

Pursuant to Article 10 of the Law on Youth (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 50/11 and 116/22 – amending law), and Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 30/18),

the Government hereby adopts the following

YOUTH STRATEGY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2023 TO 2030

1. INTRODUCTION

The legal basis for enacting the Youth Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2023 to 2030 (hereinafter referred to as: the Strategy) is found in the provision of Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 30/18 – hereinafter referred to as: the Law), which stipulates that the document of public policies at the republic level is adopted by the Government, unless otherwise prescribed by a special law. The provision of Article 10, paragraph 2 of that law defines public policy documents, including the strategy and action plan.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports (hereinafter referred to as: the MoYS) has launched an initiative to revise the National Youth Strategy for the period from 2015 to 2025 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 22/15) (hereinafter referred to as: the NYS), i.e., drafting a new public policy document, as the competent proponent, in accordance with Article 29, paragraph 1 of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia.

By adopting the NYS, the Government determined the basic principles, directions and expected results of action of all youth policy actors towards improving the social position of young people and creating conditions for exercising the rights and interests of young people in all areas. For the purpose of its implementation, the Government has adopted an Action Plan for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy for the period from 2015 to 2017 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 70/15) and an Action Plan for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy for the period from 2018 to 2020 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 99/18), which lists all stakeholders and participants in the implementation process and defines the necessary funds to achieve the set goals.

The provisions of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 30/18) stipulate the obligation to harmonise the laws and bylaws governing the procedure of adopting public policy documents with the provisions of that law within two years from the date of entry into force of that law, as well as to harmonise the valid public policy documents with that law during the first amendments to those documents.

Given that the adoption of a new action plan would be based on a public policy document that is not in line with the provisions of that law, it was concluded that the revision of the current NYS would represent a better application of the principles of public policy management, better adaptation to dynamic development and would contribute to improving performance implementation and evaluation.

In determining the need to revise the NYS or develop a new youth strategy, the MoYS also considered the current process of monitoring the implementation of the NYS and action plans, conclusions and recommendations from the report, Survey on the position and needs of youth in Serbia, international public policy for youth and regulations governing the planning system in the Republic of Serbia. Consultations were also held with youth associations, youth associations and their federations. The Government's Work Plan for 2021 envisages the revision of the NYS and the development of the accompanying Action Plan for its implementation. Also, at the 14th session of the Youth Council, held on 16 March 2021, the Minister of Youth and Sports announced the intensive work of all youth policy actors in 2021 on drafting normative acts, including activities on updating the NSM and drafting the corresponding Action Plan, and at the 17th session of the Youth Council, held on 17 June 2021, the Information on the beginning of the implementation of the NYS revision procedure was adopted.

Support for the development of the Strategy was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (hereinafter referred to as: UNICEF) through the engagement of consultants who, in cooperation with stakeholders, performed ex-post and ex-ante analysis of the NYS for the period 2015-2020. Also, support was provided by the Global Programme "Migration for Sustainable Development – Phase III" of the International Organisation for Migration (hereinafter referred to as: IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as: UNDP), which is funded through the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as: SDC), through the preparation of a comparative analysis of the NYS and international and national strategies/programmes in the field of youth policy.

During the five-year implementation of the NYS, changes have occurred in the legal system of the Republic of Serbia, as a result of legislative activity. In addition to the need to harmonise with the regulations and acts of public policies of the Republic of Serbia that are relevant to youth policy, there is a need to make a customised application of relevant international strategic documents. A number of strategies that are important for young people have already been adopted after the adoption of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 30/18), the Decree on Public Policy Management Methodology, Analysis of Effects and Content of Individual Public Policy Documents ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 8/19) and the Decree on Methodology of Medium-Term Planning ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 8/19). In addition to national strategies adopted in the last few years, this is a period of adoption of new international, global and European, strategies, which have an impact on youth policy in our country: European Union Youth Strategy for 2019-2027,¹ Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030², Youth 2030: United Nations Strategy for Youth,³ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development⁴ and Declaration on Youth Work (joint strategic document of the Council of Europe and the European Commission).⁵

¹ Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, OJ C 456, 18.12.2018, p. 1–22 available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2018:456:FULL>

² Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030, Resolution CM/Res (2020)2 on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030 (Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 22 January 2020 at the 1365th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies) available at <https://rm.coe.int/0900001680998935>

³ Youth 2030: The United Nations Strategy on Youth, available at https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

The COVID-19 pandemic (hereinafter referred to as: the COVID-19 pandemic) has also affected and still affects changes in the lives of young people. This is one of the reasons why the Strategy also addresses issues related to youth activities in emergency situations.

Analysis of options for achieving goals

When it comes to identifying and analysing possible options for further development and implementation of youth policy, it is important to note that the ex-ante analysis is carried out in the middle of the implementation of the current National Youth Strategy 2015-2025, so the time for implementation of defined priorities has not expired⁶. Bearing in mind the strategic and legislative changes of the context at the national and international level, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of certain activities, the Ministry of Youth and Sports assessed that a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy is necessary as well as defining next steps related to youth policy, although it has not expired. Accordingly, and in order to accept the best solution, the following options were considered:

- 1) Status quo option (existing sectoral strategy), hereinafter referred to as: option 1
- 2) Revision of the National Youth Strategy – option 2
- 3) New Youth Strategy 2022-2030⁷ – option 3

Option 1 – Continue implementation of the existing sectoral NYS (Status quo option, option no. 1). The implementation of option 1 has given some progress in key indicators and it is expected that continued implementation would also contribute to the achievement of defined results. This option was assessed as effective, as it would not require additional financial resources for policy making, as is the case with option 2, which involves extensive revisions of measures, and option 3, which involves initiating the process of drafting a new National Youth Strategy.

The greatest challenge with this option is that the implementation of this option can contribute to the achievement of defined results, but the current context and needs of target groups have changed. Accordingly, the relevance criterion was assessed negatively, because this option does not imply compliance with the new strategic national and international documents, as well as because it does not offer enough space to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges, related to the lack of capacity of youth policy actors, insufficiently developed cross-sectoral cooperation and inaccurately defined indicators for monitoring the effects, further complicate the establishment of effective measures and sustainable mechanisms for the improvement of youth policy.

Option 2 – Conduct a significant revision of the existing Strategy in the segment of measures and activities based on the Law on Planning System. Option 2 allows for a significant revision of the defined measures and activities and could partially provide a shift in relevance. Taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other strategic documents, this option

⁴ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1 General Assembly Distr.: General 21 October 2015, available at https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

⁵ The 3rd European Youth Work Convention, available at

https://www.eywc2020.eu/downloads/doctrine/WebforumVeranstaltungenWebsiteBundle:Media-file-54/EN_3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf

⁶ Ex-ante analysis, p. 81, available at <https://www.mos.gov.rs/storage/2022/02/ex-ante-analiza-nsm.pdf>

⁷ The proposed duration of the Strategy is in accordance with international documents, primarily the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development from 2015 to 2030 and the Council of Europe's Youth Sector Strategy until 2030.

would enable revision of the implementation of measures and activities, which would ensure better implementation of the NYS, but revised measures and activities would remain within the already defined priorities (strategic goals).

Also, additional budget funds should be allocated for the process of revision of measures, but this would ensure more efficient implementation of budget funds. However, even in that domain, the challenge of insufficient monitoring of funds spent and achieved effects would remain.

Option 3 – Adopt a new Youth Strategy for the period from 2022 to 2030. Option 3 involves initiating the process of drafting and adopting a new strategy, including a consultation process, identifying key issues and defining new priorities. This option is marked as relevant, effective and sustainable. In other words, only by choosing this option, one can fully respond to the changed context, which occurred primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also due to the emergence of new strategic, national and international documents. The new situation has brought new challenges in all sectors, which is why not only measures and activities for implementation, but also the main priorities must be considered. This will ensure the creation of effective measures, which will directly respond to the emerging challenges and needs of target groups.

If we talk about efficiency, similar investments are necessary, similarly to option 2, in order to ensure the process of creating a new public policy. This is, above all, a matter of costs related to the consultation process and the involvement of all stakeholders. In this way, it can be ensured that budget funds are invested more efficiently in the newly created needs, while, on the other hand, the challenges related to monitoring the realised funds can be eliminated. When it comes to sustainability, this option provides the opportunity to create a better system for monitoring the effects of results, improving the capacity of youth policy actors and supporting the development of cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels. One challenge certainly remains – how to respond to areas that are not under the direct jurisdiction of the MoYS, but here, unlike options 1 and 2, these risks can be identified and attempts can be made to create measures that will address them.

In accordance with the results of the analysis according to the criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability, option 3, i.e., adoption of a new strategy for youth in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2022-2030 was assessed as optimal.

In accordance with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia,⁸ based on the conducted ex-post and ex-ante analysis⁹ of the evaluation of the performance of the implementation of the NYS for the period 2015-2020 and action plans for its implementation, various surveys on the position and needs of young people and comparative analyses and studies, monitoring the achievement of youth policy indicators and achievement of sustainable development goals of special importance for young people (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Eurostat/European Union Statistical Office), the key results in the current period of NYS implementation are reviewed and the directions of further development of youth policy are proposed, which should be an integral part of the new Strategy. The basic and essential changes that the Strategy should provide concern, first of all, the following issues:

⁸ The Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 30/18).

⁹ The analyses are available at: <https://www.mos.gov.rs/storage/2022/02/ex-post-analiza-nsm.pdf> and <https://www.mos.gov.rs/storage/2022/02/ex-ante-analiza-nsm.pdf>.

1) harmonisation of the content of the Strategy with the provisions of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia;

2) harmonisation of the Strategy with other public policy acts and planning documents that are relevant for youth policy at the national and international level;

3) harmonisation of goals, measures and key performance indicators of the Strategy with the results of analysis of the effects of its implementation so far, Survey on the position and needs of young people and other relevant research on youth at national and international level, as well as the need to address youth work conditions for exercising the rights and interests of young people in all areas;

4) improving the implementation, monitoring the implementation, evaluating the effects and reporting on the achieved effects of the Strategy.

