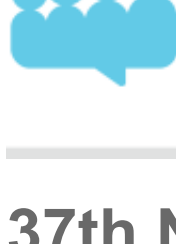


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 SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT

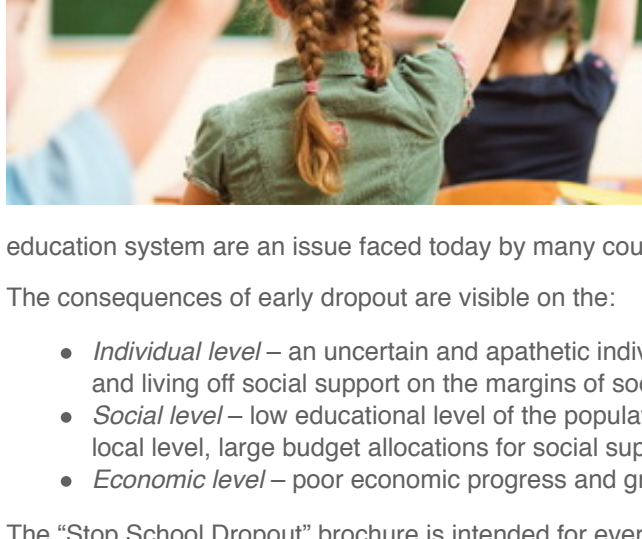


37th NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

"Stop School Dropout" Brochure Published



The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia prepared the "Stop School Dropout" brochure, aiming to underline the problem of early school dropout of students from the education system, the importance of student retention in the education system until the acquisition of qualifications and a formally accepted document, as well as the role of various stakeholders in the process of preventing students from dropping out of the education system.

Early dropout from the education system refer to those students having left school/the education system prior to acquiring a diploma on having completed primary or secondary school, i.e. prior to acquiring a formally accepted document. Student dropout from the

education system are an issue faced today by many countries worldwide, including the Republic of Serbia.

The consequences of early dropout are visible on the:

- *Individual level* – an uncertain and apathetic individual with decreased employment opportunities and living off social support on the margins of society;
- *Social level* – low educational level of the population, high unemployment rate at the national and local level, large budget allocations for social support, increase in delinquent behaviour;
- *Economic level* – poor economic progress and growth of the economy.

The "Stop School Dropout" brochure is intended for everyone working in accordance with the legal framework on the development of children and youth into healthy, educated and competent persons, prepared for the daily challenges of modern society, primarily: local self-governments; institutions at the local level; educational institutions; parents; civil society organizations. [Click here to download the "Stop School Dropout" publication.](#)

Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

NEWS

Economic Development and Employment

► [Global Entrepreneurs – International Volunteer Internship Programme](#)

► ["Healthy Workplaces for All Generations" – Selection Procedure of European Good Practice Awards for the Republic of Serbia](#)

Social Welfare and Healthcare

► [Results of Analysis of Regulations Regarding Child Labour and Recommendations for Harmonization with International Standards Presented](#)

► [World Hepatitis Day – Serbia 2016](#)

Education

► ["School to Work Transition Survey" Report Published](#)

► [Results of the Award Competition for School Programming Teams "Visualization of MESTD Open Data"](#)

► [Obrazlovanje.rs – Database of Educational Possibilities](#)

► [Online Course "Career Guidance and Counselling"](#)

Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

► [Stricter Legal Measures for Domestic and Social Violence](#)

► [Regional Youth Cooperation Office Agreement Signed](#)

► [The "Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty in Serbian Prison System" Report](#)

► [The Government Continues Working on the Improvement of the Status of the Roma](#)

► [More than 10,000 Roma Persons Return to Serbia from the EU every Year](#)

EU Integration

► [Chapters 23 and 24 Opened in the Negotiations between Serbia and the EU](#)

► [Implementation of IPA 2015 Kicks Off](#)

► [Last Collective Centre in Belgrade Closed with EU Assistance](#)

► [Projects Selected under the Intereg-IPA Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Bulgaria-Serbia](#)

EU News

► [Slovakia Takes Over EU Presidency](#)

► [Council Conclusions on 'Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion: an Integrated Approach'](#)

► [New Skills Agenda for Europe needs real investment](#)

► [Semi-finalists of European Social Innovation Competition Announced](#)

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

Preliminary Results of Mapping Social Protection Services under the Competence of Local Self-Governments

The mapping of social protection services under the competence of local self-governments, as an initiative of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic Social Protection Institute, in cooperation with the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, was implemented during the period October 2015 – March 2016. The survey was implemented by the Centre for Social Policy.

We hereby publish the [preliminary survey data – the distribution table of social protection services across the 145 LSUs in 2015](#). The final data and the analysis can be expected in September.

The methodology applied to collecting data on social protection services enables comparisons between municipalities and towns regarding the type of services provided, their distribution, as well as total allocations for services, availability, efficiency, quality and the sector providing the services. The data that will be made available will also provide for comparative analyses with data collected during the previous cycle in 2012, in accordance with a similar methodology.

