

The First Draft of the National Youth Strategy 2015-2025

WORKING DRAFT

Introduction

The Republic of Serbia recognizes youth and their special and important role in the society. Young people are the present and the future of our society, a resource of innovations and a driving force of the development of society. Therefore, it is required to continuously and systematically invest in youth development and to establish a partnership between the youth and the state in order to increase the participation of young people in society, encourage social integration and inclusion of youth in the development of youth policy.

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) The National Youth Strategy (NYS) lays down basic principles, directions and anticipated results of the activities of all youth policy actors¹ towards improvement of social position of young people and creation of conditions for the exercise of rights and interests of young people in all areas. NYS is based on the strategic orientation of the state to work with and for youth, and, starting from the objective set in the Law on Youth², it tends to provide facilities to enable young people to reach their full potential, participate actively in society, contributing not only to their own development but also to the development of the society.

NYS is a key mechanism for implementation, coordination and promotion of youth policy creating a supportive environment where youth initiatives are encouraged and appreciated. All actors of youth policy should create conditions for and support the empowerment³ of young people for their engagement in society in accordance with their own choice and abilities. All sectoral policies should recognize young people and their needs and potentials and enable them participation in the strategic decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. NYS is “a guarantee to youth” on behalf of the state, but it is also “a guarantee to the state” on behalf of youth, that they will act together to achieve their goals respecting the agreed principles and fostering partnership.

NYS harmonizes national youth policy with European youth policy framework⁴ and relevant international documents in the field of youth policy. NYS is a guide for work with and for young people for all the actors of youth policy and it is also a platform for action at the local, provincial, national and international level.

Legal Framework

The development and drafting of NYS is provided by the Law on Youth as a document which, at the proposal of the of Youth and Sports, is adopted by the Government for the period of 10 years and which regulates in particular: active participation of young people in social life, providing for the

¹ RS Law on Youth, Article 3, paragraph 2: **Youth Policy actors** are: the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province and local self-government unit as holders of Youth Policy, institutions, association carrying out youth activities, and other actors participating in the implementation of the Youth Policy;

² RS Law on Youth, Article 1, paragraph 2: The Purpose of the Law is to create conditions for supporting young people in organisation, social activism, development and fulfilment of their potential for their own benefit and for the benefit of the society.

³ The term youth denotes both an individual as well as youth and youth-oriented organizations

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - An EU Strategy for Youth : Investing and Empowering - A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities {SEC(2009) 545} {SEC(2009) 546} {SEC(2009) 548} {SEC(2009) 549}

exercising of the right of young people to equal opportunities, youth information, encouragement and validation of tolerance, democracy and exceptional achievements of young people, fostering and development of formal and non-formal education, encouragement and incentives for employment and self-employment of young people and youth entrepreneurship, improvement of youth safety, sustainable development and healthy environment, protection and improvement of youth health and other activities and areas of importance for young people⁵.

The funds for Strategy implementation shall be provided in the budget of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the budget of the autonomous province and local self-government unit, and from other sources, in accordance with the Law. In accordance with the Strategy, the autonomous province, and the local self-government unit shall develop action plans for Strategy implementation in its territory, and provide in their budgets the funds for the implementation of such plans. Autonomous province and local self-government units send the report on realization of action plans for Strategy implementation on their territories at least once a year upon the request from the Ministry.⁶

All terms used in this strategy are gender-neutral.

Principles

Young people, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, ministries responsible for special areas in the youth sector and all other Youth policy actors shall participate in the development and implementation of the Strategy. The Ministry of Youth and Sports directs and monitors the implementation of the Strategy on the local level. Youth policy actors act in accordance with the Strategy principles.⁷ The principles of the National Youth Strategy are as follows:

Support for personal and social empowerment of youth

Everybody, in particular Youth Policy actors, within the scope of their activities and purview, shall support social empowerment of young people in the manner prescribed by the Law, Strategy and other youth policy instruments.⁸

Equality, non-discrimination and respect for human and minority rights

All young people are equal and shall enjoy equal status and equal protection regardless of their personal characteristics. Any kind of discrimination or unequal treatment of young people, direct or indirect, on any grounds, particularly on the grounds of age, race, sex, national origin, religious belief, language, social background, financial standing, affiliation with political, trade union or other organizations, mental or physical disability, health, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other actual or assumed personal trait shall be prohibited.⁹

Equal opportunities for all

Young people shall be entitled to equal opportunities and participation in all spheres of life in accordance with their own choices and abilities.¹⁰ Personal and social development of young people shall be encouraged by ensuring the respect for diversity, gender equality, rights, freedom and dignity.

The importance of young people and their social roles

⁵ *RS Law on Youth, Article 10*

⁶ *RS Law on Youth, Article 12*

⁷ *RS Law on Youth, Article 11*

⁸ *RS Law on Youth, Article 4*

⁹ *RS Law on Youth, Article 5*

¹⁰ *RS Law on Youth, Article 6*

Everybody, especially youth policy actors, shall encourage and support the raising of awareness of the importance of young people and their social role through youth policy implementation, social empowerment for the purposes of youth well being, promotion and protection of their interests and needs and opportunities for active participation in the society.¹¹ The potentials of young people shall be recognized and appreciated as an important social resource and trust and support shall be shown for young people's abilities: "Young people have knowledge, they can and know how and they will".¹²

Active youth participation and cooperation

Everybody, especially youth policy actors, shall ensure a stimulating environment and offer active support in the carrying out of youth activities for young people, in their taking initiative and in their purposeful involvement in decision-making processes and processes of implementation of decisions that contribute to personal and social development, upon young people's receiving complete information.¹³ Freedom of association, cooperation with peers and intergenerational cooperation at the local, national and international level shall be supported and encouraged.

Social responsibility and solidarity

Young people should actively contribute to the building and upholding of social values and to the development of their communities, especially through various forms of volunteer activities, and express intergenerational solidarity and actively work on creating the conditions for an equal and full participation in all the aspects of social life of young people with disabilities, minority youth and all other persons and social groups that may be at risk from discrimination, i.e. discriminating behaviour. The responsibility of those who work with young people, as well as the responsibility of young people in relation to their obligations to society are encouraged and developed.¹⁴ Young people should actively contribute to the development and fostering of social values and to the development of their community, particularly through various forms of voluntary activities and should express intergenerational solidarity working actively to create conditions for equal and full participation, in all aspects of social life, of young people with disabilities, members of ethnic minorities and all other persons and social groups that may be at risk of discrimination or discriminatory treatment.¹⁵ Intergenerational solidarity is developed and the role of youth in building of a democratic civil society based on the culture of non-violence and tolerance is recognized.

Vision

Young people are active and equal participants in various spheres of social life who fully develop their potential and contribute to personal and social development and well-being. Young people create better living conditions and conditions for development of potentials and actively contribute to overall development of society.

Improved employability¹⁶ of young people who proactively¹⁷ seek, find and create jobs, possessing the necessary knowledge, skills and competences required in the labor market. Increased access to

¹¹ *RS Law on Youth, Article 7*

¹² *RS Youth Strategy 2009-2014*

¹³ *RS Law on Youth, Article 8*

¹⁴ *Стратегија за младе РС 2009-2014*

¹⁵ *RS Law on Youth, Article 9*

¹⁶ "A set of achievements - skills, attitudes and personal attributes enabling individuals to more easily find employment and to be successful in the chosen profession creating benefits for themselves as well as for other employees, community and economy." (M. Yorke, op. Cit. p.7).

¹⁷ *Active creation of the desired environment*

education and educational impact and improved functional literacy¹⁸ of young people through the provision of equal participation of young people in formal, non-formal education and informal learning and acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary for personal and social development. Improved social inclusion of young people from socially vulnerable categories of the population through better adaptability, availability, scope and quality of inclusive programs and services. Better conditions and program support for the development of safety culture¹⁹ and safety behavior of young people in various living environments and situations.

