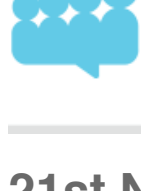


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SMANJENJE SIROMAŠTVA  
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT



## 21st NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

### INTRODUCTION

#### KORI UDOVIČKI: Structural Reforms for Greater Growth, Employment and Social Justice

*From the introduction to the Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia:*

(...) Regrettably, following a short period of economic recovery and an improvement in social parameters, the global economic and financial crisis revealed the vulnerability of our economy and society. According to the findings of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) in the Republic of Serbia, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the total population totalled 24.6% in 2012. In addition, the income distribution inequalities in 2012 exceeded the average values in the 28 EU Member States. These data send a clear signal to the Government that it must pay equal attention to economic reforms, industrial growth and increasing the rate of employment on the one side, and social justice on the other, in line with the same strategic aims of the European Union.

As noted in the Keynote Address of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia, the objective of structural reforms in our country is clear – to provide better and higher-quality public sector services and to promote the economic growth of our country. That is why the Government is investing decided efforts to ensure the preconditions for strengthening the role of the social protection system and enable citizens to take more responsibility for their social security and the security of their families.

The envisaged pace of the reforms and the speed of our country's accession to the European Union will largely depend on numerous factors, and primarily on our readiness to monitor and advance the social dimension of the European integration of the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, it is worth stressing that the Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction serves as a quality basis for fulfilling one of the obligations of the Republic of Serbia in the EU accession process: to develop and adopt the *Programme of Employment and Social Policy Reforms*, whose implementation will be supervised by the European Commission in its annual progress reports. This programme will also be used for the comprehensive implementation of reforms in the social development sector so as to ensure coordinated implementation of employment, education and social protection policies in the future.

The Government will pursue its efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of the public administration in order to increase confidence in institutions as well as reduce inequalities and enhance social justice. This endeavour requires pooling of all our available forces and resources. Therefore, we invite all segments of our society to help in delivering this vision of development that will lead to a joint and better future for all citizens.

**Kori Udovički, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government**

The Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction can be downloaded [here](#).

### NEWS

#### Economic Development and Employment

- ▶ World Bank: Serbia's Business Environment Deteriorates
- ▶ Monthly available proceeds per household RSD 55,280
- ▶ Small enterprises in Serbia export less than those in Europe
- ▶ Progress Microfinance loans worth €182 million given to over 20,000 entrepreneurs for start-ups and expansion

#### Social Welfare and Healthcare

- ▶ Serbia only 78th in the world as per quality of life of the elderly
- ▶ Over 18,000 Homeless in Serbia
- ▶ Fifth meeting of the UN Open Working Group on Ageing held
- ▶ Results of survey "Happiness and Families with Children in Serbia" presented

#### Education

- ▶ Public call for selection of expert teams to support participation of Serbia in EU OMC theme groups in the area of education and training completed
- ▶ OECD Report "Education at a Glance 2014"
- ▶ Project "Kindergartens without Borders 2 – Quality Inclusive Preschool Education in Serbia" presented
- ▶ Public call for establishment of Peer Network of Support to Inclusive Education ends

#### Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

- ▶ Coordination Body for Gender Equality Established
- ▶ Serbia Records a Decline in the Area of Gender Equality
- ▶ Serbia shows that it observes human rights by holding "Pride Parade"
- ▶ Conference on LGBT rights held
- ▶ Findings of the latest survey on ICT use in the Republic of Serbia

#### EU Integration

- ▶ Commission proposes EUR 60,2 million from the EU Solidarity Fund in support of recovery from floods in Serbia
- ▶ Coming Soon: an Official Website on Accession Negotiations
- ▶ More Information on the EU through an Android App
- ▶ Proposal to introduce EU affairs staff in local governments

#### EU News

- ▶ New composition of European Commission presented
- ▶ European PROGRES Call for Proposals for Partnership Projects of Municipalities and Civil Society Organisations completed
- ▶ Pride Parade a milestone in the modern history of democratic Serbia
- ▶ More, but still insufficient women in managements of companies

### ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

#### Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia 2011-2014 Adopted

It is our pleasure to inform you that the Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia 2011-2014 was adopted on October 30, 2014 at the Government session.

Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia 2011-2014 covers: an overview of the legal, strategic and institutional frameworks relevant to social inclusion and poverty reduction, an analysis of the current status in relevant fields, an overview of realized measures, conclusions and challenges, as well as lines of action in the forthcoming period.

[Click here to download the Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia 2011-2014.](#)

#### Public Consultations on the Draft Measures – Second Part of the Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP) Concluded

At the invitation of the European Commission, the Government of Serbia launched the development of the Employment and Social Reform Program – ESRP. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society invited the interested organisations to submit their comments on the draft measures – the second part of the Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP) by 3 November 2014.

The draft measures represent stage two of this process. In the preceding stage one, the key policy challenges, which constitute the first component of the ESRP, were defined. Institutional capacities and financing challenges for the implementation of the measures will constitute the third component of the document. The process is fully transparent and partners will repeatedly be consulted and invited to take an active part in the development of this document through different consultation mechanisms.

#### Download "Monitoring Framework for Inclusive Education in Serbia"

We present "Monitoring Framework for Inclusive Education in Serbia" developed so as to support the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Institute for Evaluation of Quality in Education in objective monitoring of progress in the area of inclusive education with a view to continued implementation and improvement of inclusive education in Serbia based on the data collected.

The document includes the Monitoring Framework for Inclusive Education in Serbia, broken down to three levels (national, municipal and school level), the defined indicators and, wherever possible, the present and/or expected values of indicators. It also includes guidelines for development of instruments with examples of several developed instruments for registration of a series of indicators.

The Monitoring Framework for Inclusive Education in Serbia is a result of the joint initiative of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Open Society Foundation and the Institute for Psychology.

[Click here to download the document "Framework for Monitoring Inclusive Education in Serbia".](#)

#### Workshop on Roma Inclusion Policies Held

The issue of Roma integration is a key social issue, in which Serbia has taken determined steps, although there is still room for improvement, in particular in the fields of health care, housing solutions and school completion, it was concluded at the meeting on Roma inclusion policies held on 27 October.

The Workshop on Roma Inclusion Policies was organised by the Office for Human and Minority Rights and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

[For more information on the Workshop, click here.](#)

#### Promoting Gender Equality through Evidence-based Policy Making in Serbia" meeting held

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure, Zorana Mihajlović, speaking at the meeting "Promoting Gender Equality through Evidence-based Policy Making in Serbia", stated that our country will dedicate itself in the coming period to creating an environment where all citizens will have equal employment conditions.

Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport stated that the EU supported the introduction of the gender equality index in Serbia; this was a key instrument in policy development from the gender equality perspective in the process of European integration. Gender equality is one of the key EU principles, as well as the imperative for economic growth and social cohesion in any modern society, explained Davenport.

[Click here for more information on the meeting "Promoting Gender Equality through Evidence-based Policy Making in Serbia".](#)

#### 29th Belgrade Ignite Held, Focusing on Social Inclusion

Once more, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the association "Serbia on the Move", marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by successfully organising a Belgrade Ignite event focused on social inclusion issues. Thus, the 29th Belgrade Ignite, titled "Uključiti se 2" ("Get Involved 2") – held at the Ministry's Mixer House on 21 October 2014 – provided an opportunity for eight great presenters who face various inclusion challenges on a daily basis to give five-minute performances, thus inspiring many audience members to fight prejudice.

With sign language interpretation, the audience was able to learn more about elderly care, single parenthood, social entrepreneurship, social inclusion after addiction rehabilitation, inclusion of youth with behavioural problems, inclusive education, life of persons with disabilities, activism and solidarity.