Results of the "Programme for Creating Evidence-Based and Research-Based Educational Policy" Competition

The competition entitled "Programme for Creating Evidence-Based and Research-Based Educational Policy" was published on 26 May 2016, in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The goal of the programme is increasing the capacities of researchers to implement research of relevance for public policy creators, as well as improving the capacities of public policy creators for using data and research findings with the aim of improving public policy.

A total of 54 project proposals were submitted for the competition, with five supported: Analysis of the impact of available educational profiles and geographic distribution of schools on professional orientation of 8th grade students; Characteristics of teaching staff in the educational system of Serbia: Analysis of salary amounts, gender representation and teacher age by educational level; Analysis of professional qualifications, monthly salary, age and gender representation of teaching staff per workplace in primary and secondary education; Analyses of combined classes and their justification; child dropout from combined classes in 5th grade during transition to their main school; Improvement of the quality of inclusive education based on open data.

Renewed UNICEF Call for Implementation of Review of Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Indicators (Deadline: 07/08/2016)

The UNICEF office for Serbia, as part of the joint process of review of social inclusion and poverty reduction indicators in the Republic of Serbia, implemented in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, renewed the calls for the selection of consultants for the fields of: [Education](#), [Long-term care](#), [Healthcare](#).

These calls are part of the process initiated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the UNICEF Office for Serbia on 29 June 2016.

The deadline for applications expires on 7 August 2016.

"Analysis of the Application of Affirmative Measures in the Field of Roma Education and Recommendations for Improvement of Measures" Study Published

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, prepared the publication "Analysis of the Application of Affirmative Measures in the Field of Roma Education and Recommendations for Improvement of Measures".

The publication "Analysis of the Application of Affirmative Measures in the Field of Roma Education and Recommendations for Improvement of Measures" contains data on the Roma population before and after the introduction of affirmative measures; a general overview of the legal and strategic regulations in the field of Roma education, an analysis of the success of the implementation of affirmative measures in Serbia during the preceding period based on available data, as well as an analysis of the relevant national and international documents.

[Click here to download the publication "Analysis of the Application of Affirmative Action Measures in the Field of Roma Education and Recommendations for Improvement of Measures".](#)

Active Youth and Inclusive Society – Transcripts from the 35th Belgrade Ignite

It is our pleasure to present you with the transcripts from the [35th Belgrade Ignite](#) event where active youth presented their inspirational experiences in fighting for an inclusive society. You are invited to read the texts, comment on them and share them with anyone who might find them useful and interesting.

The high rate of youth unemployment and inactivity in Serbia is cause for concern – as many as 43.4% of young people in Serbia are unemployed. However, youth contributions to an active approach to one's own development and social development are invaluable.

Six young people who actively endeavour every day to create a society with equal possibilities for all have, using dynamic five-minute presentations, with interpretation into sign language and in an accessible space, shared ideas on the role of young people in combating prejudice, developing inclusive education, removing obstacles faced by persons with disabilities, caring for the elderly, social entrepreneurship, the promotion of gender equality, etc.

The event was held in cooperation with Serbia in Motion, on Wednesday, 25 May 2016.

"Music Has No Gender" Panel Discussion Held

The panel discussion "Music Has No Gender" was held as part of Mikser Festival on 11 June, organized by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, with discussion about the experiences of local female musicians on the current music scene. The participants in the discussion were Ana Čurčin, singer and guitar player, Kristina Lalić, DJ, Nataša Tasić Knežević, opera singer and Maja Cvetković, frontwoman of the E-play band. The moderator of the discussion was the blogger Milanka Lana Nikolić, one of the regular authors on the Social Inclusion Blog.

The idea of the event was to connect music and gender equality and providing insight into the experiences of female musicians, as well as discuss the extent to which stereotypes and patriarchal norms dominate the music industry. The goal of the panel was to motivate and inspire those working in gender equality to open the perspective for women's creative work on the one hand, as well as artists on the status of gender equality in creative work on the other hand, but also to stimulate women who need a push to engage in a creative adventure.

During the conclusion all the musicians emphasized the importance of women working in music, as well as those that wish to, but lack the courage to start, to believe in themselves and work on what they love, even if they do not have the support of their environment.

OPEN CALLS

► [UNDP: Development of Municipal Vitality through Overcoming the Migrant Crisis \(Deadline: 01/08/2016\)](#)

► [Call for Cross-Border Cooperation Project Proposals with Hungary \(Deadline: 26/08/2016\)](#)

► [Call for Proposals: Durable Housing Solutions and Physical Infrastructure Improvements in Roma Settlements \(Deadline: 9/9/2016\)](#)

► [Repeat Call for CSOs as Part of Civil Society Facility Tasić Knežević 2015 \(Deadline: 13/09/2016\)](#)

► [Erasmus+: Second Call Deadline for International Credit Mobility Projects 2016 \(Deadline: 15/09/2016\)](#)

► [EaSI: Call for Awarding Grants for CSO Networks in the Field of Social Inclusion/Poverty Reduction/Microfinancing/Social Entrepreneurship](#)

► [Open Call for Research Papers on Cross-Border Cooperation \(Deadline: 23/01/2017\)](#)

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

READ MORE...