All terms used in the Strategy are used gender-neutral.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the Law on Youth (hereinafter referred to as: the LoY) and the NYS, as a basis for drafting the Strategy, other legal acts and public policy documents are relevant, which together form the framework for the development of youth policy. Youth policy is a cross-sectoral issue, and there are a number of laws and strategies relevant to youth at the national and international levels.

2.1 Laws and documents of public policies in the Republic of Serbia

After 2015, a large number of public policy and law documents were adopted, or the existing ones were amended and relevant to the youth sector. In addition, other laws and public policy documents important to young people, adopted before the adoption of the NYS, are in force. During the development of the Strategy, key regulations and public policy documents were taken into account, which contribute to the creation of conditions for improving the social position of young people, their organisation, social action and achievement of potential for personal and social well-being. The most important laws are related to the following areas: education at all levels, national qualifications framework, science and research, pupil and student standard, student organisation, health, social protection, work and employment, volunteering, family, culture, public information and media, justice, non-discrimination, especially for persons with disabilities, gender equality, migration and associations.

1. *The Law on Fundamentals of the Education System* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 88/17, 27/18 – amending law, 10/19, 6/20 and 129/21) is a general, systemic law which regulates pre-university education and upbringing, i.e., the basics of the system of pre-school, primary and secondary education and upbringing and adult education, namely: principles, goals, outcomes, standards of education and upbringing, knowledge, skills and attitudes (competencies), manner and conditions for performing the activities of preschool education, primary and secondary education, types of education programmes, establishment, organisation, financing and supervision of the work of educational institutions, as well as other issues of importance for education.

2. The Law on Secondary Education and Upbringing (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 55/13, 101/17, 27/18 – amending law, 6/20, 52/21 and 129/21) is a special law which regulate issues of secondary education and upbringing, among other things, goals and general outcomes of secondary education and upbringing, interdisciplinary competencies for the end of secondary education, activities of secondary education and upbringing, types of secondary schools, school development plan, school programme which includes: additional support in education, program of cultural activities of the school, programme of free activities, program of career guidance and counselling of students, program of environmental protection, programme of protection against violence, abuse and neglect and programmes of prevention of other forms of risky behaviour, program of school sports, program of cooperation with local self-government, program of cooperation with the family, program of excursions, program of study visits, programme of safety and health at work, student organisations at school, as well as other issues of importance for the secondary education and upbringing.
3. *The Law on Dual Education* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 101/17 and 6/20) regulates the manner of achieving dual education in the system of secondary vocational education and upbringing, the rights and obligations of students, parents/guardians, schools and employer, material and financial security of students, as well as other issues. One of the principles of dual education is career guidance and employability – the development of career management skills and greater employment opportunities, and among the goals is the development of entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity of each individual for his professional and career development.
4. *The Law on Higher Education* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 88/17, 73/18, 27/18 – amending law, 67/19, 6/20 – amending law, 11/21 – authentic interpretation and 67/21 – amending law), regulates the system of higher education, conditions and manner of performing higher education activities, bases of financing higher education, as well as other issues of importance for performing this activity. Among other issues, it regulates the issue of the Student Conference of Universities and the Student Conference of Academies and Higher Education Institutions, the Student Parliament, the rights and obligations of students and the accreditation of institutions.
5. *The Law on Adult Education* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 55/13, 88/17 – amending law, 27/18 – amending law and 6/20 – amending law) regulates adult education and lifelong learning as part of unified education system in the Republic of Serbia, namely: principles and goals, competencies, qualifications and qualification standard, activities in adult education, implementation of adult education, plans and programmes of adult education, participants and candidates and other issues of importance for adult education. Non-formal adult education, in terms of this law, is organised adult learning processes based on special programmes, in order to acquire knowledge, values, attitudes, abilities and skills aimed at personal development of adults, work and employment and social activities, and informal adult learning, in terms of this law, is the process of independent acquisition of knowledge, values, attitudes, abilities and skills, in everyday life, as well as in the work and social environment.
6. *The Law on Dual Model of Studies in Higher Education* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 66/19) regulates the content and manner of realisation of the dual model of studies in higher education, mutual rights and obligations of students, higher education institutions and employers, material and financial security of students,

as well as other issues of importance for the implementation of studies according to the dual model.

7. *The Law on the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Serbia* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 27/18, 6/20 and 129/21 – amending law) is one of the key laws for youth policy. It aims, among other things, to ensure the recognition and recognition of non-formal education and non-formal learning, regulates the composition and competence of the National Qualifications Framework Council (hereinafter referred to as: NQF) and other bodies, defines qualification levels, qualification, qualification standards, recognised organised of public recognition activities (hereinafter referred to as: PROAEA), promotes key and cross-curricular competencies and lifelong learning.
8. *The Law on Science and Research* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 49/19) is based, *inter alia*, on the principles of gender equality in science and research, as well as in decision-making bodies, connection with the education system, and especially with the higher education system. education, openness to international scientific and technological cooperation, concern for sustainable development and environmental protection.
9. *The Law on Pupil and Student Standards* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 18/10, 55/13, 27/18 – amending law and 10/19) regulates the provision of additional conditions for more accessible, efficient and quality education and upbringing of pupils and students. It aims to create material, cultural, social, health and other conditions that encourage the acquisition of education, social inclusion and all-round development of the personality of students. It determines the rights, obligations and responsibilities of pupils and students, including the right to cultural, artistic, sports and recreational activities and information.
10. *The Law on Student Organisation* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 67/21) regulates the position, area of activity, powers, organisation and manner of financing of student representative bodies and student organisations, as well as the framework for achieving common interests of students at the national level through work student conferences and national student organisations. The powers of student conferences and the student parliament and the participation of students in the bodies of the higher education institution are defined. In order to perform student activities, improve conditions for personal and social development of students according to their needs and abilities and include students in the social life of the academic community and their information, associations may be established, in accordance with this law and the law governing the establishment and legal status of associations. An association whose membership consists exclusively of students of one higher education institution may acquire the status of a student organisation. The establishment of a national association of student organisations has also been arranged.
11. *The Law on Health Care* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 25/19) regulates, *inter alia*, issues of social health care, providing health care to groups of the population exposed to increased risk of disease, health care of persons in connection with

prevention, suppression, early detection and treatment of diseases and conditions of greater public health importance, as well as health care of socially endangered population, under equal conditions, on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Social care includes children up to the age of 18, pupils and students until the end of the prescribed schooling, and no later than the age of 26, in accordance with the law, as well as young unemployed persons who are not in school, and up to the age of 26 of life. The local self-government cooperates with humanitarian and professional organisations, unions and associations, in the development of health care.

12. *The Law on Social Protection* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 24/11 and 117/22 – Constitutional Court) regulates issues of importance for youth policy, and above all, the issue of material security of individuals and families, exercising the right to social protection services, creating equal opportunities for social life and social inclusion, promotion of family, gender and intergenerational solidarity, prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation. A minor (hereinafter referred to as: child)¹⁰ and an adult up to the age of 26 (hereinafter referred to as: young person, youth, i.e., youth) is a user, when due to family and other life circumstances, his health, safety and development are endangered, that is, if it is certain that without the support of the social protection system it cannot reach the optimal level of development. The law regulates the procedure for the use of social protection services, conditions for obtaining material assistance, volunteer work and training of volunteer workers in social protection institutions and other issues.
13. *The Family Law* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 18/05, 72/11 and 6/15) regulates various aspects of family, marriage, maternity and paternity, parental care, adoption of children, foster care, guardianship, protection from domestic violence. According to this law, coming of age is reached at the age of 18. Everyone is obliged to be guided by the best interests of the child in all activities concerning the child. The law also regulates the obligations of the state towards the child. The state has an obligation to take all necessary measures to protect the child from neglect, from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and from any kind of exploitation, to respect, protect and promote the rights of the child, to provide protection to the child without parental care, whenever is it possible, etc.
14. *The Labour Law* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia” Nos. 24/05, 61/05, 54/09, 32/13, 75/14, 13/17 – Constitutional Court, 113/17 and 95/18 – authentic interpretation) regulates rights, obligations and responsibilities from the employment relationship, i.e., on the basis of work. Employees under the age of 18 and an employed person with a disability are entitled to special protection, in accordance with the law. The law prohibits direct and indirect discrimination against jobseekers on any grounds, including gender and age. The establishment of employment and protection of employees is regulated, especially the protection of youth, so that people under the age of 18 cannot work in certain jobs, nor can they work longer than 35 hours a week. An employment relationship can be established with a person who is at least 15 years old and meets other conditions for working in certain jobs, established by law, i.e., the rulebook on the organization and systematization of jobs. A working relationship with a person younger than 18 years of age can be established with the written consent of parents, adoptive parents or guardians,

¹⁰ The definition of the child can be indirectly devised from Article 37 of the Constitution and Article 11 of the Family Law, which envisage that majority is acquired upon reaching the age of 18, so on that basis it can be concluded that every person under the age of 18 is considered a child. Child is a person younger than 18 years of age.

if such work does not endanger his health, morals and education, that is, if such work is not prohibited by law. A person under the age of 18 can establish an employment relationship only on the basis of the findings of the competent health authority, which establishes that he is capable of performing the tasks for which he establishes the employment relationship and that such tasks are not harmful to his health. There are also jobs that cannot be performed by an employee under the age of 18, as well as jobs for employees between the ages of 18 and 21 that can only be performed based on the findings of the competent health authority confirming that such work is not harmful for the employee's health.

