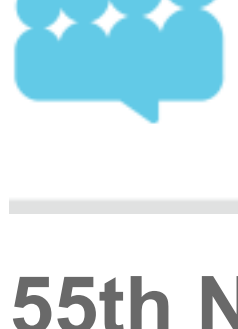


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SMANJENJE SIROMAŠTVA
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION UNIT



55th NEWSLETTER

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Second Phase of the "Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction" Programme



Written by: Ivana Maksić, Coordinator for Social Protection and Local Initiatives, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia has initiated the second phase of the "Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction" programme. The call covers two regions in Serbia: Southern and Eastern Serbia, and Sumadija and Western Serbia, i.e. 53 local self-governments. The goal of this programme is to contribute to the social inclusion of vulnerable social groups through the development of innovative approaches to social inclusion at the local level.

This programme will support partnerships of local self-governments and civil society organizations to formulate and implement innovative approaches to social inclusion across five areas: education, employment, healthcare and protection of health, social welfare and housing.

Local initiatives that will be supported should endeavour to ensure a better quality of life for all citizens in the local community, particularly women, youth, Roma, migrants and persons with disabilities, through improving existing and/or innovative measures, services, and programmes. As part of the "Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction" programme, local self-governments will be provided with support for developing innovative measures, services, and/or programmes, and for testing developed innovative solutions.

The term "social innovation" is defined by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia as new ideas producing results in achieving social goals that may represent practices, processes, services, methodologies or combinations of all of the above, aimed at responding to a recognized unmet need in society, or a social issue in the local community. With this in mind, the proposed ideas should respond to real social issues in the local community and contribute to the development of cooperation and partnerships between various sectors to eliminate inequalities in the local community, inform final beneficiaries on their rights, and empower them for participation in public policy dialogue to improve their living situation.

The first phase of the "Local Initiatives for Increasing Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction" programme was implemented during the 2015-2016 period. The goal of the programme was to provide support for partnerships of civil society organizations and local self-governments with the aim of creating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating strategic and legal frameworks in areas of significance for social inclusion and poverty reduction and establishing cooperation with other relevant stakeholders from the public, private and civil sector, at the local and regional level. The programme supported 11 local initiatives across five thematic areas – education, employment, social welfare, social housing and rural development. More on the supported initiatives, most important activities implemented, and their effects can be found at the [website of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit](#).

The implementation of the second phase of the programme will be coordinated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). More information on the public call, guidelines for project submissions, and other relevant documents can be found at [socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs](#).

NEWS

Economic Development and Employment

► National Employment Action Plan for 2019 Adopted

► Unified Codebook Website Deployed

► Final Conference of "New Decent Job Opportunities for Youth in Serbia" Project Held

► WEB4YES Project: New Opportunities for Youth Employment and Employability

Social Welfare and Healthcare

► SCTM Drafts Model Documents on Establishing Intersectoral Commissions

► Tablets for Field Nurses – Improving Work in Early Childhood Development

► Novi Sad Project for Support to Community Living for Persons with Disabilities among the Best Practice Examples Worldwide

► Training Held on Preventing Violence against Women with Disabilities in Residential Institutions

Education

► Start of Implementation of a Project Aimed at Preparing the Educational System for the New Concept of Final Examinations

► Serbia becomes full-fledged member of Erasmus+

► Training Held for Providers of Public Interest Programmes in the Field of Entrepreneurship

► Guide Published for Establishing Student Cooperatives and Developing Entrepreneurship

► Database of Examples of Successful Extracurricular Activities

Vulnerable Groups and Human Rights

► Preventing Violence against Women a Priority for the Government of Serbia

► National Coalition for Ending Child Marriages Formed

► Another EUR 3 Million for Social Inclusion of Roma

► Presentation of Study "Equality in Practice – Implementing Serbia's Equality Laws"

► Elderly Groups for Self-Help from Serbia – Among 10 Social Innovations Worldwide

EU Integration

► More than Half the Population Support Serbia Joining the EU

► Draft Revised Action Plan for Chapter 23

► EU Support to the Development of Micro and Small Enterprises Pivotal for Economic Growth and Boosting Employment

► Completion of EU-financed Twinning Project for improving the prison system in the Republic of Serbia

EU News

► At least 10 Days of Leave for New Dads in the EU

► Countering illegal hate speech online – EU Code of Conduct ensures swift response

► Greatest European Producers of Waste also the Most Diligent Recyclers

► Website Presented for Facilitating Migrant Integration in Countries of the Danube Region

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT

Presentation of the Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2014–2017

On Tuesday, February 12th 2019, the Government of Serbia called a meeting to present the **Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2014 to 2017**, which was adopted by the Government on 27 December 2018.