Improved health and well-being of young people through the development of healthy lifestyles, standardization of training programs and establishment of service and other mechanisms of health care. Young people actively participate in social, political and public life, in all decision-making processes as well as in implementation of decisions, monitoring and improvement at all levels and youth perspectives²⁰, are integrated into all forms of public policies. Young people are actively involved in the protection, promotion and implementation of sustainable development and environmental protection at all levels.

Enhanced availability, quality, relevance and scope of information for young people through an organized and tailored to youth information system, availability of information at all levels, in all the media and services and involvement of young people in creation and establishment of media contents. Increased educational, working, cultural and touristic mobility of youth²¹ and international youth cooperation through the creation of conditions and opportunities for free mobility of young people who are ready and motivated to gain experience and training. Increased availability, adaptation and diversity of cultural contents and offer made by and for young people and conditions for the development of the creative potential of young people are provided.

Definitions of specific terms

Specific terms in this strategy have the following meanings:

Youth or young people are persons between 15 and 30 years of age, pursuant to the Law on Youth.

Youth Policy actors are: the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province, and local self-government unit as holders of youth policy, institutions, associations carrying out youth activities, and other actors participating in the implementation of youth policy, pursuant to the Law on Youth.

Youth activities are various activities in the areas of youth sector organised by young people or youth policy actors, undertaken with the aim of improving the position of young people and their empowerment for active participation in the society for their own benefit and for the benefit of the society, pursuant to the Law on Youth.

¹⁸ *Functional competence or literacy is a term used in lieu of the term knowledge by the international program of assessments of student achievement PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). Functional competence includes those skills that are considered educational capital necessary for students to continue with their education and to successfully fulfill their personal and professional roles in which they will, as adult persons, find themselves. To be competent in this study does not only mean that someone has acquired adequate knowledge and skills, but also that he/she knows when and how to apply them. (<http://www.pisaserbia.org/o-pisa-projektu.html>)*

¹⁹ *Safety culture of young people is perceived as possessing of knowledge, skills and abilities, adopted attitudes and respect for the rules of safety, which are manifested in certain behavior models. Developed safety culture of young people enables them to adequately respond to security risks and threats, to which they are exposed, and thus protect and preserve their own vital values in everyday life.*

²⁰ *Youth mainstreaming*

²¹ *Mobility of young people is the capacity of young people to move between different places of volunteering and youth work, educational programs and vocational training, employment, career opportunities, housing conditions and spending their leisure time in activities aimed at achieving personal development goals and independence. (adaptation of the original definition by - http://www.mss.si/datoteke/dokumenti/PP_youthmobility_web.pdf)*

Youth work means, youth activities organised by and for young people, based on non-formal education, carried out in young people's free time and undertaken with the aim of improving the conditions for personal and social development of young people, in accordance with their needs and abilities, in which young people voluntarily participate, pursuant to the Law on Youth.

Non-formal education of young people is a group of organized activities, tailored for young people, which are not encompassed by the official educational system and are based on young people's needs and interests, principles of voluntary and active participation of young people in the learning process and the promotion of democratic values, through which young people acquire competencies necessary for the development of their personal potentials, active participation in the society and better employability, pursuant to the Law on Youth.

Youth Association is any association, recorded in the registry of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and operating in accordance with the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations, whose membership encompasses no less than two-thirds of young people and whose goals or area of realization of goals are aimed at young people, pursuant to Law on Youth.

Association for youth/Youth-oriented association is any other association recorded in the registry of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and operating in accordance with the Law governing the establishment and legal status of associations, and whose aims or area of area of realization of goals are focused, among other things, on young people, pursuant to the Law on Youth.

Umbrella Association/Alliance is an alliance consisting of at least 60 registered associations, both of and for young people, having their head office on the territory of at least two-thirds of counties in the Republic of Serbia and which have carried out youth activities in several local self-government units for at least two years, and which have at least 2,000 individual members, registered once, of whom at least two-thirds are young people.

Youth Office is a section of the city/municipal authorities responsible for coordination of local youth policies in all areas with relevance to young people, and according to the specific needs of their local communities.

Youth Council is an advisory body, established by the Government at the proposal of the of Youth and Sports in accordance with regulations that regulate the work of the Government, which promotes and coordinates activities related to the development, realization and implementation of youth policy and proposes measures for its improvement.²² In order to coordinate activities related to the realization of youth policy in the territory of the autonomous province and local self-government unit, the competent authority of the autonomous province and the relevant local government authority may establish provincial, city and municipal youth council.

1. Youth employment and entrepreneurship

1.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Improved employability²³ of young people.

²² RS Law on Youth, Article 16

²³ Employability is defined as "A set of achievements - skills, attitudes and personal attributes enabling individuals to more easily find employment and to be successful in the chosen profession creating benefits for themselves as well as for other employees, community and economy." (M. Yorke, op. Cit. p.7).

Strategic problem:

The key strategic problem of youth in Serbia is unemployment. The youth unemployment rate is 52.8% for people between 15-24 years of age and 39.5% for people aged 15-30.²⁴ However, apart from unemployment, the inactivity of youth in the labor market is significantly increased, hence in May 2014, the inactivity rate for young people aged 15-30 was 52.4%.²⁵ Also, in the Republic of Serbia, according to the Institute of Statistics' data, in 2012, it was noted that 25.1% of young people aged 15-24 belong to the category of those who are neither employed nor on studies or training.²⁶ These data show that entering the labor market is a challenge for many young people, while the very process of finding a job can be significantly prolonged.

All this indicates that young people need support for successful transition from the process of education to the labor market. Here we can identify a key deficiency as an insufficiently functional system of career guidance and counseling intended to provide support in this transition in modern and democratic societies. Entrepreneurship, and at the global level also, participation in cooperative companies are recognized as special aspects of employment. The Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education in Europe in 2006 clearly states that entrepreneurship education should be included in primary schools curriculums. Approximately 20% of youth who participated in student companies in high school, later really establish their own companies, which is over three times higher percentage than with general population. Experience acquired in entrepreneurship education increases the possibility of opening new companies, self-employment, creation of new jobs, as well as of gaining self-confidence and strengthening creativity and social responsibility in young people.

In 2007, the results of a public consultation in the EU are presented and developed in the "Schools in the European Union in the 21st Century", which clearly indicated the need for the development of "open learning environment" and designated schools as leaders in promoting entrepreneurial mindsets. The Action Plan 2020 of the European Commission aims to remove the existing obstacles to the strengthening of entrepreneurial potential in Europe, and in particular to influence the creation of new companies and jobs, as well as to create an environment that provides more support for the growth and development of existing companies.

Expected results of realization of strategic objective:

Young people proactively²⁷ seek, find and create jobs, possessing the necessary knowledge, skills and competences required in the labor market

Main indicator:

Youth employment rate.

1.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Established integrated services²⁸ for development and more successful use of active employment measures tailored to young people.

Specific problem:

Existing measures for promoting youth employment are not sufficiently tailored to youth and the labor market and young people are not familiar with them.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- Representatives of the business sector are involved in the creation, implementation and evaluation of active employment measures

²⁴ Source: Labour Force Survey for the second quarter of 2014, National Bureau of Statistics

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ NEET - Not in Employment, Education or Training

²⁷ Active creation of the desired environment

²⁸ Comprehensive/complete services requiring coordinated intersectoral cooperation in order to yield comprehensive results

- Projects and programs enabling young people to gain practical knowledge, skills and competencies that are necessary for improving employability are developed and promoted
- A more effective system of programs and projects and vocational training of young people is established
- A system of continuous interdepartmental communication on the subject of affirmative action hiring at all levels is established
- Programs and projects that enable young people to participate in the creation of active employment measures are supported

Main indicator:

The number of young people employed following the use of active employment measures.

1.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Favorable conditions for the development of youth entrepreneurship are provided.

