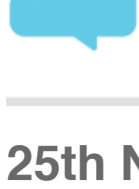


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TIM
ZA SOCIJALNO UKLJUČIVANJE I
SMANJENJE SIROMAŠTVA
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT



25th NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Social Development Index of Towns and Municipalities

The Social Development Index of Towns and Municipalities is a composite index enabling the comparison of the achieved degree of social development among towns and municipalities in the Republic of Serbia. The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit initiated the drafting of the methodology and development of the application aiming to present this tool to all interested users, from decision makers and policy creators, to independent researchers and analysts.

The Social Development Index provides the option of comparing quality of life by towns and municipalities, sortable, depending on individual priorities, according to nine areas: demography, economic activity, education, social protection, healthcare, housing, safety, social participation and vulnerable groups and human rights.

The Social Development Index of Towns and Municipalities shows values from 1 to 100, with higher index values indicating better living conditions in a given local self-government unit. The index was created by aggregating 41 indicators in 9 areas, adapting the direction of certain indicators. In other words, if a given phenomenon negatively impacts the quality of life, its inverse value was taken. The application provides the option of selecting data shown on a graph. Depending on the needs of the user, the normalized, or original values of data items can be presented.

The index will be updated with new data once per year, with the option of improving and adding new indicators, as they are developed and made accessible at the municipal level. It covers all towns and municipalities in the Republic of Serbia (including all city municipalities separately). The application of the Social Development Index is optimized for use on all modern browsers, as well as mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) independent of their operating system.

In addition to the regular updating and analysis of the results given, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit aims to continuously improve and adjust the methodology, as the availability and quality of indicators change. We hereby invite you to explore the Social Development Index at www.socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/indeks and share your comments and suggestions for improvement by e-mail to lidija.kuzmanov@gov.rs.

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

NEWS

Economic Development and Employment

- Strategy for Supporting the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises Adopted
- Second Social Innovation Forum Held
- "Time for Successful Women" – How to Obtain Grants for Starting Women's Business
- EU Council of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Adopts Joint Employment Report

Social Welfare and Healthcare

- Law on Movement Using Guide-Dogs Adopted
- "Education in the Field of Social Work and Social Policies for the XXI Century" Publication Published
- Minister of Health on Improved Relationship towards Pregnant Women
- Over 200 Children Adopted Last Year

Education

- "Career Guidance and Counselling in Secondary Schools" – Cycle of Seminars for Secondary School Teachers
- Competition for Awarding Prizes to the Best Roma Nationality Students During 2014/2015 School Year Completed
- Latest Generation Robot-Scanner Arrives to Belgrade

Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

- Councilwomen Sign Women's Platform for the Development of Serbia by 2020
- Annual Report of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality for 2014
- Council for Monitoring the Impl. of the Recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanism Constituted
- Marking International Roma Day in the National Assembly
- Working Group for Drafting the Special Action Plan for National Minorities

EU Integration

- Screening Complete in Serbia-EU Negotiations
- Serbia Completing Third Draft of the Action Plan for Chapter 24
- EU Delegation Call for Contributions to Writing the Progress Report for 2015
- Serbia to Receive 189 Million Euros from EU Funds for 2014
- Increased EU Support to Serbian Agriculture from 2016

EU News

- Report on Equality between Women and Men for 2014 Adopted
- Safe House for Homosexual Victims of Violence
- A Third of Women Employed in EU Work Part-Time
- Europe Abolishing Law on Enforced Sterilization of Trans Persons

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

Social Development Index of Towns and Municipalities

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[Click here to access the Social Development Index of Towns and Municipalities.](#)

"Financial Inclusion in Serbia – Analysis of the Status, Obstacles, Benefits and Opportunities" Published

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia published the "Financial Inclusion in Serbia – Analysis of the Status, Obstacles, Benefits and Opportunities" publication, by authors Aleksa Nenadović and Pavle Golubin.

The analysis was aimed at determining the state of financial inclusion in Serbia by reviewing and comparing existing surveys and research, checking the data available by way of a focus group, and more deeply examine individual attitudes regarding financial inclusion, and then, based on the findings and a review of international literature and practice, proposing measures to increase financial inclusion in Serbia. Thus the analysis sets the foundation and introduction for further research and policy application aiming to increase financial inclusion in Serbia.

