations will receive a second donation from Trag. The second donation will match the sum of funds raised up to the maximum of USD 5,000.

The Programme implementation began in December 2013 and will last until July 2014.

Contact: Trag Foundation, Phone: 011 78 39 467, [www.tragfondacija.org](http://www.tragfondacija.org)

## EESC: On the Role of CSOs in EU-Serbia Relations

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) presented on 30 January 2014 a report on the role of the civil society in EU – Serbia relations.

The report welcomes the efforts of Serbia related to reform of economy and institutions over the past decade, but recommends inter alia that the authorities organise more public debates and consultations with the civil society organisations in early phases of policy development as well as in implementation phases.

State secretaries of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the members of the EESC delegation met on 31 January to agree on future cooperation and on the model of appointment of Serbian representatives in the Joint Consultative Committee – a body for implementation of the Agreement of Stabilisation which will involve the representatives of NGO sector, trade unions and employers from Serbia.

Source: [www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)

## ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY

### Creating an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society Development

Elaboration of the first National Strategy for the Enabling Environment for the Development of Civil Society started at a conference entitled "Get Involved – Define the Civil Society You Want" held in Belgrade in February 2014.

The aim of the conference was to involve the civil society organisations directly into the development of this strategy by applying the Open Space Method. The proposals of more than 300 participants will be included into the framework of the future strategy that should be adopted by end this year.

The conference was organised in cooperation with EU IPA 2011–2013 Project "EU Support to the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society" and TACSO office in Serbia – EU Programme "People 2 People".

### Findings of the New Annual Summary Report on CSO Financing from the Republican Budget

The Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society presented, on 18 February, the key findings of the "Annual Summary Report on Budget Expenditures Provided to the Associations and Other Civil Society Organisations in 2012".

The Report represents an analysis of data received from the bodies at republic, provincial and local level and is the first of its kind that includes information on funding of CSOs at all the levels of the government. According to the document, RSD 9.24 billion were approved for funding civil society organisations in 2012.

Most of the projects supported from the public funds were approved in the areas of sports, arts and culture, support to children and youth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

Download the resume of the Report at <http://goo.gl/UshKty>.

### Annual Calendar of Calls for Proposals from the Budget of the Republic of Serbia

The Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society is publishing its Annual Calendar of Calls for Proposals for funding projects and programmes of associations and other civil society organisations from the budget of the Republic of Serbia in 2014.

The aim of the Calendar of Calls for Proposals is timely and continued informing of the civil society organisations about the public calls of line ministries and other state administration bodies with a view to preparation of quality project proposals for potential budget funding, as well as increasing the number of beneficiaries.

Access the Calendar at <http://goo.gl/U2FWVY>.

### Europe for Citizens

On the basis of information received from the EC General Directorate for Communications, the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society informs the interested public of the expected adoption of the programme "Europe for Citizens" for the 2014–2020 funding cycle.

The civil society organisations and local governments will be able to apply for funds within the framework of this programme even before the official signing of the MOU between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission.

The Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society – being a national focal point for this EU programme – will inform the public of all the details of the new programming cycle.

### Changes of the Regulation on Financing Associations

At the initiative of the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia that sent the proposed changes to the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the Government of Serbia adopted a Decision on Changes and Amendments of the Regulation on Funds for Promotion of Programmes or Lacking Funds for Funding Programmes in Public Interest implemented by associations.

The adopted changes refer to reducing the number of documents that associations and other civil society organisations need to submit in response to the calls for proposals.

Contact: Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society  
Phone: 011 311 3859, [www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs](http://www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs)

## CONFERENCE

### New Technologies in Education

The conference "New Technologies in Education" was held in Belgrade in February 2014.

The conference aimed to improve the quality of education in the Republic of Serbia by raising awareness about the relevance of ICT in education, opening opportunities for professional advancement of teaching and other school staff, decision makers and other participants in the education system.

The teaching staff presented best practices, and the lecturers were decision makers, education professionals, representatives of companies and publishers.

The conference was organized by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, British Council, Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Foreign and National Trade and Telecommunications, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

### Support to Education of Children from Disadvantaged Families

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and UNICEF supported elaboration of a "Policy Impact Analysis – Providing Additional Support to Students from Vulnerable Groups in Pre-University Education."

Based on the situation analysis, the recommendations were proposed for improvement of measures of support to education of children from socially and economically vulnerable families i.e. families in the lowest quintile as per socio-economic position (20% of the poorest families).

The analysis of adequacy of interventions provided for by the law in the areas of education and social protection was also conducted, as was the

research into possible scenarios and gaps on the expected educational path of children, and the financial implications of the proposed measures.

The analysis showed that investments into education of vulnerable children have the highest return rate for a society and the one that may break the vicious cycle of poverty.

Investments into education of children born in deprived communities is not only a moral obligation – it is an economically viable investment for the society and the state.