15. *The Law on Employment and Unemployment Insurance* ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 36/09, 88/10, 38/15, 113/17 and 49/21) regulates employment as informing about employment opportunities and conditions, employment mediation in the country and abroad, professional orientation and counselling on career planning, implementation of active employment policy measures. It also regulates the rights and obligations of the unemployed and the employer, support in professional orientation and career planning counselling, support for self-employment, additional education and training, employment in public works, unemployment insurance, employment abroad.
16. *The Law on Volunteering* ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 36/10) regulates issues of interest to young volunteers, from understanding the concepts related to volunteering, the principles of volunteering, volunteering contracts, to the rights and obligations of volunteers and volunteering organisers. The preparation of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Volunteering is in progress.
17. *The Law on Associations* ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 51/09, 99/11 – amending law and 44/18 – amending law) is of importance for youth associations, and it regulates the establishment and legal status of associations, entry and deletion from the register, membership and bodies of the association, status changes and termination of the association, as well as other issues important for the work of the association. Association, in the sense of this law, is a voluntary and non-governmental non-profit organisation based on the freedom of association of several natural or legal persons, established for the purpose of achieving and promoting a certain common or general goal and interest, which are not prohibited by the Constitution or the law. The association can join alliances and other associations in the country and abroad. Any person can become a member of the association under the same conditions established by the articles of association. A natural person can be a member of the association regardless of age, in accordance with this law and the articles of association. The association keeps records of its members.
18. *The Law on Endowments and Foundations* ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", Nos. 88/10, 99/11 - amending law and 44/18 - amending law) regulates the establishment and legal position of endowments and foundations, property, internal organization, registration and deletion from the register, activity, status changes, supervision of the work of endowments and foundations, cessation of work, other issues of importance for their work, as well as the legal position and operation of representative offices of foreign endowments and foundations. Article 3 of the Law defines that activities aimed at the promotion and protection of human, civil and minority rights, the promotion of democratic values, European integration and international understanding, sustainable development, regional development, gender equality, social and health improvement are considered to be the general purpose of the foundation and endowment. protection,

promoting and improving culture and public information, promoting and popularizing science, education, art and amateur sports, improving the position of people with disabilities, caring for children and young people, helping the elderly, environmental protection, fighting corruption, consumer protection, animal protection, humanitarian and other activities with which endowments and foundations achieve common goals or interests.

19. *The Law on Cooperatives* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 112/15) regulates the legal status of cooperatives, their establishment, management and bodies of cooperatives, acquisition and termination of cooperative status, property and operations of cooperatives, funds, profit distribution, termination of cooperatives, as and other issues important for the position and work of the cooperative. The law is important, above all, for student-youth cooperatives and young farmers.
20. *The Law on Free Legal Aid* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 87/18) regulates free legal aid for citizens as its beneficiaries and the ways of its implementation and provision. Free legal aid consists of providing legal advice, drafting submissions, advocacy and defence, and, among other things, is provided to children and young people whose social services have been terminated until the age of 26, then to a person who enjoys legal protection from domestic violence, persons with disabilities, refugees, displaced persons, etc.
21. *The Law on Protection of Personal Data* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 87/18) This law regulates the right to protection of natural persons in connection with the processing of personal data and the free flow of such data, the principles of processing, the rights of persons to whom the data refer, obligations handlers and processors of personal data, code of conduct, transfer of personal data to other countries and international organizations, supervision over the implementation of this law, legal remedies, liability and penalties in case of violation of the rights of natural persons in connection with the processing of personal data, as well as special cases of processing. The law ensures the protection of the basic rights and freedoms of physical persons, especially their right to protection of personal data. The provisions of special laws governing the processing of personal data must be in accordance with this law.
22. *The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 22/09 and 52/21) defines the concept of discrimination, indirect discrimination, segregation, forms and cases of discrimination, emphasises the general prohibition of discrimination and protection procedures against discrimination. Prohibition of discrimination in the field of work is important for youth policy, among others, prohibition of discrimination of students or trainees, volunteers, persons in vocational training, etc., prohibition of discrimination based on age, sex, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, health status and other personal characteristics, including religion and ethnicity.
23. *The Law on Prevention of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 33/06 and 13/16) regulates the general regime of prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability, special cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities, protection of persons exposed to discrimination and

measures undertake to promote equality and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. From the point of view of youth policy, the Law is important for an inclusive approach in activities, youth associations, youth associations and organised support of young people in preventing discrimination.

24. *The Law on the Use of Sign Language* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 38/15) regulates the use of sign language, i.e., the right to learn sign language and the right to use the services of sign language interpreters, the way to use the services of sign language interpreters, measures to encourage the application and improvement of the use of sign language through information and education in sign language and other matters of importance for the use of sign language. The right to use sign language implies the right of a deaf person to learn sign language and the right to use the services of a sign language interpreter. The right to learn sign language is exercised by another person in addition to the deaf person. Educational work in education and training institutions and studies at a higher education institution can be carried out in sign language for deaf people, in accordance with their needs, abilities and possibilities. A deaf person has the right to use sign language during employment and work for an employer, namely: during job interviews, when concluding and cancelling an employment contract or other non-employment contract, professional training and development, volunteering, during work or participation in the work of the employer on any basis while there is an objective need for such service and in cases in which the employees of the employer are informed of information affecting the work process and their position. The law establishes measures to encourage the use of sign language on electronic media and measures to encourage the use of sign language through telecommunication services.
25. *The Law on Gender Equality* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 52/21) regulates, *inter alia*, measures and policies for achieving and promoting gender equality, the institutional framework for achieving gender equality, monitoring the application of the law and other issues of importance for achieving and promoting gender equality. Measures for achieving and promoting gender equality include creating equal opportunities for participation and equal treatment of women and men in the fields of labour, employment and self-employment, social and health care, education, upbringing, science and technological development, information and communication technologies and information society, defence and security, transport, energy, environmental protection, culture, public information, sports, governance and oversight bodies and their bodies, political action and public affairs, sexual and reproductive health and rights, access to goods and services. The law also regulates measures for the suppression and prevention of all forms of gender-based violence, violence against women and domestic violence.
26. *The Law on Culture* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 72/09, 13/16, 30/16, 6/20, 47/21 and 78/21) regulates the general interest in culture, the manner of achieving the general interest and performing cultural activities, rights, obligations and responsibilities at all levels, and the purpose of the law is, *inter alia*, to encourage young talents in the field of cultural and artistic creativity, to create conditions for encouraging independent cultural and artistic creativity, to encourage amateur cultural and artistic creativity, children's creativity and creativity for children and youth in culture, creativity of persons with disabilities, persons from socially vulnerable groups, encouraging the development of creative industries, encouraging the accessibility of all cultural content to persons with disabilities.

27. *The Law on Public Information and Media* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 83/14, 58/15 and 12/16 – authentic interpretation) regulates the manner of exercising freedom of public information, which includes in particular the freedom to collect, publish and receive information, freedom of formation and expression of ideas and opinions, freedom of printing and distribution of newspapers and freedom of production, provision and publication of audio and audio-visual media services, freedom of dissemination of information and ideas via the Internet and other platforms, as well as freedom of publishing media and public information activities. In order to protect the free development of the minor’s personality, special care must be taken that the content of the media and the manner of distribution of the media do not harm the moral, intellectual, emotional or social development of the minor.
28. *The Law on Public Media Services* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 83/14, 103/15, 108/16, 161/20, 129/21 and 142/22) regulates the work of public media services, whose task is to meet the needs of informing all parts of society without discrimination, taking into account especially socially vulnerable groups such as children, youth and the elderly, minority groups, persons with disabilities, socially and health endangered, etc. The public service has an obligation to work on media literacy of the population, improvement of general education, health education and education related to environmental protection, development of culture and artistic creativity, nurturing human, moral, artistic and creative values, meeting entertainment, recreational, sports and other needs of citizens.
29. *The Law on Migration Management* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 107/12) regulates the collection, analysis, processing, organisation, exchange, storage and protection of data relevant to migration management, determination of indicators, data relevant to migration management, establishment of a single system and other mechanisms for data exchange in the field of migration, determining and proposing goals and priorities of migration policy, proposing and taking measures for implementation of migration policy and coordination of bodies performing activities related to migration management, as a contribution to other legally established mechanisms in the field of migration. It is regulated that returnees on the basis of readmission agreements, who are not able to provide accommodation, are provided with temporary collective accommodation immediately upon return.
30. *The Law on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 87/18) regulates disaster risk reduction, prevention and strengthening of resilience and readiness of individuals and communities to respond to the consequences of disasters, protection and rescue of people, material, cultural and other assets, rights and obligations of citizens, associations, legal entities, bodies of local self-government units, autonomous provinces and the Republic of Serbia, management of emergency situations, functioning of civil protection, early warning, notification and warning, international cooperation, inspection supervision and others issues of importance for the organisation and functioning of the disaster risk reduction and emergency management system. This Law is important for young people, because it prescribes the rights and obligations of various actors (including young people) who participate in reducing the risk of disasters, as well as managing emergency situations. Also, when it comes to civil protection, the role of young people is important in the elements of personal and mutual protection, when implementing civil protection measures and involving them in the work of civil protection units.

