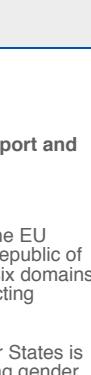


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TIM
ZA SOCIJALNO UKLJUČIVANJE I
SMANJENJE SIROMAŠTVA
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT



33rd NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Gender Equality Index for Serbia Launched

Prof. Zorana Mihajlović PhD, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure

The Republic of Serbia is the first country outside the European Union which has introduced the EU Gender Equality Index. Before you is the First Report on the Index of Gender Equality in the Republic of Serbia 2016. The Gender Equality Index is an instrument which measures gender equality in six domains: knowledge, work, money, health, time, power, and two satellite domains: violence and intersecting inequalities.

The gender equality index in the Republic of Serbia is 40.6%, and the index of the EU Member States is 52.9%. This number shows that Serbia has almost reached the halfway point towards achieving gender equality according to European standards. The greatest success in terms of gender equality has been achieved in the domain of power at the national level, which shows that the introduction of quotas for women's political participation has been successful. On the other hand, the biggest setback in achieving gender equality in relation to the EU was recorded in the domain of work and money. The gender equality index proves that the measurement of gender equality is highly important for developing public policies and measures in this field.

The initiative for calculating the Gender Equality Index in the Republic of Serbia was launched by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, with the great support of the European Institute for Gender Equality in Vilnius, which developed the index in the EU. (...)

In the last two years, Serbia has made gender equality a priority area in terms of structural reforms and public policies. It formed the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality, adopted the new National Strategy for Gender Equality (2016-2020) and the accompanying Activity Plan (2016-2018), drafted a new law on equality between women and men which is to be adopted and introduced gender budgeting in public finance. (...)

Our country's political goal is to join the European Union. This means that all our citizens, both men and women, should be provided with a decent standard of living and working in the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, we should strive to help our country reach gender equality, banish stereotypes about male and female gender roles and eliminate gender-based violence. Gender equality should become a principle by which public policies are formed as well as the lifestyle of every man and woman. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we introduce the Gender Equality Index and I call on all stakeholders in our society to help us realise the vision of development which will enable a better future for us all.

Read the [Introduction to the Report on the Gender Equality Index for the Republic of Serbia](#).

NEWS

Economic Development and Employment

- Record Year for Employment of Persons with Disabilities
- As of this Year, Women Will Retire at 61 Years of Age
- OECD and EC Report: The Missing Entrepreneurs 2015
- Start-up Competition "Ring Serbia": Youth Entrepreneurship Projects are a Priority

Social Welfare and Healthcare

- Increased Number of Beneficiaries of Electricity Subsidies
- Serbian Healthcare System Occupies 30th Place in Europe
- Roma Settlements in Southern Serbia Receiving Firefighting Equipment
- Conference on Effects of Deinstitutionalization Held

Education

- Info-line for Parents – Support for the Inclusive Education
- "Preschool Upbringing and Education Fit for Every Child" Conference Held
- Diplomas for the "Digital Class" Competition Awarded
- Erasmus+ for 2016: New Call for Proposals and Programme Guide
- Zero Project Conference to be Held on the Subject of Inclusive Education Innovative Practices

Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

- The National Strategy for Gender Equality until 2020 Adopted
- Bill on Equality between Women and Men adopted
- Government Will Soon Discuss Roma Inclusion Strategy
- Presentation of the Results of the Annual Survey on the Status and Needs of the Youth
- Survey on Access to Socio-Economic Rights for Roma Women in Serbia

EU Integration

- Chapter 35 Opened
- Serbia Will Receive €187.1 million from the IPA 2014
- Serbia is the Most Successful Balkan Country in the Youth Part of the Erasmus+ Programme for the Year 2015
- Nearly Half of the Population Supports Joining the European Union
- Interreg-IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Hungary-Serbia 2014-2020

EU News

- New Study from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE): Gender Equality in Power and Decision-Making
- European Union Starting New Support Mechanism for Human Rights Activists
- Slovenians Have Rejected the Same-Sex Marriages Legalisation
- Access City Award 2016 for accessible-friendly cities goes to Milan

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

Serbia Adopts Gender Equality Index

Initiated by Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Serbia has become the first country outside the European Union which has introduced the EU Index of Gender Equality. The whole process of index implementation was supported by the European Institute for Gender Equality which developed the index in the EU.

The Gender Equality Index represents the mechanism for measuring the gender equality through six domains: knowledge, work, money, health, time, power, and two satellite domains: violence and intersecting inequalities. According to the First Report on the Index of Gender Equality, the Gender Equality Index in the Republic of Serbia is 40.6%, while the index of the EU Member States is 52.9%.

The Gender Equality Index is a crucial instrument for future public policies in the field of gender equality and also important instrument for measuring the gender sensitivity of general public policies.

[Click here to download the "2016 Gender Equality Index" Report](#)

Grants Awarded for Best Project Proposals within the "Support for Innovative Approaches to Increasing Employment and Employability of Youth" competition

"Support for Innovative Approaches to Increasing Employment and Employability of Youth" competition was completed with the grants being awarded to the ten best project proposals.

Applications for the call were submitted by 122 civil society organizations in cooperation with the private sector, while the Committee for the Evaluation of Project Proposals was composed of representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit.

[Click here to download the final list of applicants and approved projects](#).

Round-Table on the Status of the Roma Community Held in the Context of European Union Accession Process

The Office for Human and Minority Rights, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit and Roma Information Centre held a round-table in order to analyse the accession process from the perspective of Chapter 23, with the emphasis on the protection of the rights of Roma men and women.