Specific problem:

Youth entrepreneurship is underdeveloped and a significant contribution of entrepreneurship to the reduction of youth unemployment has not been recognized.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- An incentive legislative framework defining youth entrepreneurship and its environment is created
- There are mechanisms for practical and theoretical study of entrepreneurship in the areas of formal and non-formal education
- Sustainable long-term programs of support for young people who decide to engage in self-employment are designed

Main indicator:

The number of young people who are self-employed as a result of the use of incentive measures.

1.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Increased harmonization of knowledge, skills and competencies acquired in the process of lifelong learning with the labour market needs and requirements.

Specific problem:

Young people do not possess required practical knowledge, skills and competences required in the labor market.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- Frameworks for lifelong learning are formed
- Educational system which follows the recommendations and designs the programs aimed at functional literacy²⁹ and knowledge is established
- Employers participate in the creation and implementation of programs of formal and non-formal education
- Non-formal education is recognized and harmonized with the process of formal education
- Mechanisms for realization of work practice throughout the entire process of formal education are created

Main indicator:

²⁹ *Functional competence or literacy is a term used in lieu of the term knowledge by the international program of assessments of student achievement PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). Functional competence includes those skills that are considered educational capital necessary for students to continue with their education and to successfully fulfill their personal and professional roles in which they will, as adult persons, find themselves. To be competent in this study does not only mean that someone has acquired adequate knowledge and skills, but also that he/she knows when and how to apply them. (<http://www.pisaserbia.org/o-pisa-projekt.html>)*

The level of functional literacy of young people (PISA test).

1.1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Functional and sustainable system of youth career guidance and counseling.

Specific problem:

Lack of a functional, all-encompassing, quality and sustainable system of career guidance and counseling of young people.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- The mechanism for continued implementation and improvement of the National Program of career guidance and counseling of young people is created and established
- National Resource Center for Career Guidance and Counseling is established
- The number of career guidance and counseling centers that provide services for youth as well as the number of local teams for career guidance and counseling are increased
- Career guidance and counseling established in secondary schools
- Non-institutional mechanisms providing career guidance and counseling are created

Main indicator:

The percentage of young people who recognize the system of career guidance and counseling as useful and accessible.

2. Education, pedagogical work with and training of youth

2.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Increased access to education and educational impact and improved functional literacy³⁰ of young people.

Strategic problem:

"International studies (PISA³¹ and TIMMS³²) show that a worrying percentage of our students aged 15 is functionally illiterate (one third of the population according to PISA, 2009), that students' knowledge is mainly reproductive, that the degree of applicability of such knowledge in practice is below the world and regional averages, that we have a negligibly small percentage of students in the highest categories of knowledge (below 1%), and worryingly large number of students belonging to the lowest categories of achievements. A serious challenge to this educational subsystem is particularly low reading literacy (comprehension and ability to work on the text), because it is basic for further education. "The main objective of PISA study is to assess and monitor the extent to which students who are at the end of the period of general education have mastered the competencies important for the continuation of education and full participation in social activities. In this way, the efficiency of the educational system in the development of competencies that are important for personal and professional development of the individual is tested as well as the functioning of the society as a community, in other words, the focus is on competencies."³³ The results from the year 2012 indicate a slight improvement in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy. Faculties

³⁰ *Functional competence or literacy is a term used in lieu of the term knowledge by the international program of assessments of student achievement PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). Functional competence includes those skills that are considered educational capital necessary for students to continue with their education and to successfully fulfill their personal and professional roles in which they will, as adult persons, find themselves. To be competent in this study does not only mean that someone has acquired adequate knowledge and skills, but also that he/she knows when and how to apply them. (<http://www.pisaserbia.org/o-pisa-projektu.html>)*

³¹ *The Programme for International Student Assessment*

³² *The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study*

³³ *Monograph "Inspire me, Support me: PISA2012 in Serbia – First Results, Dragica Pavlovic Bobic, Aleksandar Baucel, Institute of Psychology, 2013*

complain about low level of knowledge and literacy of students coming from SOUOV, and this is showcased in their poor performance on tests of general knowledge on entrance exams for university.

„34

On the basis of the results of the Survey on Adult Education³⁵ in the Republic of Serbia in 2011, 16.5% of adults (aged 25-64) participated in education, which is an increase if we look at the Eurostat data from August 2008, according to which in the Republic of Serbia only 3% of adults (25-64 years old) participated in a program of adult education. However, the percentage of involvement of adults in education in Serbia is significantly below such average of EU member states, where 40.8% of adults participated in education.³⁶

The Law on Adult Education regulates education and lifelong learning of adults as a part of a unified system of education in the Republic of Serbia. Adult education is achieved through formal and non-formal education and informal learning. This Law and the Education Development Strategy in Serbia until 2020, deal with and regulate the recognition of previously acquired knowledge but mechanisms of recognition are still not developed to the level of practical application.

Expected results of the realization of the strategic objective:

Better conditions for equal participation of young people in formal, non-formal education and informal learning and acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary for personal and social development is enabled.

Main indicator:

Increased level of functional literacy and the number of young people who participate in and complete programs of formal and non-formal education.

2.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Personal and professional competencies of young people in accordance with the needs of personal and social development.

Specific problem:

Expertise and personal business skills³⁷ as well as the existing educational profiles are not consistent with personal and social, needs while pedagogical and educational impacts through the work in curricular and extracurricular process with young people are insufficiently represented in practice.

Expected results of the realization of specific objectives:

- Contents that influence the development of attitudes and values that are in accordance with the principles of the Law on Youth are included in curricular and extracurricular activities.
- In educational institutions teaching staff continually undergoing training in the field of pedagogical-psychological and methodical-didactic knowledge in order to adapt the contents to young people.
- Curricula and syllabuses as well as university curricula include compulsory internship programs that improve the applicability of knowledge.
- Curricula and syllabuses as well as university curricula include compulsory training programs for the realization of personal and professional initiatives (planning, social entrepreneurship, communication skills).
- Curricula and syllabuses as well as university curricula are in line with the needs of industry and follow the trends in the labor market.
- The results of labor market needs surveys are used in the preparation of comprehensive programs and

³⁴ Education Development Strategy in Serbia until 2020 ("RS Off. Gazette ", no. 107/2012)

³⁵ *The Survey on Adult Education was conducted by the Institute of Statistics for the period from 20 August to 31 December 2011, applying the principle of random sample (a sample of 4138 individuals aged 25 to 64), using the methods of telephone and field survey.*

³⁶ *The highest rate of participation in adult education is in Luxembourg and Sweden (70%), and the lowest in Romania and Greece.*

³⁷ *Hard and soft skills*

syllabuses of non-formal education especially in the development of business skills.

Main indicator:

The percentage of youth economic activities.

2.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

The mechanism of recognition of knowledge and skills acquired through non-formal education and informal learning developed and implemented.

Specific problem:

Mechanisms for recognition and certification of prior learning acquired through non-formal education and informal learning of young people are still developing and they lack practical application.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Adoption of a national qualifications framework
- A system of recognition of prior learning acquired through non-formal education and informal learning is established
- There are standards of work in informal education of young people which are used in practice
- A catalog of non-formal education and career guidance and counseling services on the local level, including all service providers, is developed
- Enhanced programs of career guidance and counseling for the continuation of education and non-formal education

Main indicator:

The establishment of a mechanism for recognition and identification of knowledge and skills acquired in non-formal education.

2.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Possibilities for acquiring equal education for all young people are improved and the support for young people who have prematurely left education and for young people with outstanding achievements is developed.

Specific problem:

There is inequality in access to education, which makes young people leave education prematurely lacking the appropriate skills and competences

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Improved mechanisms for practical support to vulnerable young people and young people with outstanding achievements to acquire quality education in line with their needs
- Reduced number of young people who drop out of education
- Support mechanisms for young people who left education prematurely to return to the educational system (“second chance”) are developed
- Distance learning programs at all levels of schooling developed
- Work-study programs developed
- A comprehensive information system in education developed

Main indicator:

The percentage of young people from vulnerable groups participating in education (formal, informal) and the dropout rate.

