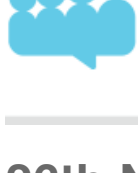


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SMANJENJE SIROMAŠTVA
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT



26th NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Competition “Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Reducing Poverty”

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit announced the competition “Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Reducing Poverty”, aimed to support projects providing “local” responses to the conclusions and courses of action defined by the Second National Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Report for the Republic of Serbia.

The goal of the Programme is to intensify communication among institutions and other stakeholders at the national and local level, in charge of the creation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategic and legislative framework in areas relevant for social inclusion and poverty reduction. The thematic areas of the Programme are: employment, rural development, education, social protection, healthcare, social housing, gender equality and gender-based violence.

The Programme will support initiatives with the potential to improve: communication mechanisms between representatives of the public, private and civil society at the local self-government level; local legal frameworks important for the more effective use of local budgets; the process for planning the more rational prioritization of measures, programmes and activities in the Programme thematic areas; the capacities of local stakeholders aimed at facilitating the absorption of EU funds, particularly the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Social Fund.

Please read more information about the Programme at socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs. Project proposals may be submitted by 17 May 2015.

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

NEWS

Economic Development and Employment

► **Roundtable Held on the Work Engagement and Employment of Persons with Intellectual and Mental Disabilities**

► **Citizens of the Region Unsatisfied with Economic Situation**

► **AgroInvest – Finalist for “European Good Practice Examples in Microfinance 2014-2015” Award**

► **Competition for the Best Idea in the Field of Promoting Entrepreneurship – EEPA (Deadline: 12/06/2015)**

Social Welfare and Healthcare

► **Law on the Use of Sign Language Adopted**

► **Discussion on Single Parenting**

► **Second Forum of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities**

► **First Guide Dog for the Blind in Serbia Presented**

► **Adoption of Law on Gender Equality by End of Year**

Education

► **Open Method of Coordination in Education: National Working Groups Formed and First Joint Meeting Held**

► **Closing Conference of EQUIED TEMPUS Project Held**

► **Department for Roma Language at Faculty of Philology of University of Belgrade Established**

► **Stara Pazova Financing Kindergarten and School Hall By Way of Bonds**

Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

► **Second Report on the Implementation of Operative Conclusions from Seminar on Social Inclusion of Roma**

► **Constitutive Session of the National Minority Council Held**

► **Working Meeting on Preparations for Drafting New Strategy for Improving the Status of Roma**

► **Call for Submission of Comments to Draft Law on Amendments to Criminal Code**

EU Integration

► **New Call for Cross-Border Projects Serbia – Bosnia and Herzegovina**

► **Competition within EIDHR Programme Announced**

EU News

► **European Young Cooperators Network launched in Paris**

► **EU Initiating Operation against People Smugglers in Mediterranean**

► **Poor Results of Guarantees for Youth Initiative**

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

Website “Pristupedija – Internet for All”

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, in cooperation with the students of the Faculty of Organizational Sciences, supported the website “Pristupedija – Internet for All” (www.pristupedija.rs).

The website provides information on problems of persons with disabilities when using the internet and websites. Learn about how persons with disabilities use the internet, what assistive technologies they use, as well as global news in the field of these technologies. You can find examples of good practice in our state and abroad and visit some of the websites meeting web accessibility standards. Web accessibility involves enabling persons with disabilities to use the internet. It involves removing obstacles in access to web content. Developing websites that meet accessibility standards provides equal conditions for all users in access to information.

[Click here to learn more about “Pristupedija”.](#)

“Measuring Poverty – Concepts, Challenges and Recommendations” Workshop

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia organized the one-day workshop “Measuring Poverty – Concepts, Challenges and Recommendations”, in partnership with the World Bank and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. The event took place on April 17, 2015 and gathered experts, representatives of multilateral institutions, government, the academia and the donor community.