31. *The Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 24/18) regulates all asylum issues: asylum procedure, who are asylum seekers, the difference between asylum seekers and refugees, the right to protection, prohibition of discrimination on any grounds, the principle of gender equality and sensitivity, etc. The issue of minors, i.e., foreigners under the age of 18, minors unaccompanied by parents or guardians, minors separated from their parents, is regulated separately. It is important that young people are informed about that, since it is usually about the age group to which they themselves belong and the support that young asylum seekers can provide to youth associations and for young people.
32. *The Criminal Code* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 85/05, 88/05, 107/05, 72/09, 111/09, 121/12, 104/13, 108/14, 94/16 and 35/19) regulates the issue of various criminal offenses and penalties for certain types of criminal offenses, which can contribute to informing young people and preventing certain behaviours. Criminal sanctions are penalties, warning measures, security measures and educational measures. In this law, a child is a person who has not reached the age of fourteen. The law also defines what measures can be imposed on a minor or gives an explanation of these terms. A minor is a person who has reached the age of fourteen and has not reached the age of eighteen, and a person is considered to be a minor who has not reached the age of eighteen. A younger minor is a person who has reached the age of fourteen and has not reached the age of sixteen, and an older minor is a person who has reached the age of sixteen and has not reached the age of eighteen. Prescribed educational measures and other criminal sanctions may be imposed on a juvenile under the conditions regulated by the *Law on Juvenile Delinquents and Criminal Protection of Juveniles* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 85/05).
33. *The Law on Misdemeanours* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 65/13, 13/16, 98/16 – Constitutional Court, 91/19 – amending law, 91/19 and 112/22 – Constitutional Court) regulates: the concept of misdemeanours, conditions for misdemeanour liability, conditions for prescribing and applying misdemeanour sanctions, system of sanctions, misdemeanour procedure, issuing a misdemeanour order, decision enforcement procedure, register of sanctions and register of unpaid fines and other monetary amounts. The provisions on minors have been specially elaborated. No misdemeanour proceedings may be conducted against a minor who, at the time he committed the misdemeanour, did not reach the age of 14 (child). A minor from the age of fourteen to eighteen who commits a misdemeanour may be charged with a misdemeanour, but not a minor. Only educational measures may be imposed on a juvenile who has reached the age of fourteen at the time of the commission of the misdemeanour and has not reached the age of sixteen (younger juvenile). A juvenile who has reached the age of sixteen at the time of the offense and has not reached the age of eighteen (an older juvenile) may be sentenced to an educational measure, penalty points or punishment. If it is necessary due to the nature of the offense, a protective measure may be imposed on the juvenile with an educational measure or punishment. The sentence of juvenile imprisonment for an older juvenile may be imposed exceptionally, taking into account the nature of the misdemeanour, personal characteristics and behaviour of the juvenile. The sentence of juvenile imprisonment imposed on an older juvenile may not exceed 30 days.
34. *The Law on Personal Income Tax* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 24/01, 80/02, 80/02 – amending law, 135/04, 62/06, 65/06 - corrigendum, 31/09, 44/09,

18/10, 50/11, 91/11 – Constitutional Court, 7/12 - adjusted dinar currency, 93/12, 114/12 - Constitutional Court, 8/13 - adjusted dinar currency, 47/13, 48/13 – corrigendum, 108/13, 6/14 - adjusted dinar currency, 57/14, 68/14 – corrigendum, 5/15 - adjusted dinar currency, 112/15, 5/16 - adjusted dinar currency, 7/17 - adjusted dinar currency, 113/17, 7/18 - adjusted dinar currency, 95/18, 4/19 - adjusted dinar currency, 86/19, 5/20 - adjusted dinar currency, 153/20, 156/20 - adjusted dinar currency, 6/21 - adjusted dinar currency, 44/21, 118/21, 132/21 - adjusted dinar currency and 10/22 - adjusted dinar currency) governs the taxation of citizens' income and tax exemptions and reliefs that can only be introduced by this law. The law regulates non-taxable amounts of student loans and scholarships and wages and contracted benefits and other income which are carried out by performing temporary and occasional jobs on the basis of a contract concluded directly with the employer, as well as on the basis of a contract concluded through a youth or student cooperative, except for a person up to the age of 26, if they are studying in secondary, higher and higher education institutions. Also, no personal income tax is paid on income received from compensations and rewards for the work of convicted persons and juvenile offenders, in accordance with the law regulating the enforcement of criminal sanctions, rewards for pupils and students for the results achieved during schooling and education, as well as those won at international competitions and competitions within the educational system, reimbursement of volunteering costs incurred by the volunteer, in accordance with the law governing volunteering, etc.

In addition to the law, the following national strategies are also relevant for the development of the Strategy:

- 1) *The Employment Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 18/21 and 36/21 – corrigendum) has a general goal of establishing stable and sustainable employment growth based on knowledge and dignified work, and one of the measures in the Strategy refers to improving the position of young people on the labour market. The proposed directions for improving the position of young people on the labour market refer to: connecting young people with the labour market already within the framework of formal education, improving the regulatory framework for the forms of work that young people most often undertake, formalizing work practices, a systemic approach to entrepreneurship of young people, especially young women, additional education and training, establishment of the “Guarantee for Youth” programme, greater financial investments from the budget of the Republic of Serbia for youth employment. In the Strategy in question, young people are defined in accordance with the LoY, i.e., as persons aged 15 to 30. The Action Plan for the period from 2021 to 2023 for the implementation of the Employment Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2026 was also adopted.
- 2) *The Strategy for Education and Upbringing Development in the Republic of Serbia by the year 2030* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 63/21) has two general goals, as well as several specific goals within each general goal. General goal 1 refers to pre-university education and upbringing (increased quality of teaching and learning, equity and accessibility of pre-university education and upbringing and strengthened educational function of educational institutions), and general goal 2 to higher education (improved accessibility, quality, relevance and equity) higher education). To achieve these goals, measures are planned to improve teaching and learning, quality assurance systems and the development of digital education in pre-university education and

upbringing, as well as to improve its accessibility, equity and openness and to improve the conditions for lifelong learning. When it comes to higher education, measures are envisaged to improve the quality of supply, human resources, outcomes and relevance of higher education, as well as to improve its coverage and equity, as well as measures related to digitalisation.

- 3) *The Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2025 “Power of Knowledge”* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 10/21) defines as a general goal that the scientific-technological and innovation system contributes to the accelerated development of the Republic of Serbia, through improving the quality and efficiency of science, technological development and innovation and further integration into the European Research Area. The specific goals are aimed at providing the necessary conditions for dynamic development of science, technological development and innovation, increasing the efficiency of using the resources of the scientific research system, nurturing the top quality of science and technological development and strengthening the competitiveness of the economy. The strategy envisages measures related to the development of human resources, which also include measures related to the inclusion of young researchers in scientific research.
- 4) *The Strategy for the Development of Digital Skills in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 21/20) has as its general goal the improvement of digital knowledge and skills of all citizens, including members of vulnerable social groups, to enable monitoring the development of information and communication technologies in all areas and meeting the needs of the economy and the labour market. Specific goals also apply to young people and include the improvement of digital competencies in the education system, improvement of basic and advanced digital skills for all citizens, development of digital skills in relation to the needs of the labour market and lifelong learning of experts in the field of information and communication technologies (hereinafter referred to as ICT), for which the measure of monitoring the number of young people is foreseen, especially women who are being educated and trained for ICT occupations.
- 5) *The Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 96/19) aims to use artificial intelligence in the function of economic growth, employment and better quality of life. Within the measures for achieving the goals of development of education, science and innovation and economy related to artificial intelligence, it is planned, among other things, to improve the teaching content in secondary schools, change basic studies and develop postgraduate and short study programmes, as well as non-formal education in areas of artificial intelligence, raising the level of support for researchers, start-up companies and enterprises in this area.
- 6) *The Smart Specialisation Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2027* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 21/20) is part of a new paradigm of innovation policy that brings together decision makers, academia and business community and civil society, in order to raising the competitiveness of the economy, economic growth and progress of society, by connecting research, industrial and innovation forces and resources with a limited number of priority economic areas. This Strategy is one of the key documents of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the development of a knowledge-based society. It envisages directing education and

science to industries that have been identified as priorities: Food for the Future, Machines and Processes for the Future, ICT and Creative Industries. It is extremely important for the professional development, employability and self-employment of young people and their future.

- 7) *The Strategy on Economic Migration of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021 to 2027* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 21/20) is a public policy document that aims to create an economic and social environment to slow down the departure of the working population, strengthen ties with diaspora, encouraging return and circular migrations, as well as attracting foreigners of different educational profiles. The strategy envisages measures that include, *inter alia*, providing appropriate vocational training and professional development for young people and creating conditions for their return, including the establishment of coordination of local migration councils with youth offices and local employment councils.
- 8) *The Strategy of Industrial Policy of the Republic of Serbia from 2021 to 2030* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 35/20) is a public policy document whose general goal is to raise the competitiveness of industry in the Republic of Serbia, and specific goals relate to improved digitalisation of business models production, development of industry based on innovation and development of higher stages of technological production, increasing the total volume of investment in industry with increasing investment quality, improving the technological structure of exports and the transformation of industry from a linear to a circular model.
- 9) *The Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence for the period from 2020 to 2023* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 80/20) is a document whose general goal is to ensure a continuous comprehensive response of society to violence against children, in accordance with dynamics of challenges, risks and threats, through an improved system of prevention, protection and support. The specific goals of the strategy include prevention and systematic work on changing attitudes, values and behaviour in relation to violence against children, interventions aimed at protecting children from violence and the normative framework, institutional and organisational mechanisms for prevention and protection of children from violence. The goals and measures of this Strategy also apply to children aged 15-18 and are therefore relevant for youth policy.
- 10) *The Strategy for Prevention and Fight against Gender-Based Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for the period from 2021-2025* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 47/21) which aims to establish effective prevention and protection from all forms of violence against women and girls, domestic violence and the development of a gender-responsive system of support services for victims of violence. The specific goals of this Strategy, which are also relevant for youth policy, refer to the improved action of all actors in the prevention of gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, providing efficient and effective protection of victims and adequate support services for victims of violence. women and domestic violence and the integration of public policies and the establishment of a system for collecting and analysing data on gender-based violence against women and domestic violence. The strategy emphasises the need to improve the annual budget allocation for programmes to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, in various sectors, including the youth sector, as well as the need

to raise public awareness of gender-based violence among children and youth in the digital environment.

