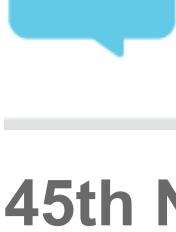


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ZA SOCIJALNO UKLJUČIVANJE I
SMANJENJE SIROMAŠTVA
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT

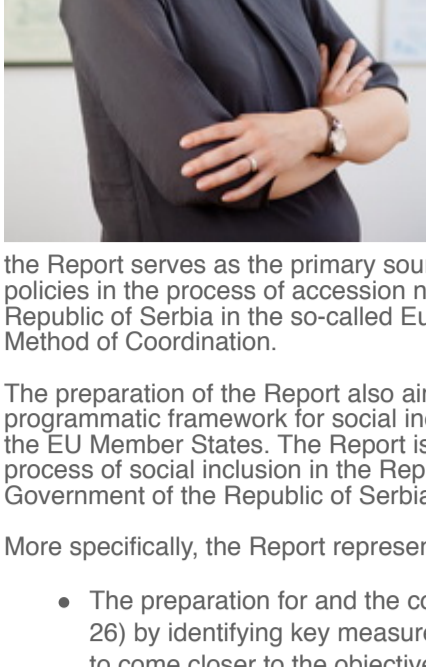


45th NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has Launched the Preparation of the Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction



Written by: Lidija Kuzmanov, Employment and Economic Development Coordinator, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia

In line with the principle of inclusive development, one of the cornerstones of the Programme of the new Government, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure – the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit has launched the preparation of the Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter the Report). The Report will cover the period from 2014 to 2017, and it will provide insight into the trends and current situation, as well as basic guidelines for addressing the issues of social exclusion and poverty in the country. The preparation of the Report is an opportunity to initiate the dialogue on the future course of social reforms, while at the same time defining practical steps for the implementation of these reforms, and achieving objectives.

As one of the important tasks in the process of EU accession, the Republic of Serbia defined active participation in the European process of social inclusion and poverty reduction. In this respect, the Report serves as the primary source of data for the creation of social inclusion and poverty reduction policies in the process of accession negotiations with the European Union and the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the so-called European Semester through Economic Management and Open Method of Coordination.

The preparation of the Report also aims to contribute to the harmonization of the strategic, legislative and programmatic framework for social inclusion and poverty reduction in the Republic of Serbia with those of the EU Member States. The Report is also important from the standpoint of monitoring the progress in the process of social inclusion in the Republic of Serbia and represents the process of regular reporting by the Government of the Republic of Serbia towards the public and the European Commission.

More specifically, the Report represents:

- The preparation for and the contribution to negotiation positions (Chapters: 2, 11, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26) by identifying key measures and policies which the Republic of Serbia will implement in order to come closer to the objectives related to social development at the EU level;
- The preparation for the reporting on the implementation and the audit of the *Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP)*, which was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 31 May 2016. *ESRP* introduces the process of the Open Method of Coordination and at the same time allows the identification of reform priorities; the implementation and regular monitoring of these principles are of great importance for the European integration process.
- The source for reporting on the implementation and further prioritisation of the structural reforms in the *Economic Reform Programme*, which is, upon the invitation of the European Commission, prepared every year by the Government of the Republic of Serbia;
- A unique source and compilation of administrative and statistical data that reflects the achieved level of social development, whose overview contributes to the better formulation, efficiency, and effectiveness of public policies in the domain of social inclusion and poverty reduction.
- An overview of the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and an incentive for the preparation of the laws and strategies necessary in the daily battle against poverty and social exclusion, as the main obstacles to inclusive growth and development.

The preparation of the Report will be open and participatory. The participation of local self-governments, civil society organisations, trade unions and employee associations, international partners, and other actors involved in various aspects of social inclusion and poverty reduction in the Republic of Serbia will be ensured. The citizen perspective, their experiences, and vision of reforms, as well as suggestions they wish to share with the decision makers, represent an important source of information in the process of preparation of the Report. At the end of this process, at the beginning of 2018, the Government of the Republic of Serbia will adopt the Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, and then ensure and monitor further implementation of the Report recommendations.