3. Social inclusion of youth

3.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Enhanced social inclusion of young people from socially vulnerable categories of the population by improving adaptability, availability, scope and quality of inclusive programs and services.

Strategic problem:

The support to socially vulnerable categories of young people was recognized in 85% of units of local self-government as a local priority. However, it is impossible to provide statistics and expressed needs of young people from socially vulnerable categories from these official data in order to evidence this prioritization. Different institutions have different systems of keeping records of young people. Lack of accurate records of young people from socially vulnerable categories resulting in the fact that measures (programs and services) planned for the improvement of their position do not reflect the real needs of this target group.³⁸

Services intended for young people from socially vulnerable categories are organized in traditional institutions (school education, social care – centers for social work, employment - National Employment Service affiliates, but also through non-institutional system of local services that exist in the field of education, health care and social welfare (Social care- Total number of local social services in 137 local self-governments is 351, and in 37 local communities in Serbia there is no local social service financed from the budget of the local self-government. When services for children and young people are concerned, the service of daycare for children and youth and young people with disabilities is most frequently organized service which is provided in 64 local communities in Serbia. Along with it, according to its frequency and the scope of representation, there follows daycare service for children and youth with physical disabilities (in 14 municipalities) and then housing service for young people beginning to live on their own (13 cities / municipalities). The number of services of this type is relatively small, especially with regard to the coverage of Serbia, i.e. the number of municipalities in which they are provided. Shelters for children and youth exist in nine municipalities, drop-in centers in three municipalities, while a club for young people in the process of becoming independent exists in only one municipality)³⁹.

Many groups of young people belonging to various socially vulnerable categories can obtain adequate assistance only through the institutions which, pursuant to the law, perform activities of care for certain categories of socially vulnerable people. In these institutions professionally educated individuals provide appropriate assistance to young people within the limits of their authorization and cannot provide in-depth assistance and support. The development of non-institutional services, which will provide young people from vulnerable groups with minimum competence for the use of the existing system of support, should be a special field of activity of youth policy.⁴⁰

³⁸ *The evaluation report on the results of the overall program - Section - Challenges in the implementation of the National Youth Strategy - German Agency for International Cooperation / Program – Strengthening of the Structures for Youth Empowerment and Participation in Serbia (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / SoSYEP programme)*

Work report for 2013 - Republic Institute for Social Protection (synthesis report)

The Report on the Situation of Youth in the system of social protection in Serbia (18/11/2013 - No. 3-18/13) - National Assembly Library – The Report was drafted for the needs of MPs and the National Assembly Service.

³⁹ *Local Youth Services Review - German Agency for International Cooperation/ Program: Program – Strengthening of the Structures for Youth Empowerment and Participation in Serbia (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / SoSYEP programme)*

The evaluation report on the results of the overall program - Section - Challenges in the implementation of the National Youth Strategy - German Agency for International Cooperation / Program – Strengthening of the Structures for Youth Empowerment and Participation in Serbia (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / SoSYEP programme)

Display of practical policies: "Youth services at local level,"- National Association of Youth Work Practitioners, EFFORT (authors: Sever Dzigurski and Nenad Maletin)

Work report for 2013 - Republic Institute for Social Protection (synthesis report)

⁴⁰ *National Report on the Status of Roma within the project "Project FINALLY", www.eknfak.ni.ac.rs/dl/FINALLY/Nacionalni-izvestaj-Srbija.pdf*

Expected results of the realization of strategic objective:

Developed network of services providing prerequisites for creation of a tolerant and equitable treatment environment for personal and professional development of all young people with respect for diversity.

Main indicator:

Percentage of young people from socially vulnerable categories involved in the creation, use and evaluation of existing services

3.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

A harmonized system for recording and analysis of the quality of life of young people belonging to socially vulnerable groups, in accordance with the system / EU standards in the relevant institutions and organizations is established.

Specific problem:

Lack of standardized recording and system of monitoring the quality of life of young people from socially vulnerable categories.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Establishment of a harmonized system for keeping records, monitoring and analysis (of the quality of life) of youth from socially vulnerable categories.
- Establishment of system for monitoring and evaluation of programs designed for young people from vulnerable categories
- Establishment of accreditation system for service providers for vulnerable categories of young people

Main indicator:

Harmonized mechanism for recording of mechanisms for updating and sharing responsibilities as regards reporting on changes in life and quality of life of young people from socially vulnerable categories

3.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Developed network of services that have a preventive effect on the reduction of social exclusion.

Specific problem:

Lack of adequate services and programs for prevention as well as for provision of support to young people from socially vulnerable categories.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Creation of innovative services responding to the real needs of young people belonging to socially vulnerable categories
- Enhanced scope, structure and quality of services directly affecting increase in quality of life of young people from socially vulnerable categories
- Reduced social distance towards young people from socially vulnerable categories as a result of preventive work at all levels

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2010, The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia

The Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination Cmpamezuja – Office for Human and Minority Rights

The evaluation report on the results of the overall program - Section - Challenges in the implementation of the National Youth Strategy - German Agency for International Cooperation / Program – Strengthening of the Structures for Youth Empowerment and Participation in Serbia (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) / SoSYEP programme)

Work report for 2013 - Republic Institute for Social Protection (synthesis report)

Извештај о Положају младих у систему социјалне заштите У Србији (18.11.2013 – Бр. 3-18/13) – Библиотека Народне скупштине – Извештај израђен за потребе рада народних посланика и Службе Народне скупштине.

Main indicator:

Percentage of municipalities with at least one standardized (defined by establishment parameters) non-institutional service established for the prevention of social exclusion of young people

3.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Increased coverage of young people from socially vulnerable categories with existing services.

Specific problem:

A small number of young people from socially vulnerable categories using the existing support and assistance systems.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Increased encompassment of young people from socially vulnerable categories with one of the existing measures of support due to adequate information
- Existing services adapted in accordance with the specific needs of each sub-group of young people from vulnerable categories

Main indicator:

Percentage of young people from socially vulnerable categories who are well-informed about existing services in the areas of education, health, employment and social care and access mechanisms to the abovementioned services.

4. Youth safety

4.1: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Improved conditions and program support for the development of youth safety culture⁴¹.

Strategic problem:

On average, the annual percentage of crimes committed by young people is approximately 34% - 41% of the total number of offenses in the Republic of Serbia, recorded by the police and reported to the competent prosecution authorities. In one year, the criminal charges will be raised against between 22500 and 27000 young people, which is 44% - 48% of the total amount of reported offenders. In the period from 2008 to 2013, for committing 245914 criminal offenses, the police filed criminal complaints against 148 819 persons in the category of young people.

On average, the annual percentage of crimes committed against young people is 22% to 28% of the total number of criminal offences of inflicting damage upon natural persons in the Republic of Serbia. In one year, the police record between 16500 and 18500 young people who suffer damage in physical, material, or any other aspect due to criminal offences against them, which makes a quarter of the total number of victims. According to statistics of the Ministry of Interior (2008-2013), out of the total number of reported criminal offences, there were 46% of crimes against life and body and 37.4% of crimes against sexual freedom committed against young people. Among the identified victims of human trafficking 57.2% were persons aged between 15 and 30, 48.8% in cases of rape and 22.8% in cases of domestic violence.

With respect to safety of young people in schools and school environment, the multi-year monitoring has shown that almost 70% of interesting events in terms of safety and security (criminal offences, misdemeanors and other events) occur in school buildings, and the remaining 30% of such events in their immediate environment, as well as that such events are more frequent in vocational schools than in high schools (gymnasiums).