11) *The Strategy for the Prevention and Protection against Discrimination for the period from 2022 to 2030* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 12/2022) emphasises that the principle of equality is one of the basic principles under which human rights and freedoms are enjoyed. Traditionally the approach to equality starts from the concept of formal equality, which implies the equality of all before the law and the equal application of rights. However, formal equality is not enough for members of all groups in society to really enjoy equal treatment, but essential equality must be ensured. The Strategy provides an analysis of various areas (Public Administration and Justice; Defence and Security; Education, Vocational Training and Science; Work and Employment; Social Protection; Housing; Health Care; Sports, Culture and Media;) on the issue of discrimination and indicates the necessary directions of further action. The general goal of the Strategy is: equal opportunities for members of groups that are at risk of discrimination to, on an equal basis with others enjoy all human rights and freedoms, as well as improved effectiveness of the system of prevention and protection against discrimination in all areas and at all levels. In order to achieve the general goal of the Strategy, four special strategic goals are planned: 1) Harmonised national legislation with international anti-discrimination standards and practice; 2) Systemically introduced anti-discrimination perspective in the creation, implementation and monitoring of public policies; 3) Improved equality and greater social inclusion of members of groups that are at risk of discrimination; 4) Improved system of prevention and protection against discrimination. The Action Plan for the period from 2022 to 2023 for the implementation of the Prevention and Protection Against Discrimination Strategy for the period from 2022 to 2030 was also adopted.

12) *The Strategy for Gender Equality for the period from 2021 to 2030* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 103/21) which has the general goal of overcoming the gender gap and achieving gender equality as a prerequisite for the development of society and improving the daily lives of women and men, girls and boys. In order to achieve the general goal of this strategy, the following specific goals have been identified: reduced gender gap in the economy, science and education as a precondition and incentive for the socio-economic development of society; provided equal opportunities for the implementation and protection of human rights as a precondition for development and a secure society; accessible and comprehensive health care established and social security provided; established a comprehensive and functional system for creating and implementing gender-responsive public policies and budgets. Among other specific goals, it is planned to reduce gender segregation at the level of secondary and higher education, balanced choice of future occupations for girls and boys, increased activation of women in the labour market, especially women whose access to employment and self-employment is further hampered by discrimination, health conditions, life circumstances or for other reasons, such as young women from the NEET¹¹ group. The strategy emphasises the importance of education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including gender issues, gender roles and responsible

¹¹ NEET stands for not in education employment or training and refers to people who are not in education, employment or training.

sexual behaviour, with particular emphasis on developing programmes to work with boys and young men on their responsibility and role in reproductive health and contraception. The importance of supporting Roma girls in the education system and activities to support young women who have dropped out of education, as well as young and underage mothers to continue their education, was also emphasised. The Action Plan for 2022 and 2023 for the implementation of the Strategy for Gender Equality for the period from 2021 to 2030¹² operationalises the achievement of the general and specific goals foreseen in the Strategy.

- 13) *The Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 44/20) sets as a general goal the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy all civic, political, economic, social and cultural rights, with full respect for their dignity and individual autonomy, ensuring independence, freedom of choice and full and effective participation in all areas of social life, including community life. In order to achieve the general goal of this Strategy, specific goals have been set, which also apply to young people with disabilities, namely: increased social inclusion of people with disabilities; ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities to legal capacity and family life on an equal basis with others and effective protection against discrimination, violence and abuse as well as the systematic introduction of the disability perspective in the adoption, implementation and monitoring of public policies.
- 14) *The Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women for the period from 2022 to 2030* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 23/22) based on the EU Framework for Roma as a general goal sets the improvement of the quality of life of Roma men and women in the Republic of Serbia, while respecting human and minority rights, eliminating discrimination and Gypsyism as a form of racism and achieving greater social inclusion in all segments of society. The strategy has seven specific goals with key areas that contribute to achieving the general goal related to: reduction of discrimination against the Roma national minority, improved participation of Roma men and women in all social processes, education system as an inclusive, intercultural, non-discriminatory and safe environment, quality and sustainable employment, access and exercise of the right to health without discrimination, improved access to social protection services and improved housing conditions for the Roma population. Several indicators of the achievement of specific goals directly identify young people, such as: the enrolment rate in primary schools, the transition to secondary school and the rate of completion of higher and tertiary education among Roma men and women; participation of adult Roma men and women in education and training, number of active civil society organisations run by Roma men and women, etc.
- 15) *The Public Health Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2018 to 2026* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 61/18) supports the improvement of health, disease prevention and prolongation of the quality of life of the population. The strategy aims to improve health and reduce health inequalities, improve the environment and the working environment, prevent and control diseases and leading risks to public

¹² Adopted at the Government session on 25 August 2022, <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/prikaz/647464>

health, develop actions to promote community health, support the development of affordable, quality and efficient health care, develop public health systems. evidence-based health research and improving governance, communication and partnerships to implement the principle of “health in all policies”. Measures to promote health in the community, special research on vulnerable groups of the working population, including young people, improving the accessibility of health services and access to health care for vulnerable social groups in local self-government units, prevention and control of smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke, harmful alcohol use and drug abuse.

- 16) *The Strategy for the Prevention and Control of HIV Infection and AIDS in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2025* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 61/18) represents an eight-year framework for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national response to HIV infection. HIV still represents one of the biggest public health challenges in the world. Although the Republic of Serbia can be considered a country with a low frequency of HIV infection in the general population, it was estimated that at the beginning of 2017, about 3,100 people were living with HIV in the Republic of Serbia and that there are many factors that enable the further spread of the virus. It is also stated that the prevention and control of HIV infection and AIDS and the support of people living with HIV in the Republic of Serbia have been recognised as priority activities of public health importance for many years. The overall goal of the Strategy is the prevention of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as the provision of treatment and support to all people living with HIV. In the period 1985–2016, more than half (56%) of all HIV positive persons were registered in the age group of 25-39 years, and three quarters (79%) of those suffering from and dying of AIDS were registered in the age group of 25-49. Since 2002, there has been an increase in the participation of young people aged 20-29 among newly diagnosed HIV-positive persons. For the successful coordination of activities in the field of HIV/AIDS, the Commission for the fight against HIV/AIDS was established by the Government's decision as a multi-sector coordinating body, one of whose main tasks is defining the national strategy, as well as monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of its implementation, and for the purposes of monitoring and evaluations of the implementation of projects funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- 17) *The Strategy for Encouraging Giving Birth* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 25/18) sets the stationary population as the general goal of sustainable demographic development of the Republic of Serbia in the long run, i.e... a population in which the next generations will be the same size as the existing ones. The strategy sets as specific goals the mitigation of the economic cost of raising a child (reduction of direct costs of raising children and financial measures to encourage giving birth, incentives in the field of housing), harmonisation of work and parenting (harmonisation of parental and professional domain, harmonisation of work and parenting by caring for employed parents), lowering the psychological price of parenthood (lowering the psychological price of motherhood by measures regulating the harmonisation of work and parenthood, emphasizing the importance of the father's role in raising a child, lowering the psychological price of parenthood by facilitating housekeeping, strengthening the competence to fulfil marital and parental role) promotion of healthy lifestyles, promotion of reproductive health of adolescents, prevention of diseases of the reproductive system), solving the problem of infertility, towards healthy motherhood, health care for women during pregnancy, health care for women in childbirth, in the

postpartum period, support b safe motherhood, healthy growth and development of new-borns and young children), population education, activation of local self-government (establishment of more efficient population policy in local self-government). Young people are recognised as a population group that needs special attention, especially in the promotion, preservation and improvement of reproductive health and population education.

- 18) *The Programme on Mental Health Protection in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2019 to 2026* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 84/19) is a harmonised system of measures, conditions and instruments of public policy that should be implemented to protect mental health by preventing mental disorders, improving mental health, analysis and diagnosis of mental condition, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental disorders, as well as suspicions of the existence of mental disorders, while respecting human rights and strengthening the dignity of persons with mental disorders and the application of the least restrictive forms of treatment. Young people (15–24 years old) are recognised as one of the most vulnerable populations and it is envisaged that the work on the prevention of mental disorders and the improvement of mental health will be especially focused on young people and that the development of a network of specific services will be supported.

- 19) *The Decree on the National Programme for Preservation and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Citizens of the Republic of Serbia* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 120/17) refers to the improvement of the sexual and reproductive health of the citizens of the Republic. The general goal of the programme is to preserve and improve the sexual and reproductive health of the population of the Republic of Serbia, while respecting the right to make informed decisions related to sexuality and reproduction, regardless of personal characteristics of individuals such as gender, gender, age, disability, socio-economic status, cultural identity, sexual orientation, exposure to social deprivation, human immunodeficiency virus infection – HIV and other personal characteristics. Important challenges in sexual and reproductive health are predominantly conservative birth control, risky sexual behaviour of adolescents and young people and unsatisfactory scope of engagement in preserving sexual and reproductive health of the entire population, especially vulnerable categories, such as socially deprived and marginalised categories. The regulation recognises as one of the greatest problems the risky behaviour of adolescents and young people, as well as the lack of basic knowledge about reproduction, contraception and protection against sexually transmitted infections. Activities that contribute to the achievement of the third specific goal of the Decree include counselling centres for the protection of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents, accessible to everyone, adapted to their needs, with reliable data, including motivating adults (parents, guardians, teachers) to provide support in making informed and safe decision, registration and mitigation of obstacles (financial, requirements for parental consent) for the provision of health services, especially to vulnerable groups of adolescents, increasing the knowledge of health workers, ensuring gender sensitivity of all measures and procedures, avoiding gender-based stereotypes and prejudices “that increase the vulnerability of girls and boys”, better defining the needs of marginalised groups, creating a programme for the improvement of sexual and reproductive health at all levels, agreeing on the division of roles and responsibilities and on coordination between activity providers, establishing supervision mechanisms to ensure high quality of services, respect for rights and the absence of discrimination, encouraging the participation of various actors (state

institutions, associations, private sector), forming national committees or similar mechanisms of coordination and supervision with the task of overseeing the implementation of the Programme, its refinement, improvement and adaptation.