NEWS

Economic Development and Employment

- Social Development and Social Inclusion among the Priority Areas of the New Government
- The "Employment for 1000 Women in Rural Areas" Initiative Presented
- The Results of the "Economic Empowerment of Roma Women" Project Presented
- COSME: Additional EUR 200 Million in Loans for SMEs in Serbia
- Kragujevac: Subsidies for Persons who are Hard-to-Employ
- Knjaževac: Professional Training for Young People with University Degrees
- A Study on Barriers to Youth Entrepreneurship Conducted

Social Welfare and Healthcare

- Assistance for Safe Houses in the Amount of 10 Million RSD
- Violence against the Elderly Continues to be one of the Biggest Issues of the Society
- Workshop on Participation of Social Protection Institutions in the Migrant Crisis in Serbia
- People with Dystrophy Deserve Greater Attention of the Society
- Sports and Recreational Outdoor Space for Young People with Disabilities Opened in Užice
- National Meeting of Self-advocates Held
- Free Mobile Phone Application as a "Tool" for the Improvement of Mental Health

Education

- The "National Qualification Framework in Serbia – from Development to Implementation; Improved Qualifications through organization" Conference Held
- The "Key Dimensions of the Quality Development in Early Childhood Education – the Preschool Curriculum Framework" Conference Held
- Launching of the Implementation of the "Accessible and Quality Education for Roma Children" Project
- UNICEF: Publications Referring to the Diversification of Programmes for Preschool Education
- The World Bank Loan for Preschool Education and Care
- More than 5000 Students Participated in the IT Caravan 02

Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

- The Government Adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia
- Improving the Position of the Roma Community One of the Top Priorities of the Government
- The Fourth Seminar on Social Inclusion of Roma in Serbia will be Held in October
- Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of EU-supported Roma housing improvement programme signed
- The Budget Fund for National Minorities Reactivated
- Pride Parade 2017 Held in Belgrade
- Regional Project Launched to End Violence against Women in the Western Balkans and Turkey

EU Integration

- Serbia's Steady Approach towards the EU
- Serbia and the EU Agree on the Set of Reforms to Stimulate Growth
- Negotiation Chapters 7 and 29 Opened
- Serbia makes progress in chapter 11
- High Rate of Project Contracting Achieved under National IPA 2013 Programme
- Agreement on first tranche of IPA 2016 package for Serbia signed – EUR95 million in non-refundable aid

EU News

- EU and Member States sign joint strategy to eradicate poverty
- Unemployment and inactivity of young people – do we see progress and the right policy responses?
- Access to Social Protection for People Working on Non-Standard Contracts and as Self-Employed in Europe
- EC is releasing the "EU Skills Profile Tool for Third-Country Nationals"
- 30 Years of Erasmus
- EU to Finance Free Wi-Fi in Towns with No Internet Coverage

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

CHF 4.5 Million Earmarked for Roma Inclusion from 2018 to 2021

On 26 June, Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Zorana Mihajlović, PhD discussed further cooperation on Roma inclusion issues and gender equality with Ursula Läubli, Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office Serbia. In the first two phases of supporting the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU), between 2009 and 2017, the Swiss partners donated CHF 6.77 million for Roma inclusion efforts. For the period from 2018 until the end of 2021, they set aside CHF 4.5 million, which is half a million more than originally planned.

Ms Mihajlović, who is also the President of the Government's Roma Social Inclusion Coordination Body, told Ms Läubli that she was particularly pleased with the cooperation with SIPRU and that her opinion was that SIPRU should have a more prominent role in the next Government. "Together, we can do even more to help the Roma population in Serbia", said Ms Mihajlović and added that, at the Trieste Summit, Serbia would propose closer cooperation on Roma and gender equality issues among the Western Balkan countries.

Evidence-Based and Research-Based Education Policy Making

A conference on "Evidence-Based and Research-Based Education Policy Making" was held on Tuesday, 13 June at the Hotel Park in Belgrade. The conference was jointly organised by the Development and Higher Education Sector of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, as one of the activities under the Programme for Creating Evidence-Based and Research-Based Educational Policy.

The following research papers in the field of education were presented at the conference: 1) Analysis of the Labour Market Supply and Demand of Youth with Secondary Education Qualifications in the Period 2011–2015; 2) Characteristics of Teaching Staff in the Educational System of Serbia: Analysis of Teachers' Wages, Gender Representation and Age by Educational Levels; 3) Education Workers – Analysis of teaching staff's qualification levels, wages, age and gender representation by positions in primary and secondary education; 4) Analysis of Composite Classes; Challenges of the Transition from Composite Classes in Satellite Schools to 5th Grade Classes in the Central School; 5) Improvement of the Quality of Inclusive Education Based on Open Data.

The conference participants' recommendations for improvement of the Programme can be found [here](#); for the summaries of research papers follow [this link](#).