Research worldwide has shown multiple benefits for the economy from increasing financial inclusion. For Serbia, it is necessary to increase the education level required for new workplaces if it wants to increase the living standard of its citizens and reduce inequalities. If vulnerable citizens do not have savings in banks and do not take out credits for education, investments in education are also reduced, thereby additionally increasing inequality and reducing economic growth. Individuals having know-how and business ideas, but without bank accounts, cannot apply for business credits, therefore financial exclusion prevents the appearance of new small enterprises on the market.

[Click here to download the publication "Financial Inclusion in Serbia – Analysis of the Status, Obstacles, Benefits and Opportunities".](#)

Call for Drafting Secondary Analyses of Data Obtained through the SILC Survey (Deadline: 20/4/2015)

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations Development Programme are issuing a call entitled "Programme of Support to Developing Research Staff in Social Sciences – Secondary Analyses of Data Obtained through the Survey on Income and Living Conditions – SILC".

The overall goal of the programme is a deeper understanding of factors impacting poverty, social exclusion, material deprivation, risk of poverty, inequality, access to the labor market and other aspects important for the quality of life of individuals and families in the Republic of Serbia by raising the capacities of researchers to implement complementary/secondary research in unexplored areas of great importance for formulating efficient public policies in these segments. The programme should stimulate researchers starting their careers to use various available data sources and existing research materials.

The deadline for submitting project proposals expires on 20 April. More information on the call can be found [here](#).

Support for Women's Platform for the Development of Serbia 2014-2020

The Women's Platform was created as the result of a conference held in Palić in late 2014, gathering a large number of women engaged in public work from various institutions, parliaments, the academic community, civil society, private sector, political parties, unions and media.

Development goals were defined within the Women's Platform in various areas of public life, in order to direct development towards improving the quality of daily life for women and men in Serbia during the 2014-2020 period.

The platform was officially presented at a conference held on 6 March 2015 at the Palace of Serbia in Belgrade, organized by the "Friedrich Ebert" foundation and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The event was attended by a large number of participants from all sectors and levels of authority. The presentation of the platform was aimed at spreading the ideas they stand for, as well as the ceremonial signing by the event participants. The signing of the Women's Platform is an important step in the active commitment to women's rights in Serbia.

[Click here to download the Women's Platform.](#)

Experience of New Zealand in Improving Inclusive Education Presented

Prof. David Mitchell, PhD from the Canterbury University of New Zealand, an expert in the field of inclusive education, visited Belgrade on 23 and 24 March of this year. The visit was organized by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and UNICEF.

During his stay in Serbia, Professor Mitchell met representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, university teachers and students, teachers, expert associates, defectologists, members of the Network of Support to Inclusive Education and representatives of the non-government sector. The visit was an opportunity to exchange experiences in the application of inclusive education, as well as for an introduction to the role of parents and the way to build teacher competences for inclusive education in New Zealand. Professor Mitchell also held a lecture on the teaching/learning strategies that have proven effective in an inclusive environment.

[Click here to download the presentations from Professor Mitchell's lectures in Belgrade.](#)

READ MORE...

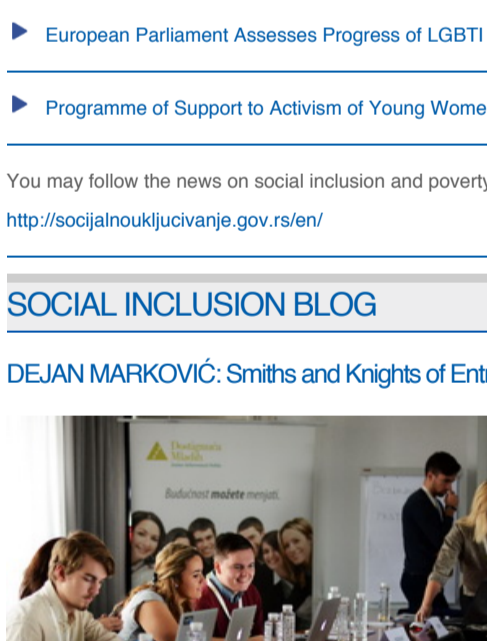
- Statistical Data on Poverty and Personal Expenditure of Households in Serbia in 2014 Published
- Action Plan for Implementing the Public Administration Reform Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for 2015-2017 Adopted
- Second Draft of the National Strategy for a Stimulating Environment for Civil Society Development for 2015-2019 Published
- Online Week 2015 Held
- GSA Report for 2014 Presented in the National Assembly
- VIII Conference of the Standing Conference of Roma Citizen's Associations (SKRUG) Held
- Conference Held as Part of Project "Strengthening Good Governance at the Local Level"
- New Website on the Youth Component of the EU Erasmus+ Programme
- European Parliament Assesses Progress of LGBTI Rights in Western Balkans Countries
- Programme of Support to Activism of Young Women "Ogledalo" (Deadline: 30/4/2015)