- 20) *The Strategy of Deinstitutionalisation and Development of Social Protection Services in the Community for the period from 2022 to 2026* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 12/22) defines as a general goal the implementation of human rights to life in the community of beneficiaries of social protection through the processes of deinstitutionalisation and social inclusion. In order to achieve the general goal of the Strategy, five specific goals have been defined: establishment of normative and financial preconditions for implementation and sustainability of the deinstitutionalisation process, territorially harmonised and sustainable development of community services, transformation of social welfare institutions into community service providers, empowerment of beneficiaries for deinstitutionalisation processes and community involvement, empowerment of professionals to implement and advocate for deinstitutionalisation processes. A number of measures are important for young people: improved participation of Roma men and women in all social processes, application of affirmative action measures in secondary and higher education and reduction of dropouts, institutionalisation of local mechanisms for Roma inclusion, increase of competencies for entering the labour market, health programmes, etc.
- 21) *The Strategy for the Development of the Information Society and Information Security in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2021-2026* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 86/21) represents an intersectoral strategy that determines the goals and measures for the development of the information society and information security. The information security of children in the Republic of Serbia was originally regulated by the Decree on the safety and protection of children when using information and communication technologies (hereinafter referred to as: the Decree), with the amendments to the Law on Information Security, this matter is also regulated by the said law. The Law and the Decree regulate measures for the safety and protection of children on the Internet, which are implemented through the activities of the National Contact Centre for the Safety of Children on the Internet. The general goal of the Strategy is a developed information society and electronic administration in the service of citizens and the economy and improved information security of citizens, public administration and the economy. The general goal of the Strategy is achieved through specific goals: (1) improving citizens’ digital knowledge and skills, raising the capacity of employees in the public and private sector to use new technologies and improving digital infrastructure in educational institutions; (2) digitalisation of services and operations in the public and private sector and Improvement of information security of citizens, public administration and economy. The strategy envisages raising the awareness of citizens about information security, through encouraging the level of knowledge and encouraging the use of ICT, electronic services, internet banking, electronic commerce and others. In this sense, it is important to raise the level of information security and the level of digital competences, which especially applies to young people, because the future implies almost complete digitalization of business services in the public and private sector, digitalisation of infrastructure in educational institutions and at all other levels.
- 22) *The Strategy of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2014 to 2024* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 85/14)

defines as one of the strategic development goals the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas and the reduction of poverty. The Strategy identifies a number of challenges that young people from rural areas face and proposes support measures to improve their position. Among the areas of strategic change are two that directly affect young people: a) diversification of the rural economy and preservation of cultural and natural heritage through various types of investment and advisory support in agriculture, which will enable rural areas to offer more attractive jobs to younger and more educated population and b) improving the social structure and strengthening social capital through operational objectives: halting negative demographic trends in rural areas, increasing the availability of social services to the rural population and affirming the entrepreneurship of women and youth in rural areas.

- 23) *The Strategy for the Development of the Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 11/20) has the general goal of improving the public information system through a harmonised positive legal framework guaranteeing freedom of expression of the media, safety of journalists, media pluralism, developed media market, strengthened journalistic profession, educated citizens and institutions capable of enforcing regulations. The strategy contains measures that directly mention young people, including improving media literacy and increasing media visibility and non-discriminatory media coverage of women and vulnerable social groups.
- 24) *The Strategy for Creating a Stimulating Environment for the Development of Civil Society for the period from 2022 to 2030* (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 23/22) aims to strengthen existing and introduce new mechanisms for creating a stimulating environment for the activities of organisations civil society. A stimulating environment for the development of civil society is considered to be a set of institutional and normative measures, as well as affirmative practices that in their entirety enable and promote free and sustainable operation of civil society organisations in the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the highest international standards and practices. The implementation of the general goal of the Strategy includes four specific goals and is based on their realisation, namely: ensuring greater involvement of the civil sector in the decision-making process at all levels of government; improved transparent financing and sustainability of the civil sector; provided greater participation of CSOs in socio-economic development and action in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and ensured greater participation of CSOs in the process of European integration. Given that youth organisations and their associations are part of civil society, they can significantly contribute to the implementation of set goals, especially in the field of non-formal education for democratic citizenship and human rights, then, promotion of PROAEA, participation in decision-making at all levels and the like. is planned by the measures of this Strategy.

Given the many stakeholders in youth issues, there are a large number of laws and policy documents that directly or indirectly relate to youth policy. In order to make cross-sectoral cooperation more functional, it is necessary to define in a unique and precise way the age of some part of the population called “youth”, as there are differences between the definition of youth in the LoY and the use of this term in amending law.

2.2 International documents of importance for young people

In the last five years, a number of international documents have been adopted, primarily the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as: the UN), the European Union (hereinafter referred to as: the EU), and the Council of Europe (hereinafter referred to as: CoE), which directly or indirectly deal with young people and represent part of the framework for drafting the Strategy.

Also, international and regional treaties on human rights that our country has ratified produce obligations aimed at improving the position of young people and creating a stimulating environment for young people's lives. The monitoring of the state of human rights within the UN system is carried out through the Universal Periodic Review, and through periodic reports, the treaty bodies of the UN, the Council of Europe and the European Commission supervise the implementation of obligations and the fulfilment of recommendations.

2.2.1 UN documents

*2.2.1.1 The United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2015-2030 (Agenda 2030)*¹³ addresses core issues affecting global society as a whole. The Agenda is relevant for young people as part of the general population, with particular emphasis on ending poverty, health, inclusive and quality education, gender equality, economic growth and employment, fostering innovation, climate change and its consequences, a peaceful and inclusive society, and environmental protection, etc. The Agenda defines 17 main goals of sustainable development for the period until 2030, of which the most important for the Strategy are goal 4. Provide inclusive and equitable, quality education and promote the possibility of lifelong learning for all; goal 8. To promote continuous, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, but also goal 3. To ensure a healthy life and promote well-being for people of all generations, women and men; Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Given the complexity of this document, several principles and principles that are important for young people stand out: the principle of freedom and equality, in the form of dignity and implementation of all rights, the principle of equality, in the form of non-discrimination in exercising rights, the principle of right to life, liberty and security, the principle of the right to education, the principle that no one should be left out, etc. The Government of the Republic of Serbia directly participated in the development and writing of the Sustainable Development Agenda, through the involvement of citizens in the process, through consultations and direct participation of state representatives in global forums, where the goals of sustainable development are defined. In December 2015, a multi-ministerial working group was established to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the task of monitoring its implementation, coordinating the positions of the relevant ministries and preparing periodic reports on its implementation. The achievement of goals is monitored through 247 indicators, from which data are collected in Serbia and 119 indicators are reported by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, as national statistical institutions.

*2.2.1.2 The UN Youth Strategy*¹⁴ is a strategy that acts as an umbrella framework for guiding the entire UN system in working with young people, in all contexts, through three pillars: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. The following priorities are defined within the strategy: 1) inclusion, participation and advocacy – to strengthen the voices

¹³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

¹⁴ [Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy](#)

2.2.1.5 *The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*¹⁷ (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia-International Agreements”, No. 42/2009), promotes, protects and ensures the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.¹⁸ The Convention includes a number of general principles, such as respect for innate dignity, the individual anatomy of persons with disabilities, including their right to make decisions about their own lives and the independence of those persons; non-discrimination; full and effective participation and involvement in all spheres of social life; respect for diversity and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of the human race and the diverse human race; equality of opportunity; accessibility; equality of men and women; respect for the developing capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of those children to preserve their own identity. States signatories undertake to ensure and promote the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination on the basis of disability, and in order to achieve this, States signatories undertake to take appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures in order to exercise the rights recognised in this Convention.

2.2.1.6 *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (“Official Gazette of the SFRY – International Agreements”, No. 11/81), was adopted on 18 December 1979 in New York. The term “discrimination against women” means any difference, exclusion or restriction in terms of sex, which has the consequence or purpose of jeopardizing or preventing the recognition, exercise or exercise by women, human rights and fundamental freedoms of political, economic, social, cultural, civil or another field, regardless of their marital status, on the basis of equality of men and women. Member States condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue, by all appropriate means at their disposal and without delay, a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and therefore undertake: to incorporate the principle of equality between men and women into their national constitutions or laws, if they have not already done so, as well as to ensure, by legal or other appropriate measures, the practical application of that principle; to adopt appropriate legal and other measures, including sanctions where necessary, prohibiting all forms of discrimination against women; to introduce legal protection of women's rights on an equal basis with men and to ensure, through the competent national courts and other public institutions, the effective protection of women against any discrimination; to refrain from any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions comply with this obligation; to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organisation or enterprise; to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to amend or repeal existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against women; to repeal all internal penal provisions that discriminate against women.

In December 2016, the text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for Youth (CEDAW for Youth)¹⁹ was published. It is a version of the text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) that is adapted to the younger population and explains why

¹⁷ Official Journal of European Union, 2008/C 75/01.

¹⁸ Persons with disabilities include people who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments that, in conjunction with various barriers, can hinder the full and effective participation of all people in society on the basis of equality with others.

¹⁹ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/12/cedaw-for-youth>

policy in the field of youth of the Republic of Serbia (LoY and NYS) is harmonised with the documents and principles of the EU in this area. In order to achieve full harmonisation with *Acquis Communautaire*, it is necessary for the Republic of Serbia, as a candidate country, to participate in all expert groups of the open method of coordination in the field of youth to be established, which will deal with the following topics: defining special contribution of youth work. and non-formal and informal learning to encourage active citizenship and youth participation in diversified and tolerant societies, as well as to prevent marginalisation and radicalisation that potentially results in violent behaviour; recognising the risks, opportunities and implications of digitalisation for young people, youth work and youth policy. In line with the results of the Republic of Serbia so far in the process of joining the EU, the Strategy is harmonised with all EU documents relevant to young people.