The First Belgrade Crowdfunding Convention Held

The German-Serbian Initiative for Sustainable Growth and Employment, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU), the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Brodoto Social Impact Agency jointly organised the first Belgrade Crowdfunding Convention on 7 June. The Belgrade Crowdfunding Convention gathered for the first time in one place crowdfunding experts and campaigners who use crowdfunding to kick-start their projects.

A research on crowdfunding in Serbia was conducted, using data from the most popular crowdfunding platforms Indiegogo and Kickstarter. The research showed that, although the use of crowdfunding in Serbia was on the rise, it was still lagging miles behind the developed markets: by mid-2016, crowdfunding in Serbia raised a total of USD 653,134; out of 570 campaigns in total, only 41 were successful (7.2 %); the most common projects were in the field of arts (32 %); only 27 % of campaigns were led by women; campaign success rate was 3 % at Indiegogo and 37 % at Kickstarter; the number of crowdfunding campaigns increased by 400 % from 2012; the number of campaign backers in 2016 was 3,148, which accounted for 0.03 % of the population. [The whole research is available here](#).

Read more at www.crowdfunding.rs

Coming Soon: New Edition of the Review of Potential Domestic and Foreign Funding Opportunities

We have the pleasure to announce the 13th Review of Potential Domestic and Foreign Funding Opportunities, now as an online database you will want to come back to. As of 13 July this year, the REVIEW will be available [here](#).

After twelve printed and one electronic edition of the Review, we are delighted to announce the new, improved edition that gives you new options, including: overview of current calls for applications, with information and practical instructions about the terms for applying; access to the database of international and domestic funding sources with basic information about the types of support they provide, supported areas, potential beneficiaries, geographic coverage and the like; quick and simple search of donors and calls for applications; availability of updated information. The Review is intended for civil society organisations, local governments, institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises, individuals and other stakeholders.

The Review has been developed by: TACSO by Civic Initiatives, the Resource Centre for all civil society organisations in Serbia, the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Serbian Government and the Serbian European Integration Office.

OPEN CALLS

- Call for Volunteers for the "Catch a Film" Festival (Deadline: 15/7/2017)
- Innovation Fund – Public Call for the Mini Grants Programme (Deadline: 1/9/2017)
- Volunteering Challenge: Open Call for Volunteer Activities (Deadline: 15/10/2017)

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

READ MORE...

- EIGE Supports Gender Equality Improvement in Serbia
- Public Call for Accreditation of Natural and Legal Persons for Implementation of the LSG Staff Training Programme

- Switzerland Supports Social Inclusion and Good Governance in South Serbia
- EU support for fight against discrimination in Serbia
- Youth Policy Forum Organised
- Cooperation Contracts Signed on Resocialisation and Reintegration of Former Convicts
- Code of Equality Presented to NIS Employees
- Advisory Meeting of the Union of Blind and Visually Impaired Women of Serbia
- Findings of the Public Opinion Research on the European Migrant and Refugee Crisis Presented
- Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation Celebrates 10th Anniversary
- Event Registration for the European SME Week
- Entrepreneurs Say There's Another Way
- Meet the Finalists of Social Impact Award Serbia 2017!
- Potrčko Pirot Wins the Selfie on the Workplace European Competition

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

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

STEFAN LAZAREVIĆ: I have a Short Fuse



Other people say I have a short fuse. This actually means that I get easily annoyed. I know that there are a lot of people who react the same way. I noticed that other people find it unusual when I react strongly, this is mostly because they don't know the reasons why I got so upset. Also, the problem is that my reactions last long and they are quite strong, so other people do not know how to cope. This is why it is good that I am writing this article, I would love it if it could help them understand me better.

One of the things that upset me a lot is when I send a text message to someone where I ask them to meet or chat a little and they do not reply, or they say that they are not available. This always hurts me badly. I think about it constantly, and I go around telling everyone what had happened, so instead of becoming less angry, I become more nervous and more annoyed. Sometimes it happens that I stay angry about these situations for days, and other people cannot understand why I am shouting about something that happened a week ago. It is particularly hard for me when I call a friend, and they promise we will see each other or talk on a particular day and then that does not happen. My parents try to console me, and they say that maybe something had happened to that person or that they had simply forgotten about our arrangement, but there are people in my life who have done this several times. I often wonder why these people are lying to me, and why wouldn't they openly tell me that they cannot or will not see me, or better said, why they think I would forget about their promise.

Another thing that upsets me is when someone is shouting at me. Sometimes I do not understand why they shouted, and sometimes I just feel insulted. My reactions are then quite strong and I notice that people are taken aback by my reaction, and they ask me why I was acting in such a way. (...)