The Report includes an overview of the legal, strategic, and institutional framework relevant to social inclusion and poverty reduction processes, analysis of the current situation in the relevant areas, overview of the implemented measures and programmes, conclusions, and main lines of action for the following period.

The process of drafting the Third National Report was coordinated by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) affiliated to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Government of Serbia. The consultation process involved representatives of the Government, the National Assembly and other institutions at the central level, local self-governments, civil society, social partners, independent experts, scientific and international institutions, as well as the general public.

The Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia, as well as the entire social inclusion and poverty reduction process, has been implemented with the support of the Government of Switzerland and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation under the project "Support to Improve Social Inclusion in the Republic of Serbia Project" (Phase 3).

[Click here to download the publication "Third National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction in the Republic of Serbia for the Period 2014–2017" \(.pdf\).](#)

Call for Project Proposals: Advancing the Status of Vulnerable Groups through the Development of Innovative Social Inclusion Models at the Local Level (Deadline: 26/3/2019)

Become a pioneer of social innovations that are people-centred, improve the everyday life of all citizens and transform social relations, by identifying new cooperation modalities and being ready to forge new liaisons conducive to cross-sectoral cooperation, with the aim of addressing the key social needs of vulnerable groups in your local communities.

The Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (SIPRU), with financial support from the Swiss Government through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), hereby launches the Call for Project Proposals (concept notes) within the programme *Local Initiatives to Increase Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction – Support for the Development of Innovative Social Inclusion Models – LIP 2*, with a view to advancing the status of vulnerable groups (women, youth, the Roma, migrant persons with disabilities), especially those living in rural and extremely poor areas, by improving the existing and establishing new/innovative approaches or innovative measures/services/programmes in local communities.

This is an open call for the submission of project concept notes. Only concept notes will be subjected to an initial assessment; the applicants whose concept notes receive the highest scores will be invited to submit full applications.

More information on the requirements of the public call and call documents can be found at [socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs](#)

Call for Towns and Municipalities in Serbia to Apply for the Award for a Contribution to the Development of All Forms of Accessibility in 2018 (Deadline: 20/3/2019)

The Ombudsman, in cooperation with the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities – Association of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia, is presenting an award to towns, municipalities and city municipalities that have contributed the most in 2018 to the development of all forms of accessibility within their territory, and/or in their environment.

Through this award the Ombudsman wishes to promote examples of good practice in the field of accessibility at the local level, and to improve mutual cooperation with towns and municipalities in the Republic of Serbia, with the aim of determining the state of play of accessibility and the conditions why regulations guaranteeing the right to accessibility of public facilities and services to persons with disabilities and impairments of mobility or communication are not being fully applied. Furthermore, this initiative will provide significant information for formulating recommendations and plans for improving accessibility under the competence of towns, municipalities and city municipalities.

The deadline for applications expires on 20 March 2019. More information on the requirements of the public call and call documents can be found at [socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs](#)

Download the brochure "Award for a Contribution to the Development of All Forms of Accessibility 2017/2018" (.pdf) prepared by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with the Ombudsman and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

OPEN CALLS

► Open Call for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for 2019 (Deadline: 29/3/2019)

► Open Call by Telenor Foundation "Imagine Everything" (Deadline: 10/4/2019)

► Europe for Citizens: New Call for Submissions (Deadline: 2/9/2019)

You may follow the news on open calls regularly at: [socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/tenders](#)

READ MORE...

► Information on Key Provisions of the Law on the Planning System

► Calendar of Public Calls for CSOs for 2019

► Best Practice Examples Selected for the Application of the Good Governance Principle at the Local Level for 2018

► VM-Pro: New On-Line Tools in Mentoring For Youth

► Check the Quality of Internships in Your Company using a Simple Online Tool

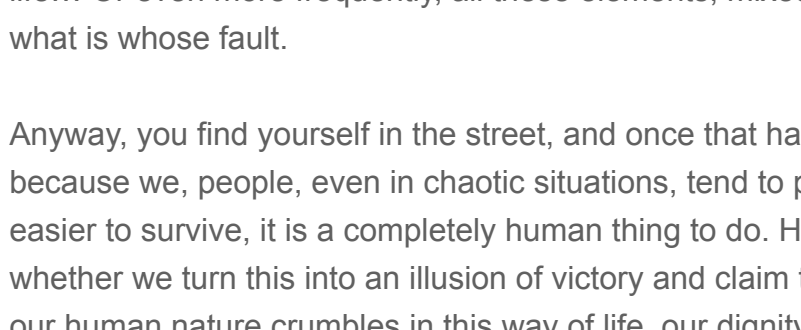
► Serbia Presented on the Effects of Civic Education Classes

► High Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress Publishes its Final Reports

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

SOCIAL INCLUSION BLOG

NEVENA TARLANOVIĆ: Accessibility



"This is a country for all our children," say the lines of a well-known EKV song. Logic suggests that this city should also be a city for all our children. But is it?