*2.2.3.2 European Commission: Republic of Serbia, Report for 2021 accompanying the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Communication on the EU Enlargement Policy for 2021.*⁴⁵ The latest EC Report on the Progress of the Republic of Serbia in the EU Accession Process within Cluster 3. Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth provides an EC assessment of the situation in eight chapters, including Chapter 26, which refers to youth policy. For Chapter 26, Education and Culture, it is proposed to further consolidate the NQF system, with an additional focus on the quality and scope of non-formal education. It is also necessary to strengthen the implementation of measures to reduce drop-out rates and segregation, especially at the local level. Young people are in focus in other chapters as well. In Chapter 19, *Social Policy and Employment* within the same cluster, it is stated that in the forthcoming period, the Republic of Serbia should especially provide adequate financial and institutional resources for employment and social policy, which would be more systematically targeted at young people, women and the long-term unemployed and improve adequacy. social benefits for people below the poverty line. In addition, the Republic of Serbia should take steps to establish and implement a *Youth Guarantee*⁴⁶ by developing a plan to implement the Youth Guarantee in line with the EU model and guidelines, in partnership with youth representatives.

*2.2.3.3 The Erasmus+ programme*⁴⁷ is one of the largest EU programmes funding mobility and cooperation projects in the fields of education, youth training and sport. It was created in 2014, and in 2021 it entered a new seven-year implementation period, which will last until 2027. The estimated budget for this seven-year period of the new Erasmus+ programme is EUR 26 billion, which enables the participation of even more participants and a wider range of organisations. Based on a formal mandate, the Tempus Foundation⁴⁸ promotes and implements the Erasmus+ programme through numerous activities. It provides support to both organisations and individuals in personal and professional development, such as career guidance, skills development, competences and qualifications, personal development and international mobility of key actors in the field of education, with a special focus on practitioners, young people and young people with reduced opportunities. Within the Erasmus+ programme in the field of youth, from 2014 until now, a large number of projects have been supported in which youth organisations from Serbia were coordinators or partners. A total of 2,647 decentralised and centralised projects in the field of youth were approved. Of

⁴⁵ https://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/eu_dokumenta/godisnji_izvestaji_ek_o_napretku/izvestaj_ek_oktobar_21.PDF

⁴⁶ The *Youth Guarantee* programme in European countries was launched by the European Commission in 2013, and in 2020 it was strengthened, as a political commitment of all EU member states to provide all young people under the age of 30 with a quality offer for employment, continued education, practice, or training, within 4 months of leaving the formal education system or of losing previous employment.

⁴⁷ <https://erasmusplus.rs/>

⁴⁸ <https://tempus.ac.rs/erasmusplus/>

these, in decentralised projects, the Tempus Foundation supported 78, and other national agencies supported 2,449 projects. In addition, the Brussels Executive Agency supported 120 projects in centralised projects. The total value of supported decentralised and centralised projects in the field of youth is over EUR 83.3 million. Out of that, over EUR 76 million were invested for decentralised projects and over EUR 7.3 million for centralised ones. Serbia has been a full member of the Erasmus+ programme since 2019, which means that institutions and organisations from Serbia continue to apply for all types of projects, as well as EU member states. These are capacity building projects in the field of youth work and partnership projects in the field of youth to strengthen capacity and create high quality intellectual work products through international cooperation. The new programme emphasises inclusiveness, green initiatives and digitalisation as key and most important priorities that it supports through financial mechanisms, then strengthening civic values, dialogue of cultures, tolerance and understanding of social, cultural and historical heritage. During 2019 and 2020, in the field of youth mobility, the financing of 38 projects from Serbia was supported, of which 21 projects – in 2019 and 17 projects – in 2020, submitted by civil society organisations.

2.2.3.4 *The European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027*⁴⁹ is a programme of the European Commission, which is intended for young people and provides them with the opportunity to gain experience of living and working in a foreign country through volunteering and work programmes. Currently, all 27 member states of the European Union have full participation in this programme, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey and North Macedonia. The so-called ESC partner countries, which are the countries from the EU's neighbourhood, including Serbia, can participate in some parts of the programme (volunteering). Serbia's current status in the European Solidarity Initiative implies opportunities for organisations from Serbia to apply and receive a Quality Label and meet the preconditions for participation in the ESC, if they meet the quality requirements; organisations from Serbia can be partners in the field of volunteering and send young people to short-term and long-term projects/activities, as well as host young people from countries full participants in the ESC programme on short-term and long-term volunteer projects/activities; young people from Serbia can volunteer in the countries that are full participants in the programme; young people from the countries of full participants in the ESC can volunteer in Serbia. The programme promotes inclusion and diversity and aims at including green practices in projects and encouraging environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour of participants and participating organisations. It supports the digital transition through projects and activities that develop digital skills and digital literacy. The programme also promotes youth participation in democratic processes and civic engagement. In addition, the new programme has the flexibility to add annual priorities to address urgent issues. Health is an additional thematic area for 2021. The programme will mobilise young people into projects addressing health challenges, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

2.2.3.5 *Bonn Process: Final Declaration of the Third European Convention on Youth Work "Roadmaps for the Future 2020"*⁵⁰. Youth work is recognised in several CoE and EU documents, and above all in the CoE document *Recommendation of the Council of Ministers on youth work, 2017*⁵¹ and in the *Resolution on the European Agenda for Youth Work, EU Council, 2020*.⁵² The goal of the Bonn process is to strengthen the provision of youth work

⁴⁹ https://europa.eu/youth/news/european-solidarity-corps-2021-2027-launched_en

⁵⁰ https://www.eywc2020.eu/downloads/doctrine/WebforumVeranstaltungenWebsiteBundle:Media-file-74/RS_3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf

⁵¹ https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680717e78

⁵² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2020.415.01.0001.01.ENG

services in Europe. The Third European Youth Work Convention is an introduction to the Bonn Process, i.e., the beginning of the implementation of the European Agenda for Youth Work, during which work will be done on the inclusion of youth work in public policy documents in all countries, in accordance with the European framework and national priorities. Previously, the European conventions of youth work in 2010 and 2015 were adopted. The general objectives of the Convention are to link youth work practice and youth policy, to work together to further develop youth work practice, to improve the visibility of youth work and its value, to facilitate discussions on specific topics, to gain new insights and knowledge and to promote common ground and joint action within the youth working community. The ambition of the community of youth work practitioners is to develop and expand the offer of youth work, reaching more young people and including them, and especially to ensure that young people from all backgrounds, including those with fewer opportunities, gain access to youth work. In addition, in Europe, after a pandemic, youth work must strive for innovations and solutions beyond what is known so far. Constraints and frameworks of youth work, in terms of age, target groups, problems, and perhaps other dimensions, should be strengthened, in order to form a basis for advocating for the growth of youth work. The Resolution on the European Agenda for Youth Work, 2020, recognised the challenges in this area and adopted a plan for the process of implementing the Agenda, through the so-called Bonn process. The plan consists of developing and proposing implementation strategies, measures and priorities for youth work at all levels, from local to European.

3. AN OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH POLICY

Youth policy incorporates all measures and activities aimed at improving the position of young people, starting from the needs of young people, and implemented by various youth policy actors, i.e., state bodies, institutions, civil society organisations, together with youth associations and youth offices.

Monitoring the implementation of the NYS and accompanying action plans in the period from 2015 to 2020 and their evaluation, as well as various domestic and international surveys of the position and needs of young people, provided rich material on the situation of young people in Serbia, which was taken into account during the development process.

Regular annual surveys of the position and needs of young people conducted on a representative sample are the basis for the Ministry of Tourism and Youth (hereinafter referred to as: the MoTY) and other youth policy actors to adopt data-based public policy documents, as well as to identify priority areas for action in the youth sector and plan project programmes that are most needed to young people and in accordance with their needs, in order to improve the quality of their lives in Serbia. Research provides continuity in monitoring basic indicators of youth behaviour patterns, their habits, needs and interests in all areas envisaged by the NYS, and therefore certain questions are repeated every year.

Also, various surveys on the position and needs of young people, conducted by bodies, NGOs, companies, academia and international partners, indicated the need to strengthen the development component of the Strategy, but also a different focus to respond to the needs of young people. and their better organisation and social action, development and implementation of potential for personal and social well-being and to have improved conditions for quality life in Serbia.

3.1 Youth in the Republic of Serbia – a description of the current situation

The strategy focuses on a certain age group with all its needs and potentials, roles and challenges, and therefore, in addition to the MoTY as the responsible state body for youth policy, other state, provincial and local authorities recognise responsibility for youth issues through their policies within their jurisdiction. Also, civil society organisations, economic entities and institutions deal with youth issues within their activities. Given this context, the adoption and implementation of the Strategy requires intensive, coordinated, systemic cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination and putting young people on the agenda of all relevant state, provincial and local authorities.