In the context of the opening of Chapters 23 and 24, the Roma community's status is of the immediate significance for the realization of human and minority rights, therefore, the Roma community issue is one of the most important ones. On this occasion, Head of the Roma Information Centre from Kragujevac, Rozalija Ilić, presented the results of the survey regarding Chapter 23 – **Protection of Roma Minority Rights**.

"Women and access to economic possibilities in Serbia" Conference Held

The Office for Human and Minority Rights, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the World Bank, on November 16, 2015, the "Women and access to economic possibilities" conference in the Hotel Metropole in Belgrade.

The aim of the conference was to raise the discussion on improving women's access to possibilities on the labour market during the process of adopting the new National Strategy for Gender Equality in Serbia (2016–2020). The programme of the conference was divided into three panel discussions. The first panel was dedicated to the gender equality regulatory framework, the second panel dealt with the results of the gender equality analysis and monitoring the gender gap, the third panel was concentrated on the Labour law and employment possibilities for women. The conference was attended by the representatives of national and international institutions, as well as representatives of civil society organisations.

[Click here to learn more about the conference and to download the presentations used by the speakers](#).

Activities under the programme "Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction"

"Initiative for Social Inclusion" Roundtable Held in Loznica

A roundtable dedicated to the first presentation of the Social Protection Strategy in Loznica 2016–2020 was held on 25 December 2015. The goal was presenting the results of the work of all stakeholders in the process of drafting the Social Protection Strategy of the city of Loznica.

The participants of the event discussed measures and activities for implementing the goals of this strategy, from the plan for the development of social protection services in Loznica for the 2016–2020 period, to securing financial incentives for licensing service providers from the public, civil and private sector, and developing a multisectoral cooperation protocol through the network of all social protection actors. Additionally, discussions were held on establishing a transparent system for ordering social protection services in accordance with the existing legal framework, as well as developing capacities for participation in the public procurement procedure for social protection services.

"Additional Education Support Measures for Children from Socially Vulnerable Groups in the Municipality of Irić" Professional Public Debate

A professional public debate entitled "Additional Educational Support Measures for Children from Socially Vulnerable Groups in the Municipality of Irić" was held on 9 December in Irić. Participants at the debate included professional teams for inclusive education from all educational institutions within the territory of the municipality of Irić and representatives of the Social Work Centre of the municipality of Irić.

The aim of the debate was to develop cooperation and partnership among the professional teams of the institutions at all three levels of education in the field of social inclusion and improvement of educational support to children from socially vulnerable groups, implemented as part of the project "NASA DECA", implemented by the Centre for Working with Children, Youth and the Family "Vrdničak".

Guide to Social Protection Rights and Services in the City of Niš Developed

The Centre for the Development of Civil Society "Protecta" prepared a Guide to Social Protection Rights and Services in the City of Niš, created as part of the project "Quality Social Protection in the Local Community", implemented in partnership with the city municipality of Pančevo.

The main goal of the Guide is to introduce citizens to the rights and measures of material support established by the Law on Social Protection and local decisions, as well as to the social protection services that can be made use of; basic data on institutions and other organizations providing for their implementation; conditions for the use of such rights and services and the required documents, as well as the place and method for acquiring them. [Click here to download the Guide to Social Protection Rights and Services in the City of Niš](#).

OPEN CALLS

- Open Call for Inclusive Academy (Deadline: 16/2/2016)
- "Get Started for Business" Competition Starts (Deadline: 29/2/2016)
- Europe for Citizens: Public Call (Deadline: 1/3/2016)
- First Public Call Issued for Projects under COSME Programme (Deadline: 14/4/2016)
- Social Innovation Tournament (Deadline: 15/5/2016)
- Public Call for Support to Cross-Border Cooperation Projects (Deadline: 31/12/2016)

You may follow the news on open calls regularly at: socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/tenders

READ MORE...

- Development Strategy in the Field of Public Policy and Legislative Process Management Adopted

Online Week 2016

- Promotion of "Indicators for Development" Platform

European Commission Initiative to Increase Use of Secondary Raw Materials in Markets

- "Temporary Housing Model – Concept to Implementation at the Example of a Roma Settlement"

Donacije.rs: Help Social Enterprises Implement their Ideas and Do Good for the Community

- VIRTUS Award Winners for 2015 Announced

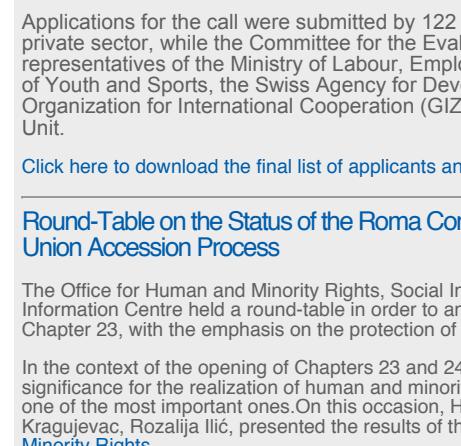
Interactive "Accessibility Map" – Relevant Information on Accessibility of Locations in Serbia

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

socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

SASA MASAL: Becoming a Woman – Transition during Studies



Gender identity is something we are introduced to during the earliest years of our lives. All those inherent properties in us that can be stereotypically categorized as "manly" or "feminine" are further shaped by our immediate environment and the people around us. By the time we reach faculty and complete the process of socialization in the gender received by birth, most of us have already rather comfortably taken residence in our little box marked M or F, not even thinking of questioning it, as we are occupied by lectures, the first exams, and

everything else brought on by student life.

Until, from the sea of lecture notes, a woman's head surfaced, deciding to seek out answers to what has been troubling her, after two decades of silence and dormancy. That girl was me.

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