My day starts with strategic planning on how to get from point A to point B without injury, without slipping, without falling. All this because I am a person with a physical disability.

Belgrade, the city I love, is often a "mine field" for me.

Accessibility is an elementary need for any living being wishing to be part of the collective that surrounds it, to participate as an equal, and to contribute to it. However, if their basic needs, such as movement, are impaired, we are faced a frequent issue, that of social exclusion that may produce a number of consequences. (...)

Example number one of public transport. In addition to workers of the city transport company with absolutely zero sensitivity towards the needs and issues of persons with disabilities, we are also faced with the problem of a very low number of low-floor buses.

Now imagine yourself using a wheelchair and trying to get to an important place in time, but there have not been any low-floor buses for a while, and you are, of course, late. Or an even worse example, if you could not even leave your home because of the lack of facilities in public transport.

The next issue creating difficulties for movement are high curbs, even those where certain interventions have been made, but inadequately, or to say it more precisely, late. Or an even worse example, when all its innumerable stairs, looks from my perspective as if I'm about to conquer Mount Everest. So, if we are wondering why the majority of persons with disabilities are insufficiently educated, one reason lies in the inaccessibility of educational institutions. (...)

Social inclusion primarily involves physical presence, and that cannot happen without an accessible environment.

I believe that creating an accessible environment, a good path towards creating equality and eliminating prejudice and discrimination. Making ramps, lifts, low curbs and importing more low-floor buses does not mean conceding to "special needs" – it means equality for all.

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

DrumoDom: Support Returns Dignity and Hope, Awakens Strength to Fight for a Roof over One's Head

Transcript of the presentation by Igor Mitrović at the 41st Belgrade Ignite "Get Involved no. 6" (7 November 2018, Impact Hub, Belgrade)

This evening I will tell you about houses and homes. (...) Having one's own living space is good, but consciously or subconsciously we know it is not enough. A living space is nothing but a precondition, a kind of shell, an environment seeking to be filled with the right stuff, awaiting a miracle – the miracle of home.

Home is but a life where you are lucky to be with the person or persons with whom you feel "at home": accepted, accepting, without the need to pretend, feeling empowered, feeling that none of your dreams are impossible, because those people are there. You feel as if you were at the fountain of life, on a tiny sun of your own, keeping you warm.

A house, simply put, is not enough. We are looking for. (...)

Now, imagine people who do not even have a house, who do not have this basic living space that we take for granted. Five thousand of them live like that in Belgrade. Five thousand people! Those are the ones sleeping in doorways and pressed against the wall as we step around them in the passage under Terazije. Even more of them huddling in abandoned buildings, ruined factories... They may have a roof and four walls, but that is all they have – no electricity, no water, no safety, no warmth.

I used to wonder – man, how did these five thousand end up in the street? Well, now, how did they end up in the street – it is much easier for a person to end up in the street than we think. Imagine, for example, going to school, having a family, having a job, a rented apartment. You lose your job, fail to make ends meet, you fall into a crisis, lose your family, lose your place – voila, you are on the street! Or you are a child, a young person, 18 years of age, spending your entire life without parents, the state taking care of you. You come of age, you leave the institutions... it is so easy for things not to come out right. Or, for example, you are a person with psycho-social issues, without support (not a rare thing), and without the resources to make your way... Or you are simply a person who has made too many dumb moves in your life... Or even more frequently, all these elements, mixed up in a hellish tragedy where you can't even tell what is whose fault.

Anyway, you find yourself in the street, and once that happens, after a while, you accept it as your choice, because we, people, even in chaotic situations, tend to proclaim them to be our choice. This makes it easier to survive, it is a completely human thing to do. However, whether we call it a choice or not, whether we turn this into an illusion of victory and claim that we control our life or not, the fact remains that our human nature crumbles in this way of life, our dignity is eroded, our hope departs – because this is not a humane life, intended for human beings.

This is why a group of people in the [ADRA Srbija](#) organization has started [DrumoDom](#), an adapted bus visiting locations where these people reside and offering them the opportunity to take a shower, to use a proper toilet, to get a haircut, to talk to those that can talk and are not in any hurry while talking or listening to someone. Perhaps a small miracle may occur: that strength, hope and vision are awakened in these people to return to a life worthy of human beings, the power to fight, to struggle for a job and the life they dream about, yet repress. Perhaps they even manage to fight for a roof over their heads. DrumoDom is another opportunity for human support. When there is support, dignity and hope return. And when they are there – opportunities and chances also return. (...)

The text in its entirety can be found [here](#).

More success stories can be found at [socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs](#)

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