► [Public Call for Participation in Public Consultation on the Action Plan of the Open Governance Partnership 2016-2017](#)

► [Provision on Child Safety Online a Turning Point in the Development of Information Society](#)

► [Depopulation Trend Continues in Serbia](#)

► [Miksaliste Wins the "European Citizenship Award 2016"](#)

You may follow the news on social inclusion and poverty reduction regularly at: socijalnouljucivanje.gov.rs/en/

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

ANA STAMENIĆ (JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SERBIA): When You Have a Can, but No Opener



My story with student entrepreneurship started 7 years ago, with my engagement in the Youth Achievements programmes. The student company "Orion" was formed within the Gymnasium in Ivanjica. The product we presented ourselves with during all these years is natural toothpaste. How did it all being?

The idea of producing toothpaste came from our general manager Jovana. As a computer science teacher, I thought the idea might be too

much of a challenge for us. What ingredients to use, at what ratio, how will this affect teeth, will it have adverse effects... lots of questions we had no answer to at the time. Thanks to assistance by professors of chemistry and biology, as well as our dentists, we found a solution.

Finding the best ingredients and combining them properly took time. Before engaging in the toothpaste story I had no idea that the production of edible essential oils in our country is very limited. However, we managed to find adequate mint oil. When we mixed all the ingredients together, a green mass was produced – repulsive to the eye, but once you try it, you feel it really acting on the teeth and gums. (...)

The road to Belgrade – from the birth of the idea to its realization – was filled with ups and downs. Every obstacle we overcame was a great victory and a step forward for the students. Their perseverance and persistence in producing the product, their dedication at key moments, the feeling of community and team spirit are just some of the gains from the adventure of "Green Paste – Bright Smile". Yes, there were moments when doors were closed for us, but we successfully overcame those entrepreneurial lessons, as well.

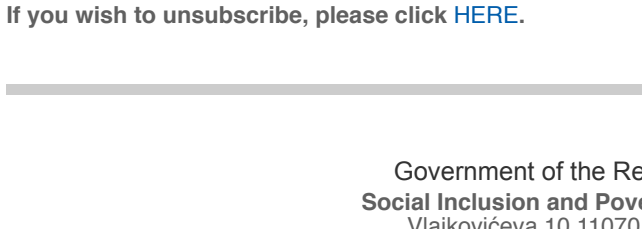
The support we received from our immediate environment, but also from successful businesspeople, represents a strong push forward for the further activities of the "Orion" company. The motivation of the students throughout the first year of joint work grew so much that we already have ideas for the next school year. And we promise to be even better and more successful entrepreneurs then!

The text in its entirety can be found on the [Social Inclusion Blog](#).

Other texts by our bloggers can be found at: www.socijalnouljucivanje.gov.rs/blog/

SUCCESS STORY

SELENA SIMIĆ: Support women and do not let them give up what they want to do



Transcript of the presentation at the 35th Belgrade Ignite "The Ball is in Your Hands" (25 May 2016, Impact Hub, Belgrade)

When I tell you I play the drums, you all think it's ultra-mega-super cool: "Wow, a girl playing the drums!" Yet look at it from my side: most people think drummers are stupid, some people think women are stupid, and to top it off, I'm blonde... other than making my peace with the fact that some people believe these things, I also made my peace with the fact that I will not

have gentle hands, that my arms will look as if I'm a lumberjack, as well as with moving through life burdened with the 15 kg of weight of all those cymbals, snares, pedals and other drum components I have to drag around with me.

All kidding aside (though there is much truth in it), being a female drummer in Serbia is not an easy task. I come from a small community, the town of Smederevo, where until recently I was the only female drummer ever. When people heard what I do, they usually called me names and alluded to me being of the homosexual orientation. This really bothered me, being 14 years old at the time. (...)

This is precisely why I decided, together with the Femix network of women's creative work, to organize drumming workshops for girls aged 10 to 14 years. We believe there will be less discrimination if there are more women playing so-called "male" instruments and that if children, while they are still small, are told that there are no "male" or "female" instruments, that instruments were made by people for other people. And that category, we can agree, includes both men and women. (...)

Unfortunately, we cannot change this world in an instant, with a magic wand. Therefore I believe these small steps are very important for a more creative, equitable, diverse musical scene in Serbia and society in general. (...)

Many girls I know gave up playing because they did not have enough support. Every one of us handles criticism differently, every one of us wishes to give up at some point if they do not have the support of the people around them. Therefore I appeal to all of you: if you have around you sisters, mothers, female friends and girlfriends (...) who want to play an unusual instrument or work on something a bit different – support them in this and do not let them give up! (...)

The complete text can be found [here](#).

More success stories can be found at socijalnouljucivanje.gov.rs

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