[Click here for more information on the 29th Belgrade Ignite event.](#)

### READ MORE...

- ▶ [Public call for participation in the public discussion on the draft National Youth Strategy 2015-2025](#)

- ▶ [Action plan for implementation of the Strategy of Prevention and Protection against Discrimination 2014-2018](#)

- ▶ [Consultations on the Strategy for an Enabling Environment for the Development of Civil Society](#)

- ▶ [Debate "Measurement of Public Sector Performance in Serbia – Why – How – for Whom?" held](#)

- ▶ [Study "CSR in Serbia – situation analysis and best practices" presented](#)

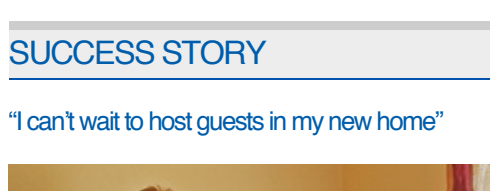
- ▶ [Launch of the Regional Housing Programme in Serbia](#)

You may follow the news on social inclusion and poverty reduction regularly at:

<http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/>

### SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

#### Nadežda Satarić: Two Serbias – Active ageing, access to rights and poverty of the elderly in rural and urban areas



Over the past two months, I had a chance to visit the elderly in villages in 10 odd municipalities in southern and western Serbia. I talked to more than 200 elderly villagers and visited some of them in their homes. I did it thanks to the International Women Club which distributed, through Amity, packages of food, hygiene and items most needed.

The things I've seen, heard and lived are difficult to retell. Even for me who was born in a village and often visit it, who believes herself to know all the specificities of life in rural areas, these experiences were drastically different and distressing. I saw a different picture of Serbia, from the one we see in Belgrade and other big cities every day.

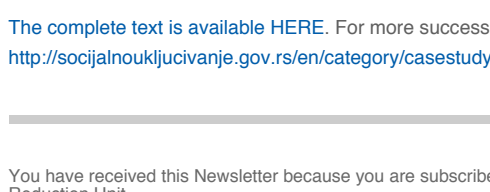
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Today, the elderly who remain in the villages live in poverty for the most part. The sole income for many of them is their agricultural pensions amounting to some RSD 10,000. Those who receive family pensions, have even less. Rare are the cases of persons who receive employee pensions, and some of them receive no pensions at all. Many inhabitants live in fear of being a burden to their children and offspring who live elsewhere, they are lonely and suffer from many chronic diseases often untreated because the doctors do not visit the villages.

The complete text is available [HERE](#). Other blog posts by our authors are available at: [www.socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/blog](http://www.socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/blog)

### SUCCESS STORY

#### "I can't wait to host guests in my new home"



Desanka Kazić met us smiling at the gate of the courtyard of her new home. "Come in, come in, welcome, I'll make a coffee ... do sit there, beneath the grape vine", she points to the tidy porch in front of the house. "I got up early this morning and went to the market. I knew you were coming so I wanted to do the shopping before it gets hot".

When she could no longer afford the rent, she found herself in Belvil, in Belgrade. Thanks to the project "Let's Build a Home Together" funded by the EU with EUR 3.6 million, Desanka got a two-room house. The project ensured funds for housing solutions 170 Roma families who used to live in unhygienic settlements in Belgrade: social housing, village house or completing construction of houses they started building by themselves.

Desanka lives in Bačko Petrovo Selo since late April 2014. She comes from Suva Reka, and spent a couple of years following 1999 in Vranje.

Desanka got construction material to reconstruct the house and the basic household appliances: washing machine, a stove and a fridge. "The washing machine does a good job – perfect! And in winter, I will stack my stove ... it will provide great heating!"

"It's nice here. Linden tree is fragrant. And I have a house. I can't wait to have guests" says Desanka, all in smiles, and says that it will be much more beautiful the next time we visit her.

The complete text is available [HERE](#). For more success stories please visit: <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/category/casestudy/>

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