The aim of the workshop was to present recent trends and challenges in measuring poverty worldwide, as well as in the Republic of Serbia, and to provide opportunity for a broader discussion about poverty measurement and data collection among practitioners. The goal of the workshop was to evaluate how the existing data from the Household Budget Survey and the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions survey can be used more efficiently from a policy-maker’s point of view for a more accurate assessment of the impact of current policies on poverty and social inclusion, as well as the effective design of future poverty reduction and social inclusion policies.

You can download presentations of experts [here](#).

Conference “Improving Human Rights of Elderly in Republic of Serbia” Held

The Red Cross of Serbia and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in partnership with HelpAge International from the United Kingdom, and as part of the project “Improving Human Rights Access for the Elderly in the Republic of Serbia”, organized the conference “Improving Human Rights of the Elderly in the Republic of Serbia” on 15 April 2015, at the Ceremonial Hall of the Red Cross of Serbia. The conference was organized as part of a project financially supported by the European Union. The goal of the conference is raising awareness among the public, professionals and experts regarding the human rights of elderly persons.

The conference was used to present the publication “Introduction to Aging and Human Rights of the Elderly – Pilot Study on Financial Abuse of the Elderly” consisting of two parts. The first part emphasizes the basic aspects of aging and the need for inclusive policies, while the second part contains research on the financial abuse of the elderly. Some of the results of the research that could indicate potential financial abuse are that 40% of those surveyed gave their family members authorization to dispose with their income, 8% say someone is taking their money without them knowing, while 50% of those surveyed have given up inheritance in favor of their children.

31st Belgrade Ignite “My Society Loves Differences!” Held

The 31st Belgrade Ignite event entitled “My Society Loves Differences!” organized by the CA “Serbia in Motion” was held on 27 April 2015 at Mikser House in Belgrade. The partners of the event were the Network of Friends of Inclusive Education, the Open Society Foundation, the Center for Interactive Pedagogy and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Eleven speakers presented the struggle to include marginalized groups into society, while the audience could hear more about how children with developmental disabilities overcome the expectations of doctors and other specialists; on the victories of a young Roma man, for whom education was forbidden, yet who studies defectology today; on the difficulties faced daily by a student with disabilities; on the endeavor of a music teacher to translate textbooks for her blind students into Braille, etc.

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the “Serbia in Motion” association, already [organized Belgrade Ignite events twice](#) – in 2013 and 2014.

Researchers Selected as Part of Competition “Secondary Analyses of Data Obtained through the Survey on Income and Living Conditions – SILC”

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations Development Program have issued 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 program is a deeper understanding of factors impacting poverty, social exclusion, material deprivation, risk of poverty, inequality, access to labor market and other aspects relevant 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 areas not yet studied, but of great importance for formulating efficient public policies in those segments. The program should stimulate researchers starting their careers to use various available data sources and existing research materials.

According to the decision of the committee for the selection of projects, this cycle of secondary analyses will support a total of ten project proposals meeting the overall goal of the program. Project proposals will be implemented by the end of September 2015.

READ MORE...

► [Public Hearing on the Work of National Councils of National Minorities Held at National Assembly](#)

► [Annual Awards for Combating Discrimination for 2014 Awarded](#)

► [Serbia 35th in the World Regarding Status of Mothers and Children](#)

► [Polemics in EU Regarding Prohibition of Blood Donation of Gay Persons](#)

► [Shutdown of Analog TV Signal Started](#)

► [“Divac Youth Funds” Conference Held](#)

► [Competition for Programs in the Field of Developing Information Society in Serbia in 2015 \(Deadline: 05/06/2015\)](#)

► [New Call for KEP Program Published \(Deadline: 01/06/2015\)](#)

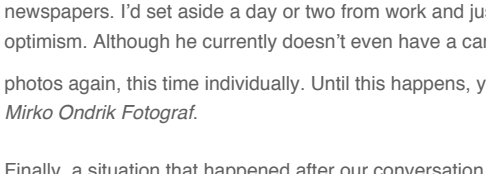
► [Competition for “Lorenzo Natali” Prize for Contributions to Reporting on Eradication of Poverty \(Deadline: 31/08/2015\)](#)