According to the records of the Ministry of Interior, in 2013, 3026 persons aged between 18 and 30 possessed 4093 pieces of firearms. As regards illegal firearms, there are no precise data. In 2013,

⁴¹ *Safety culture of young people is perceived as possessing of knowledge, skills and abilities, adopted attitudes and respect for the rules of safety, which are manifested in certain behavior models. Developed safety culture of young people enables them to adequately respond to security risks and threats, to which they are exposed, and thus protect and preserve their own vital values in everyday life.*

against young people were charged for committing 500 offenses. "Illegal production, possession, carrying and trading arms and explosives" under Article 348 of the Criminal Code and misdemeanor charges for committing 1240 criminal offences under Article 35 of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.

Expected results of the realization of strategic objective:

Favorable conditions provided for the improvement of youth safety culture and safety behavior in different living environments and situations.

Indicators of strategic objective:

- The number of accredited programs contributing to education and empowerment of youth of all age categories for responding to various safety risks and threats they are faced with in everyday life.
- accompanying indicators (developing)

4.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Comprehensive and continuous education of young people as regards safety challenges, risks and threats, and safe behavior in various living environments and situations established.

Specific problem:

Existing programs and projects are selective in terms of coverage of security risks and threats that young people are confronted with and in terms of targeted age groups of young people for whom they are designed.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- A reformed education system where the manner of continuous development of youth safety culture is systematically organized
- A clear system of accreditation of programs with defined criteria and standards is established
- Diverse and comprehensive programs dealing with contemporary safety risks and threats to which the young are exposed to are developed
- Increased involvement of institutional and non-institutional actors from the fields of education, safety, social welfare, sports, culture and media in the implementation of the program.

Main indicator:

The number of new, accredited and re-accredited programs contributing to education and empowerment of young people of age categories for responding to various safety risks and threats and in various circumstances

4.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Programs of tolerance, respect for human rights, acceptance of diversity and fostering of non-violent ways of communication are developed and implemented.

Specific problem:

The presence of peer violence and bullying, violence among sports fan groups, violence against the LGBT community, violence in intimate relationships and towards strangers, lack of respect for human and minority rights and frequent use of weapons.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Curricula, media contents and various ways of informing young people are filled with contents dealing with socio-cultural, religious, sexual and other differences
- New training programs and training for work with youth are introduced
- Increased involvement of the media in the "breaking" of prejudices and stereotypes in the society
- Increased number of young people with a negative attitude regarding the carrying and use of weapons and tools to solve the problems they face in everyday life

Main indicator:

The percentage of reduction of all forms of violence among youth and against youth

4.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Enhanced programs of working with young people who are perpetrators of offenses and misdemeanors, with improved protection of young people who are the victims of violence.

Specific problem:

A large percentage of young people are perpetrators of crimes and offenses often directed against other young people, and a large percentage of young people in relation to total population are victims of violence and suffer the consequences of violent offences.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Reduced violence committed by young people and reduced violence against them
- Existence of harmonization of programs designed for young people prone to violent behavior and programs for youth who are victims of violent behavior of others
- There is greater involvement of and cooperation between institutional and non-institutional actors in the creation of joint programs and activities
- Improved inter-sectoral cooperation in identifying, planning and delivering services that meet the needs of young people

Main indicator:

Number of programs dealing with non-violent communication, re-socialization and reintegration of young perpetrators of violent offences or victims of violent offences.

5. Health and well-being of young people

5.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Improved health and well-being of young people through the development of healthy lifestyles.

Strategic problem:

Addictive disease are chronic and lead to serious psychological disorders of physical health of young people, and/or threaten or block their normal physical and psychological development. According to researches in the past twelve months alcohol was consumed by 72.2% of respondents. Risk patterns of alcohol use are present in 13.3% of patients. Harmful or problematic drinking is associated with 6.2% of respondents. A large number of young people are becoming addicted to social networks and games, thus losing touch with reality, which leads to alienation from their families and peers, as well as to their inadequate functioning in everyday life.

According to the data of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia from 1984 until the end of 2013 in the Republic of Serbia there were 3001 people registered who were infected with HIV, of whom 1692 patients suffering from AIDS, while 1159 persons infected with HIV died. At the beginning of 2014, there were 1842 people living with HIV in Serbia. It is estimated that additional number of 1800 people do not know that they are HIV-infected i.e. the estimated prevalence. Since 2002, an increase in the percentage of young people aged 15-29 among newly diagnosed HIV-positive people (47% in 2008 and 30% in 2013 to 22% in 2002) has been recorded.

Studies show that young people engage in sexual intercourse at very early age, while still physically and mentally unprepared. Sexual education is almost non-existent. Due to ignorance, shame and lack of information, most of them do not use contraception, which is the reason why they are on top among their peers in Europe as regards number of patients with sexually transmitted diseases and induced abortions.

Young people are faced with numerous stressors, and they need support in coping with stress (more than 50% of high school students said that in the past two years they have experienced at least one stressful life event).

According to the Health Survey of the Serbian population in 2006 data, more than two-thirds of the adult population in Serbia are physically inactive. In Serbia, almost one in five adult residents is obese (18.6%); every third inhabitant smokes (33.6%); around 40% of the population consumes alcohol daily or occasionally, and almost half of the population suffer from hypertension (46.5%).

A total of 40% of the EU states population say that they practice sports at least once a week, while in Serbia, only around 10% of the people practice sports once a week. Around 34% of EU citizens state

that they have never engaged in physical exercise, while in Serbia as much as 56% percent of the population have never engaged in physical exercise. When the EUROBAR data and CESID research data are compared, it can be seen that lack of time is the main reason for low participation in sports activities. However, the results concerning the lack of free time are very similar in the EU and in our country. In fact, 45% of respondents in the European Union states this as a primary reason, while in Serbia this number is smaller and it is at a level of about 40%.⁴²

Expected results of the realization of strategic objective:

Developed healthy lifestyles of young people, standardized programs of education and services and mechanisms of health care.

Main indicator:

Number of standardized prevention and education programs and services (service provision programs) for the purpose of improvement of the overall health of young people.

5.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Reduced risks and risky behavior of young people.

Specific problem:

Young people are in constant contact with health risks and they behave riskily.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Standardized preventive and educational programs and services (service provision programs) for the prevention of addiction to psychoactive substances, gaming and new media
- Implemented programs for education of young people, parents and teachers for the prevention of addiction to psychoactive substances, gaming and new media
- Standardized preventive and educational programs and services (service provision programs) for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV / AIDS
- Implemented programs for education of young people, parents and teachers for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV / AIDS
- Implemented campaigns related to the prevention of risky behaviors
- Standardized services for preventive and educational programs for young people at risk through the clubs for at-risk youth and through fieldwork
- The provision of systematic support to youth at risk and reduced discrimination

Main indicator:

The percentage of reduction in the number of young people at risk.

5.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Health promotion and prevention programs for young people are enhanced and they are accessible to greater number of young people.

Specific problem:

Preventive healthcare is underdeveloped and insufficiently accessible to young people.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Standardized preventive and educational programs and services (service provision programs) for improvement of reproductive health of young people
- Implemented programs for education of young people, parents and teachers for improvement of reproductive health of young people
- Standardized preventive and educational programs and services (service provision programs) to improve the mental health of young people
- Implemented programs educating young people, parents and teachers to improve the mental health of

⁴² National survey on the lifestyles of the Serbian people in 2014 HEALTH IS # 1 - KOMS, Guidelines for the Implementation of Enhancement of Youth Health and Healthy Lifestyles Promotion Policy in the Republic of Serbia via IKT and social networks – JAZAS Youth, KOMS, TOC
Mental health of Youth in Serbia - Center for Education, Research and Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports in Serbia

young people

- Standardized preventive and educational programs and services (service provision programs) to improve the overall health of young people
- Implemented programs for education of young people, parents and teachers to improve the overall health of young people

Main indicator:

Number of standardized preventive and educational programs and services for improvement of health of young people.