The financial analysis shows that a measurable social benefit would be seven times that of the initial investment.

### Local Governments in Education of Disadvantaged Children

A three-day conference "Sharing of Experiences of Local Governments in Implementation of Policies/Measures Supporting Education of Disadvantaged Children" was held on Mt. Vrdnik in late January 2014.

The representatives of local governments (Bečej, Loznica, Ljubovija, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Velika Plana, Vranje, Vrbas and Žagubica) presented the situation in their communities at this meeting that aimed

to share experiences, programmes and initiatives for inclusion of disadvantaged children in education.

The findings of the study "Providing Additional Support to Students from Vulnerable Groups in Pre-University Education" initiated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and UNICEF were also presented.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Phone: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

### Online Week – Digital Literacy Week

Online Week – the week of spreading digital literacy - is being organized across Europe between 24 and 30 March 2014. Serbia will once again participate in the European Online Week 2014 campaign, with the IAN Telecenter, as the national partner of the campaign in Serbia, working on promoting and bringing information technology closer to the citizens, along with working on their digital literacy and empowerment. Digital literacy represents a set of knowledge and skills related to information-communication technologies.

Online Week 2013 supports the European Commission campaign Skills for Jobs, aimed at raising the awareness of the population regarding the need to improve ICT skills and represents a response to an increasing demand for ICT professionals – Europe is expected to have around half a million vacancies in the field of ICT by 2015.

Nearly half of the population of Serbia is still digitally illiterate, never having used the internet or computers.

During their campaign, IAN Telecenter will provide for free-of-charge examinations to obtain European Computer Driving Licences, and in cooperation with Microsoft will also provide examinations for obtaining the MTA and MOS certificates, internationally recognized. More information is available at: <http://onlajnmedelja.ian.org.rs/>.

Contact: IAN Telecenter, tel: 011 3229 732 [www.onlajnmedelja.ian.org.rs](http://www.onlajnmedelja.ian.org.rs)

### Framework for Monitoring the Development of Inclusive Education

"The Framework for Monitoring the Development of Inclusive Education in Serbia" is a document initiated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit in cooperation with UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Fund for Open Society. The goal of the document is to define a methodological framework for monitoring the quality of inclusive education, to provide insight into the current status and to identify mechanisms for its advancement. The development of the Framework is based on the analyses of resources and undertaken activities, an overview of research in the field of inclusive education in Serbia and a comparative analysis of foreign systems.

The draft document will be finalized in line with the comments and suggestions obtained in consultations with representatives of institutions and civil society organizations, conducted in February 2014.

Contact: Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit tel: 011 311 46 05, [www.inkluzija.gov.rs](http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs)

### MICROSOFT DEVELOPMENT CENTER Educational Portal for Students and Teachers

The development centre of Microsoft launched an web portal [bee.bubblecup.org](http://bee.bubblecup.org) – a website dedicated to popularization of programming and online education. The website should function in cooperation with teachers who encourage their students to open the accounts and learn online. The Development Centre invited the IT teachers and their pupils to write or propose themes or courses they would like to see on the website.

Contact: Microsoft Development Centre  
Phone: 011 33 99 889, [www.bee.bubblecup.org](http://www.bee.bubblecup.org)

### Evaluation of Professional Advancement Programmes

At the initiative of the Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the National Education Council, initiated development of a methodological framework for evaluation of impact of professional advancement of teachers and professional associates in Serbia at national, local and educational institution level.

The initiative aims to improve the quality of education through ensuring quality of professional advancement programmes.

The initiative will develop a methodological framework for evaluation of impact of professional advancement programmes.

Contact: Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation, Phone: 011 2067 000 [www.ceo.edu.rs](http://www.ceo.edu.rs)

### CALENDAR of Important Dates

#### MARCH

- 01-08 Combating Cancer Week
- 08 International Womens' Day
- 21 World TB Day

#### APRIL

- 02 International Day of Children's Literature
- 04 Safety at Work Day
- 07 World Health Day
- 08 International Roma Day
- 22 Earth Day

### Assistive Equipment for Schools for Education of Pupils with Developmental Problems and Disabilities

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development began forming the Network of Centres for Assistive Technologies in the Republic of Serbia. In late 2013, the equipment for assistive technologies was donated to the first group of six schools for education of pupils with developmental problems and disabilities.

The schools that received this equipment are primary schools "Dušan Dugalić" in Belgrade and "11. oktobar" in Leskovac, schools for primary and secondary education "Milan Petrović" from Novi Sad and "Vidovdan" from Bor, the boarding school for pupils with hearing and speech impairments "11. maj" from Jagodina and the Primary school for children with hearing impairments Miodrag Matić" from Užice. The equipment will be rented to other schools in line with the needs of children Serbia wide.

Contact: Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Phone: 011 3615 085, [www.mpn.gov.rs](http://www.mpn.gov.rs)

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