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

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

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

Liceulice: Mirko – Optimism from the Street



I used to buy *Liceulice* from Mirko for years, in front of the Faculty of Philosophy, until one day he just disappeared from the street. (...) Upon his return, it did not take him long to confirm his place among our best vendors. His first day on the job he already sold forty copies, which is, although a lot, just slightly over his daily minimum of thirty copies sold, one he never goes home without. Although he doesn't mention them, I know a few more of his characteristics that contribute to his success. They are his incredible diligence,

conscientiousness and perseverance. They are probably a consequence of the fact that until his twelfth year, Mirko was forced to beg on Kalemegdan, to get schooling he was deaf and dumb. This made it possible for some of his twelve brothers and sisters to go to school, while he was left with six years of primary school. From the street he came to the shelter, where he met friends he is still in contact with and he cares about so much, he keeps their photos in his wallet.

Several of them show a young man with big eyes and an unusual hairdo that makes it impossible to confuse him with anyone. It is Emir, with whom Mirko is now in a tandem selling our magazine every day on the Plateau or Republic Square. (...) The two of them are not only a business tandem, but have also recently started living together. Finding an apartment is never easy, and when you live on the margin this, like many other things, nearly becomes mission impossible. During the rough period Mirko gained two new friends, the brothers Bojan and Goran, who run the “Capital” hostel. They made it possible for him to sleep and eat at the shelter without compensation, while our boys paid this back by helping tidy up the hostel every day after other guests.

However, his greatest passion is photography. Two years ago he successfully attended the “Oko ulice” photo workshop held by Dragan Kujundžić and Željko Šafar. When he started classes he didn't know that, as he says, “he has a talent for taking photos”. The first two days he didn't like anything, and then, suddenly he realized he was looking at the city in an unusual way, “with different eyes, like a real photographer”. He realized he could photograph something beautiful so that it would also be interesting for other people, and that the picture “speaks a thousand words”. Now, his dream is to finish primary school, and then enroll in a school of photography. “My heart would be full if I could take photos for newspapers. I'd set aside a day or two from work and just take photos”, says Mirko, full of innocent optimism. Although he currently doesn't even have a camera, Mirko daydreams about exhibiting his photos again, this time individually. Until this happens, you can find his photos on the Facebook page *Mirko Ondrik Fotograf*.

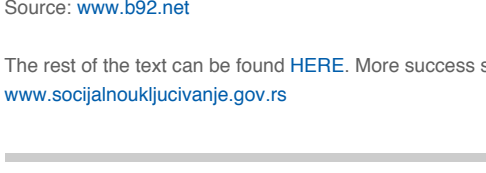
Finally, a situation that happened after our conversation. Returning from work to his new neighborhood, Mirko found an abandoned puppy next to a container, taking it home without thinking and starting to take care of it with Emir. The same evening he called me, angry with the people who abandoned the puppy, but also with a feeling of tenderness. He told me: “Teacher, the tiny dog snores like a man.”

(The author Anja Sinadinović is a practitioner with the editorial staff of LICEULICE magazine.)

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

Teacher from Niš among World's Best



Ana Živković, an English language teacher from the “Čegar” primary school from Niš, was selected by Microsoft as one of the most innovative teachers in the world.

Ana used the popular social network Skype to get her students to love, and to facilitate their learning of languages.

The students of the “Čegar” primary school used Skype to communicate with the captain of the underwater laboratory Fabian Cousteau, grandson of the renowned French explorer Jacques Cousteau. Their English teacher Ana Živković showed them that this social network could also be used for learning.

“My idea was to connect my students with peers from across the world, particularly from English speaking countries, so that they could practice what they learn in class”, says Ana Živković.

For recognizing the importance of technology in teaching, Microsoft declared Ana Živković one of the most innovative teachers in the world. At the end of this month in Redmond, she will join a group of 300 colleagues from across the world who won this award.

Two other teachers from Serbia were awarded for their innovative teaching, information science teachers – Katarina Aleksić from Belgrade and Darina Poljak from Kovačica.

Source: www.b92.net

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

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