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

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

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

DEJAN MARKOVIĆ: Smiths and Knights of Entrepreneurship



The alumni club Youth Achievements in Serbia started its sixth year. New doors are open to the club today, and beyond lies the basic task of stimulating youth to think outside the local framework, to become aware of their potential, and thus contribute to positive social change.

[Alumnize.RS \(Alumni Club Youth Achievements in Serbia\)](#) is directing students on the road to creating a link between the school, student and business life.

When I decided to become part of the entrepreneurial programme Youth Achievements in Serbia, when I started a student company in secondary school and when I was invited with my team to the national finals of the competition for the best student company in Serbia held in Belgrade, I didn't know there was more to it. All of the effort invested from autumn to spring, every minute dedicated to personal development and education, every word said to motivate members of the team of our student enterprise, all the time spent understanding the advice of the teachers who were the mentors of the entrepreneurial programme, was worth the experience gained in a single school year. From our first gathering, through defining the activity, dividing the roles, and the first activity and congratulations by the teacher, the school management and our fellow citizens, we knew we've become part of something special. (...)

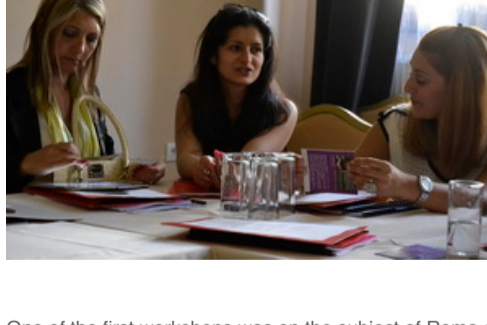
There are young people among us who are getting educated, who feed on knowledge, curious young people wishing and able to positively impact our reality, and this network holds the largest concentration of such people. This is witnessed not only by various European statistics on the business success of former alumni of entrepreneurial programmes, but also individual examples of Serbian members who have started to build careers in large international corporations or conquer markets with companies they founded individually, or with people from the alumni network. Last year, when Serbia was struck by the terrible floods, support came from all over. The call for help to Serbia also found its place in the main publication of the European alumni network, used to communicate with all members. In fact, that's the alumni spirit - community, support, keeping the flame and sharing knowledge, capacities and resources as a sign of the care we give each other. Smiths and knights in one, current and future entrepreneurs.

Young people in Serbia need to understand that the winners are not always those who raise the cup at the end of a match. It's not important how slow you move, how uncertain or unstable your step, the important thing is to always move forward, towards your goal. Whatever you do in life, the entrepreneurial spirit will give you the strength to persevere doing what most people here do not want to do, in order to do tomorrow what most people cannot do.

The text in its entirety can be found [HERE](#). Other texts by our bloggers can be found at: <http://www.socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/blog/>

SUCCESS STORY

Initiative of Roma Women from Ljubovija: We Have Come Together because of a Desire to Change Our Lives Ourselves



Ljubovija is a municipality in the west of Serbia, at the very border with Bosnia, with around fifty Roma families living there. There are no registered Roma associations in the municipality, and the informal gathering of women into the Roma Women's Initiative arose from the desire to change our lives ourselves.

In cooperation with local institutions and organizations, we have implemented several activities in Ljubovija and neighboring municipalities.

One of the first workshops was on the subject of Roma and women's activism, positive examples and ways women can actively participate in problem-solving. Since then, our work has been aimed at motivating and empowering women to be the decision makers in their lives.

An important subject we speak about is education. We particularly address the mothers of girls and encourage them to support their daughters in continuing their education, enroll in secondary schools and faculties. Secondary school and faculty students best show the importance of education through their life stories.

We have also organized workshops on political participation and the importance of participating in the election processes. We introduced women to the procedure of being entered into the Special Electoral List, with the history and competences of the National Council. We have given them information on the options to achieve individual and collective rights through this representative body.

Our initiative is a member of the Roma Women's Network.

(...)

Taken from: mrza.info

The rest of the text can be found [HERE](#). More success stories can be found at: www.socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs

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