5.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Conditions for the development of healthy lifestyles created.

Specific problem:

Healthy lifestyles are insufficiently present among the young.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Inter-sectoral collaboration at local, provincial and national level established
- Successful monitoring of dynamics, methods as well as trends of abuse and addiction among youth through ESPAD network
- Regular surveys for the purpose of monitoring of the current status and health of young people, as well as establishing of new trends, carried out
- New Youth Health Strategy in the Republic of Serbia developed
- The institutional framework of health education established through the introduction of an optional course on healthy lifestyles of young people in primary and secondary schools
- Improved quality of leisure time of young people through the organization of activities in collaboration with sports and cultural institutions and organizations
- Improved material and technical conditions for the purpose of increased accessibility of sports activities to young people
- Sensibility of youth as regards sports and recreation, leading to their lifelong engagement in sports activities or recreation, is developed
- Increased number of sports clubs/sections and other extra-curricular sports activities within school and university sports curricula

Main indicator:

The institutional framework of health education is established through introduction of an optional course on healthy lifestyles of young people in primary and secondary schools.

5.1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Available and customized access to health services for young people.

Specific problem:

Health services are not enough available and they are not tailored to youth.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Successfully implemented process of public advocacy for the creation of mechanisms that provide young people with equal rights to health care and availability of all services
- Successfully implemented training program for young people, parents and teachers in the field of youth health enhancement, risk reduction and strengthening of initiatives for the promotion of healthy lifestyles and the health care system
- Successfully implemented program for increased sensitization of institutions (the prosecution, the judiciary, the police, centers for social work, etc..) working with youth at risk

Main indicator:

The percentage of young people that evaluate health services as customized and accessible.

6. Activism and youth participation

6.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Young people actively participate in social, political and public life, in all decision-making processes, their implementation, monitoring and improvement at all levels and youth perspectives are integrated into all forms of public policies.

Strategic problem:

From 2012 until 19/9/ 2014, on the territory of Serbia, 875 associations and federations were registered of which 521 are youth associations, 339 associations for youth/youth-oriented associations; there are 15 alliances of youth and youth-oriented associations. Since the adoption of the Law on Youth in 2011 until August 2014, none of the associations acquired the status of an umbrella association, and until August 2014, eight youth alliances were registered. In 2009, the National Association of Practitioners /Youth Workers - EFFORT, which currently has more than 80 civil society organizations with full membership and 10 civil society organizations as associated members, carrying out youth work in the Republic of Serbia, and an alliance/union whose main aim is the ensuring of quality programs of youth work and professionalization of youth work in the Republic of Serbia.

Serbian Youth Umbrella Organization is the highest representative body of young people in Serbia. SYUO is an alliance of associations that (until August 2014), brings together 81 member organizations (youth organizations and organizations for youth) from the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia, and which in 2012 was the first youth organization in Serbia to become a part of the EYF. Also, in 2009 EFFORT was founded. Similarly, a significant contribution to youth organizations was given by student organizations that have a long history of engagement in youth policy, as well as volunteer organizations and volunteer service centers.

Despite significant progress and enhancement of legal and political framework for youth participation, young people are still encountering numerous challenges and problems when participating in social, political, public, economic and cultural life, sustainable development and environmental protection.

97.1% of representatives of the local community interviewed in the survey hold that young people have opportunity to influence decision-making, which is at odds with the data that 63% of local authorities representatives said that mechanisms for youth participation in their communities are nonexistent. In the same survey, 78.8% of young people claim that they have not attended a meeting with representatives of the municipality, 85.6% were not equally involved in decision-making with the government representatives, 67.8% have not attended consultations with decision makers, 53.1% have not attended a meeting with school representatives. Similarly, young people believe that e.g. KZM are on the second place in terms of interest for their participation, while the least interested are representatives of the municipality.⁴³

Expected results of the realization of the strategic objective:

Recognized and protected rights and perspectives of young people and professional youth work enabled. Sustainability of mechanisms of youth and youth-oriented organizations achieved as well as the support for new initiatives with organized capacity of youth policy actors and national mechanisms and structures. Valuation of volunteer work and partnership in the systematic involvement of youth in the processes and decisions through representative mechanisms is established.

Main indicator:

The percentage of young people who participate in social life through formal and informal structures

6.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Improved legal and political framework for youth participation and activism and youth perspectives⁴⁴ are integrated in all forms of public policies at all levels.

Specific problem:

The legal and political framework is not adapted and is thus inadequate for the realization of youth

⁴³ [http://www.unicef.org/serbia/Participacija\(1\).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/serbia/Participacija(1).pdf)

⁴⁴ *Youth mainstreaming*

policy, participation and activism of young people and professional youth work and it leads to a lack of integration of youth perspectives in public policies.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- The legal and political framework creates a favorable and stimulating environment for participation and activism of young people, as well as for the elimination of institutional and systemic inequities with which young people cope
- Enhancement of youth participation is based on studies (research), innovations, human rights and the needs of young people
- In decision-making as well as in the process of decisions implementation and monitoring and control over their implementation, the implications they have on young people are taken into account.
- Resources are equally distributed among generations and intergenerational inequality is reduced
- Youth work is formally recognized with standardization of the work of professionals (youth workers) and volunteers working with youth

Main indicator:

The percentage of developmental policies at all levels which include youth perspectives and professional youth work.

6.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Capacities of youth policy actors are built and developed and the mechanisms of youth participation at all levels are enhanced and supported.

Specific problem:

Youth policy actors do not have sufficiently developed or formed capacities in the field of youth policy, youth rights, participation and activism of young people, and especially in the field of building of partnership with young people.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- A standard for recognition of representativeness established and a rule book on and guidelines regulating a transparent manner of youth involvement in the processes and decisions is adopted and implemented at all levels
- Young people participate and contribute to regional and global processes of policy, implementation and monitoring as well as cooperation of young people in the world, with the active support of the authorities and youth policy actors
- Youth policy actors have the knowledge, skills and capacities for implementation of youth policy and partnership building and cooperation with youth
- There are effective mechanisms of coordination and national inter-ministerial, inter-sectoral, multi-sectoral and international cooperation
- Government authorities at national, provincial and local level act in favour of and youth-oriented (sensitized on youth)⁴⁵

Main indicator:

The percentage of youth organizations that have received financial support for their work and development.

6.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Youth rights, as well as youth participation and activism are protected and promoted.

Specific problem:

Lack of systemic support for youth involvement and participation in social, political and public life, for the protection and promotion of youth rights, monitoring, evaluation and promotion of participation and activism of young people.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- Youth rights, as well as participation and activism are recognized and mechanisms for their protection and promotion are created
- Documenting, improving of access to knowledge and knowledge promotion, understanding

⁴⁵ *Youth friendly administration*

knowledge as a resource, and identifying relevant national, regional and international references

- Effective execution of supervision in the field of youth policy and creation of recommendations for integration of youth perspective into all policies, measures, actions and programs adopted and implemented in Serbia at all levels
- Youth-oriented informational and motivational programs for youth participation in representative structures and programs of formation of capacities for participation in processes and decisions
- Representative structures are recognized and supported in their development and operation, and included in the development and implementation of incentive documents and rule books (at all levels)

Main indicator:

The number of young people who participate in social life through formal and informal structures.

6.1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

A favorable environment for volunteering among young people and for young people is created and enhanced.

Specific problem:

The legal framework for volunteering is inadequate and does not create a stimulating environment for the realization of social function of volunteering among young people.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- The establishment of mechanisms for monitoring the quality of volunteering, in line with the international standards, protection of volunteers and volunteer organizers and promotion of the values of volunteering as an important form of informal learning.
- Volunteer activities are legally regulated, supported and recognized (certified) as skills acquired through volunteering (evaluation)
- A mechanism for knowledge management and exchange of experiences and examples of youth involvement in the processes and decisions and volunteering is established
- Quality and opportunities for youth volunteering (formal and informal), participation in volunteering, strategic and systematic approach to youth volunteering are provided

Main indicator:

The percentage of bodies that work with youth, where young people are involved in decision making processes on an equal basis.