When my parents or my sister yell at me, I get angry, and I want to complain to people about them. They often say: "We can't say anything to you. You always get mad." Then I usually start stomping my feet, or I yell back at them, sometimes I even start crying while listening to a sad song just so I would feel better. There is a saying "Sometimes tears are medicine for the soul." Since they are not the perfect solution, I will try to find some other way to resolve my issues. (...)

Even though I love playing instruments when I am upset I hit the keyboard so hard that it broke a couple of times. My father tells me not to do this, but to play slowly and gently. Now that I have a new keyboard, I try to play more gently, then, in the end, the music relaxes me, and I feel much better.

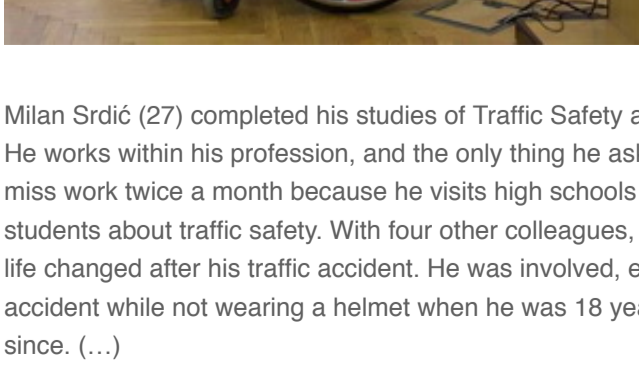
At home, we often talk about my reactions, and about how I could overcome the situations which I just met. I am aware that I should not react so strongly, but when something like this happens, I make cannot help myself. All of this affects me deeply, and no matter how hard I try, I get annoyed quickly, and I find it difficult to calm down. I would love to learn to react differently; sometimes I do breathing exercises, I hope that they will help me and that my behaviour in these situations will be less noticeable.

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

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

SUCCESS STORY

Jovan and Milan – Heroes of their Generation



According to the decision of the jury, the Exit Foundation and NIS "Youth Heroes" award in the social activism category was received by Jovan Milić from Niš, for his selfless support to the poor and Milan Srdić from Novi Sad, who speaks to high school students who are on the verge of adulthood about how not paying attention while driving for only a second can cost them a lot.

Jovan Milić (24) is a student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Niš. So far his name has been spoken more than 30 times during ceremonies announcing winners of various awards, including those which require a long career, such as "Svetosavska" award or "11 April" the award of the City of Niš.

Milan Srdić (27) completed his studies of Traffic Safety at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad. He works within his profession, and the only thing he asked for on his job interview was to be allowed to miss work twice a month because he visits high schools and during "I'm still driving" panels, speaks to students about traffic safety. With four other colleagues, Milan talks about his own experience – how his life changed after his traffic accident. When he was involved, even though it was not his fault, in a motorcycle accident while not wearing a helmet when he was 18 years old, and he has been in a wheelchair ever since. (...)

Jovan, the young man from Niš, started collecting aid for the poor while he was still in primary school. (...)

"When you are riding the bus or walking the streets, you can see the hunger in people's eyes, you can see they don't have anything, and then you are presented with two options. You can be the spectator, or you can roll up your sleeves and do something about it. I chose the second option. I got tired of watching people struggle, so I created a humanitarian portal "Find Raoul" which is dedicated to Raoul Wallenberg, a humanitarian from the Second World War," says Jovan.

So far, aid has been delivered to hundreds of addresses, not only in Serbia but also in other countries in the region. He says that the hardest thing for him is delivering donations:

"There have been some traumatic situations. For example, you come to someone's house and this family has nothing to offer you to eat or drink, so they go to their neighbour's house to borrow some coffee" says Jovan honestly. (...)

For Milan, "Youth Heroes" was the first time he received such an award, although as a former footballer and currently a para-athlete in a throwing discipline he brought home sports medals. The Association of Paraplegics and Quadriplegics of Serbia invited him to be a "speaker" or more precisely to share with high school students his experience on how his life changed in seconds.

"My first panel was at the Technical School in Novi Sad. I did not have any stage fright. I simply approached them as though I was one of them, their slightly older friend. I told them that what had happened to us would not necessarily happen to them. The accident was not my fault, but that moment was enough to stop me from playing football ever again", says Milan. (...)

In order to pull young heroes from anonymity and turn them into inspiration and role models for entire generations, the "Youth Heroes" award was given for the second consecutive year in four categories: education/science, entrepreneurship/creative industries, culture/art, and social activism. This year, 17 winners were selected out of 200 candidates.

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

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