7. Youth and environmental protection and sustainable development

7.1 STRATEGIC GOAL:

Young people are actively involved in environment protection and promotion of sustainable development

Expected results of the realization of the strategic objective:

Young people actively participate in the implementation of sustainable development and environmental protection at all levels.

Main indicator:

UNDESA⁴⁶ indicators

7.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Increased involvement of young people in activities and decision-making processes in the field of environmental protection.

Specific problem:

Young people are not sufficiently involved in the activities and decision-making in the field of environment.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

⁴⁶ *The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

- Increased percentage of young people who participate in programs aimed at environmental protection
- Increased percentage of young people who participate in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental impact assessments (consultation processes)
- Increased number of youth policy actors (associations, UYO) which carry out environment protection programs

Main indicator:

The percentage of young people who participate in programs aimed at environmental protection.

7.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Comprehensive programs of education in the fields of environment protection and sustainable development are developed.

Specific problem:

Young people do not have sufficient knowledge about the environment or developed awareness regarding the importance of the environment.

Expected results of realization of specific objective:

- Increased number of formal and non-formal educational curricula for youth dealing with environment and sustainable development
- Increased number of programs for teaching staff who are engaged in the fields of environment and sustainable development
- Campaigns for raising awareness about the importance of environment are realized

Main indicator:

UNESCO⁴⁷ and UNEP⁴⁸ indicators of education on environmental protection and sustainable development.

8. Youth Information

8.1 STRATEGIC GOAL

To ensure greater accessibility, quality, relevance, and volume of information offered to young people

Strategic problem

Serbia does not have a quality control system for youth information programmes, and so the assumption is that the quality of the information offered varies. The European Youth Information and Consulting Agency is active at the European level; in 2004 this body adopted the European Youth Information Charter, which set standards for youth information efforts. Serbia is not represented in this body. There is no co-ordinated inter-sectoral co-operation, nor are the roles of the various stakeholders clearly defined; this precludes efficient action and hinders access to relevant information. Information that young people may find important is scattered and fragmented.

The media believe young people are under-represented in media content available in Serbia (as reported by 71.20 percent of those polled); what little presence they do have is mainly confined to sports and entertainment programming. Educational media content is perceived similarly: 73.60 percent of all youth organisations in Serbia believe young people are under-represented in this segment, whilst 76.60 percent feel the same about cultural programming. Recent research has shown that the Serbian television scene is dominated by scripted and unscripted entertainment (with some 40 percent of total airtime); these are followed by informational programmes (about 30 percent) and sports broadcasts (to a much lower extent). All other types of programming (children's, educational,

⁴⁷ *United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation*

⁴⁸ *United Nations Environmental Program*

cultural) together account for less airtime than advertising (about 10 percent), which leaves precious little room for serious efforts aimed at young people (UNICEF, FPN, 2009).

About 59.90 percent of all households own computers, with major differences seen in terms of geographical location: 66.30 percent of urban households own computers, whilst the figure drops to 50.90 percent in rural areas. Nearly all young people (95.1 percent of those aged between 16 and 24) reported having had access to a computer in the three months before the survey was taken; similar numbers claimed to have had access to the Internet (at 93.7 percent). However, Eurostat data indicate that in 2009 as few as 35 percent of all young people (aged 16 to 24) accessed the Internet on a daily basis; this figure was twice as low as in the EU (where it stood at 74 percent). Having access to new technologies, nevertheless, does not automatically mean being able to use them (being ‘digitally literate’). Eurostat’s 2009 data show that 61 percent of all young people (aged 16 to 24) in Serbia use copy and paste tools, as opposed to 84 percent in the EU. Further, 43 percent are able to use basic arithmetic formulas in a spreadsheet, as against 62 percent in the EU. Finally, slightly over one-third (39 percent) were able to compress (‘zip’) a file, as opposed to 53 percent in the EU.

Finally, appropriate indicators and outcomes can only be obtained through wide-ranging and continuous research into youth information, as well as through implementing projects in this area that aim at increasing the share of airtime – including informational programming – targeted at young people and the use of digital technology by young people. However, such studies are nearly completely lacking in Serbia, and efforts should be made to address this shortcoming in the future.

Expected outcomes of achieving the strategic goal

Organised and appropriate youth information system established that offers high-quality and relevant information to young people. Appropriate volume of information available at all levels and through all media and services. Young people involved in content planning and creation.

Key indicator

Existence of an organised information system and mechanism to monitor the results of the availability, quality, relevance, and volume of information offered to young people.

8.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To establish a standardised youth information co-ordination mechanism that young people participate in

Specific problem

Lack of standardisation and co-ordination in youth information.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Bodies tasked with co-ordinating communication channels established at the national, regional, and local levels
- Map of communication channels (sources of relevant information) developed
- System established to collect information from various stakeholders
- Support secured for programmes aiming to present content collected in language understandable to young people so as to facilitate access to information
- Youth information programmes available at the national, sub-national, regional, and local level
- Programme accreditation system established

Key indicator

Existence of a national-level body tasked with youth information.

8.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To achieve an appropriate share and quality of content devoted to young people and aimed at young people in the media.

Specific problem

Low and inadequate share of youth-oriented content in the media, and under-representation of young people in the creation of such content.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Monitoring and quality recognition system established for youth-oriented media content
- Media space (i.e. types of media) defined for monitoring in terms of share of youth-oriented content
- Perception of young people improved through fewer negatively-worded reports
- Partnership established with national public broadcasters to ensure programming includes more high-quality youth-oriented content and that young people participate in its creation
- Young people given an opportunity to take part in decision-making about content and content creation
- Awareness raised amongst the media for providing information to young people as a target group

Key indicator

Share of content about young people, oriented at young people and created by young people in overall media content

8.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To provide young people with opportunities and knowledge to appropriately access new technologies and the Internet.

Specific problem

Lack of opportunities and knowledge to appropriately access new technologies and the Internet.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Unobstructed daily access to new technologies and the Internet made available to students at educational institutions
- Services provided at the municipal level that allow unobstructed free daily access to Internet-enabled computers for young people
- Relevant teaching staff at schools provided with requisite skills and training to transfer knowledge about the use of new technologies
- Appropriate free informal education programmes put in place for development of skills in the use of new technologies as part of services established at the municipal level

Key indicator

Percentage of municipalities where young people are able to appropriately access and use new technologies and the Internet.

8.1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To ensure efforts aimed at enhancing the quality, extent, and appropriacy of youth information are based on relevant evidence.

Specific problem

Lack of relevant data on the needs and behaviour patterns of young people to inform the development of appropriate programmes.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Young people recognised as a special category, as provided for under the Youth Law, by relevant institutions at the national, sub-national, and local levels
- Relevant institutions continuously monitor and forecast youth demographic indicators and include young people as a special indicator when monitoring other areas
- Well-developed standards developed for monitoring youth information that define which data is to be monitored and how and when, as well as how data are sampled and reported at the national, provincial, and local levels
- System established to provide support to research by independent institutions and organisations into the state of play and trends in youth information

Key indicator

Number of development policies and youth information plans that rely on the relevant data.

9. Youth Mobility

9.1 STRATEGIC GOAL

To increase the educational, labour, cultural, and tourist mobility of young people and cross-border collaboration between young people.

Strategic problem

A study of youth mobility commissioned in 2011 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports from the Institute of Sociological Research at Belgrade University's Faculty of Philosophy revealed that 76 percent of all young people have always resided in the same location. Those who did relocate did so primarily due to education (56.80 percent) or ease of access to housing (25.50 percent). The most mobile young people come from small towns (those with under 25,000 inhabitants), which also offer young people the most limited opportunities for education and employment. Young people chiefly gravitate towards larger regional centres with over 200,000 inhabitants, whilst the popularity of Belgrade as their final destination has been declining. Daily migrations are common, and are practised by one-third of the young people polled.

According to results of this 2011 survey, more than one-half of all young people (53.70 percent) had been travelled abroad in the one year before the poll was taken. Of those who had travelled abroad, 60 percent had done so on one occasion only. Foreign travel was limited to tourism (33.30 percent), visits to family members (12.2 percent), or recreation (9.10 percent). An exceptionally small number of young people reported attending a seminar, working, or volunteering abroad (fewer than one percent of those polled altogether). The survey, entitled 'Young People – Our Present', revealed that most young people aged between 19 and 35 (47 percent) were ready to make use of an opportunity to go abroad. This percentage is slightly lower than that seen in the 2009 CeSID study, where 54 percent of all young people had claimed to be prepared to leave Serbia due to the low standards of living and better opportunities for education abroad.

Although prepared to go abroad, young people were quite passive about actually doing so – as few as 6.30 percent had taken any concrete steps in this direction (i.e. contacted friends abroad or foreign embassies, made inquiries about the requirements of various programmes, etc.). The mobility survey carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Youth and Sports revealed that most respondents (47.5 percent) would use networks of family and friends to relocate abroad, whilst one-quarter (27.8

percent) would rely on institutional support from their schools/universities, companies, or embassies. The findings of this study also show that young people lack awareness of programmes that could allow them to experience mobility (such as Youth in Action, Tempus, Basileus, or Erasmus): on average, in 2011, 85 percent of the young people polled were completely ignorant of these programmes.

Expected outcomes of achieving the strategic goal

Conditions and opportunities created for unrestricted mobility of young people ready and motivated to gain experience and access education.

Key indicator

Percentage of young people temporarily relocating from their usual place of residence in order to experience other cultures, access education, attend extra-curricular activities, or find employment.

9.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To reduce economic, cultural, and administrative obstacles to youth mobility.

Specific problem

Lack of funds or support from family members and the broader environment, as well as procedural obstacles, all limit youth mobility.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Programmes and services providing financial support for mobility made available
- Programmes and services providing financial support for mobility needed to experience other cultures, access education, and attend extra-curricular activities recognised and used by young people
- Teaching staff and youth workers trained to understand the purpose and recognise the benefits of youth mobility and support and promote such mobility
- Parents and legal guardians recognise benefits of youth mobility and support and promote such mobility
- Institutional partnership established and co-ordination ensured of assistance provided to young people in navigating administrative procedures needed for mobility and in recognising lessons learned while relocated

Key indicator

Percentage of young people having travelled abroad and visited other locations in Serbia at least once per year.

9.1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To ensure most young people are ready and motivated to relocate for reasons of employment or education, and informed about how to do so.

Specific problem

Lack of support for labour mobility of young people and lack of opportunities for employment and education outside of their usual places of residence.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Labour mobility of young people recognised as key element in youth employability and included into employment support programmes
- System established to track, motivate, and support young people who relocate for reasons of employment

- Young people are able to access information and use available mobility services in support of decision-making
- Social and financial support system developed and made available to young people who relocate

Key indicator

Percentage of young job-seekers willing to relocate to find employment or access education.

9.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To ensure greater accessibility of international co-operation and youth mobility programmes participated in and/or organised by young people.

Specific problem

Lack of support for existing international co-operation and youth mobility programmes; lack of data on trends; lack of awareness amongst young people about opportunities and ways to take part.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- International mobility programmes and national mobility and international co-operation programmes incorporated into youth information programmes and media content and subject to organised analytical monitoring
- Diversity and sustainability ensured of programmes available to young people through financial support to institutions, services, and organisations of and for young people
- Parents, teaching staff, and youth workers take part in preparing, promoting, and executing mobility programmes together with institutions, services, and organisations of and for young people

Key indicator

Number of participants in mobility and international co-operation programmes.

9.1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To ensure that activities aimed at increasing the extent and adequacy of support to young migrants, tackling and preventing undesired migrations, and eliminating human trafficking, systematically address these problems and are available at most municipalities.

Specific problem

Lack of activities aimed at addressing problems faced by young refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum-seekers, and inadequate and insufficient support to programmes designed to prevent and address undesired migrations and eliminate human trafficking.

Expected outcomes of achieving the specific objective

- Activities undertaken by institutions, services, and organisations of and for young people in support of young migrants and to address and prevent undesired migrations recognised and provided with programme support
- Young migrants included in development and implementation of appropriate activities and promotion of human rights, freedom of movement, and non-discrimination
- Support system established for research by independent institutions and organisations into the state of play and needs of young refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum-seekers

Key indicator

Percentage of municipalities with activities in support of young migrants and those designed to address and prevent undesired migrations.

10. Youth Culture and Creativity

10.1 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:

Increased availability, adaptability and diversity of cultural contents and offers designed by and for young people and the creation of conditions for the development of youth creative potentials.

Strategic problem:

Approximately 11.7% of students occasionally engage in some form of literary creation, 10% are sometimes engaged in some form of musical and theatrical activities (acting, playing, dance, dance), 9.9% in some form of visual arts (drawing, painting, sculpting). These data show that more than 80% of high school students do not participate in cultural production, regardless of the level of participation. The data showing the trend that most high school students, as well as those from primary schools and from higher education institutions, do not participate in cultural public life - have serious consequences for the future of this social group and society as a whole. The consequences are not immediately visible but they are manifested over a long period of time varying in intensity and coming in various forms in almost all areas of social structure. Less than 1% of the budget of the Republic of Serbia is earmarked for culture and overall cultural creativity. Youth creativity and culture and culture tailored to youth make only a small part of that already small amount.⁴⁹

Expected results of the realization of strategic objective:

There are accessible and modernized (updated) programs at all levels supporting the development of creativity in young people and their participation in the creation of cultural contents and cultural participation based on the interests and rights of young people and tailored to their needs.

Main indicator:

The number of young people participating in the creation of cultural contents and the percentage of young people using the available cultural contents.

10.1.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

There are programs and institutions and associations at all levels which support the development of youth creativity and youth participation in the creation of cultural contents.

Specific problem:

Limited space and possibilities for creative action and participation of young people in the creation of cultural offer.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Increased number of programs with young people participating in the creation of contents
- Cultural institutions involving young people in the preparation and realization of cultural contents
- Increased number of youth and youth-oriented associations encouraging youth creativity

⁴⁹ S. Mrđa, *Cultural Life and the Needs of High School and University Students, Belgrade 2011*

- Financial platform for the realization of youth participation in youth and tailored to youth culture

Main indicator:

The percentage of programs and institutions and associations that support and generate the development of creativity of young people and their participation in the creation of cultural contents.

10.1.2 Specific objective:

Presentation of cultural contents is tailored to young people, yielding their increased participation in the creation and consumption of cultural contents.

Specific problem:

Presentation of cultural events is not adapted for youth, reducing the possibility of their cultural participation.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Increased number of cultural contents that are presented to young people in an interesting way
- Implementation of a media campaign promoting cultural participation
- Increased number of young people as consumers of cultural contents

Main indicator:

The number of municipalities offering cultural contents recognized and consumed by young people

10.1.3 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE:

Youth cultural policy, supporting all factors of youth and for youth cultural participation, is customized and applied.

Specific problem:

Low level of harmonization and networking of system support to all cultural participation actors with the needs of young people.

Expected results of the realization of specific objective:

- Existing coordination, networking and cooperation at all levels, in all institutions, associations and private sector for the purpose of providing system support to all cultural participation actors and for young people

Main indicator:

The number of service providers who have realized mutual cooperation in providing system support to cultural participation of and for young people.