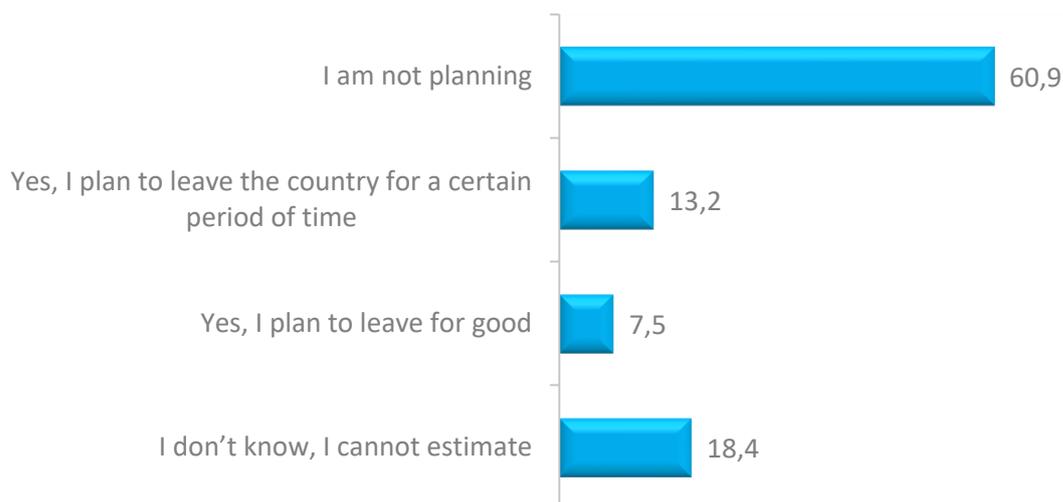
In different countries, there are differences in defining the age that covers the category of young people. According to the LoY,⁵³ in the Republic of Serbia, young people are defined as persons from 15 years of age to 30 years of age. Eurostat monitors data for young people, mostly aged 15 to 29.

⁵³ The Law on Youth (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 50/11 and 116/22 – amending law), Article 3, item 1.

October 2022, so the census results and additional analysis will provide updated and more accurate data.

According to the results of the Survey on the Position and Needs of Youth in the Republic of Serbia, conducted by Ninamedia,⁵⁷ in 2021 for the needs of the MoYS, 7.5% of young people plan to leave the country permanently, 13.2% plan to leave the country for a while, while 60.9% have no plans to leave the country at all. As the main reason for leaving the country, young people cite employment (85%), followed by school (8%), family (7%). 87.8% of men and 80.4% of women cite employment as a reason. A total of 8.1% of men and 7.8% of women plan to leave the country because of school, while 4.1% of men and 11.8% of women state family reasons (family reunification, leaving because of the partner/family). All obtained differences by sex are statistically significant. Graph 1 shows the responses of young people related to the intention to emigrate, and Graph 2 shows a comparative overview of the answers to this question in six research waves (2016-2021).

Graph 1 Do you plan to leave the country for a longer period of time in the next 2 years? (%)



Source: Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, 2021, p. 294

Graph 2 A comparative overview of the answers to the question about the intention to leave the country in the next 2 years in six research waves (2016-2021)

⁵⁷ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), pp. 294-295.

In order to provide adequate and functional spaces for quality leisure time, it is necessary, above all, to purchase props and sports equipment, additional equipment (computers, office equipment, projector, sound system, furniture) and make infrastructure investments (renovation, adaptation, adaptation access for young people with disabilities).

In addition to youth clubs in Serbia, there are currently three youth centres (in Sremski Karlovci, Loznica and Novi Sad), which provide integrated services for young people at the local level. The Radulovački Ecological Centre in Sremski Karlovci was accredited by the Council of Europe in 2015⁶⁸ and re-accredited in 2018. Standards for youth centres that cover aspects of their work policies, programmes, infrastructure, management and administration, are based on the positive practice of youth centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, which implement the activities implemented by the Council of Europe in the field of youth. In order to reach the best solution for the establishment of youth centres in Serbia, an analysis of the optimal scope and model of organising a network of youth centres in Serbia is underway, in order to provide integrated services for young people that are available to all young people. Within the analysis, recommendations will be made for further directions of action, in order to reach the best solution for the establishment and operation of youth centres, in accordance with the proposed standards that need to be met.

3.1.3 Active participation of young people in society

Very few young people are members of some organisations⁶⁹. About 90% of respondents are not members of a sports club, political party, cultural and artistic association and citizens' association. Only 6% of young people were members of a cultural and artistic association, 8% a member of an association, 11% a political party, and 11% a sports club. At the same time, young people are mostly inactive members, except when it comes to sports clubs. The most active members of the sports club are (4.8%), mostly the youngest group and that number is the lowest in this wave.

More than two-thirds of young people (67%) are not ready to engage in the work of the body that initiates or makes decisions relevant to young people, and as the most common reasons state that they do not have enough information about their work (34%) and believe that their engagement would change nothing (33%)⁷⁰. Of the young people who want to get involved, the largest percentage would be engaged in the work of the student parliaments (13%), youth associations (8%), mostly women, as well as in the work of the local youth councils (5%), namely mostly men. There is an increase in the number of young people who believe that their engagement would not change anything, as well as a decline in those who believe that the bodies do not work in the interest of citizens, but to achieve their own goals. The majority of young people believe that they are not adequately involved in decision-making processes at the national level (73%), in the local community (73%), and at school (58%) with a high downward trend in the number of young people who believe that they are not adequately involved in comparison with the previous five research waves.

Slightly more than a quarter of young people (26%) state that they do not have time to be more actively involved in initiatives aimed at positive change in social life, at the national or

⁶⁸ The CoE standards for accreditation of youth centres are available at the Council of Europe's link <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/quality-label-for-youth-centres>

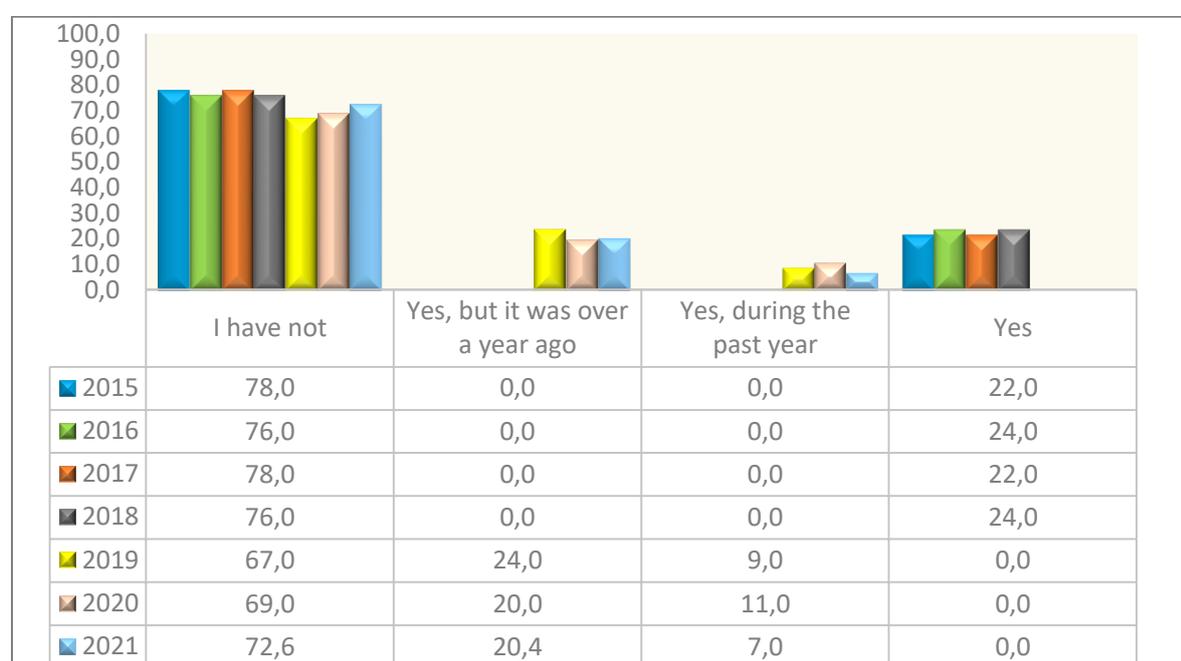
⁶⁹ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 323.

⁷⁰ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 334.

local community level, and 17% of young people are ready to be more actively involved. The majority of young people (96%) do not use the Internet to participate in public debates, digital volunteering programmes or to address government agencies and this number has increased by 9 percentage points compared to the previous survey, indicating the need to better inform young people about the benefits use of the Internet for the purpose of active participation in society.

27% of young people participated in volunteer activities and that number has been continuously growing from 2015 (22%) to 2019 (33%).⁷¹ In 2020 and 2021, the decrease of two percentage points (2020), i.e., six percentage points (2021), is probably caused by the pandemic, but still a larger number of young people participate in volunteer activities than in the period until 2018.

Graph 4 A comparative presentation of the results from the six research waves to the question: Have you participated in any volunteer activities so far? (%)



Source: Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, 2021, p. 373.

92% of young people had the support of their families for volunteering, and that support is higher in relation to the period from 2015 to 2018. The highest family support was in 2019, when it was 95%. More than half of the respondents⁷² agree with the statement that volunteering provides experience useful for getting a job (58%), that volunteer activities are useful for young people (57%), that young people need to be more involved in social activities (56%), that volunteer activities are fun (50%) and that volunteer activities can affect changes in society (49%). However, 15% of young people believe that volunteering is not useful for young people. More than a third of respondents (38%) state that after volunteering they received a written confirmation, which is an increase of five percentage points compared to the previous year but still eight percentage points less than in 2019, when it was 46%, which indicates the need for better regulation of this matter.

⁷¹ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 372.

⁷² Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 363.

According to the Youth Participation Index, which was established in 2016 and has been monitored since then by the Western Balkans and Turkey Youth Hub network, led by the "Ana and Vlade Divac" Foundation with the financial support of the European Commission, it shows the continuous growth of youth participation in Serbia (from 10.1 in 2016 to 11.1 in 2020)⁷³. The youth participation index measures the participation of young people in the political, economic and social spheres of public life by cross-checking numerous statistical data, and then extracting a unique index on an annual level that is comparable to countries in the region (North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro) and as such it is a valuable tool in monitoring the active participation of young people. Compared to neighbouring countries - Albania (9.5 in 2020), Montenegro (10.3 in 2020), North Macedonia (9.5 in 2020), the Youth Participation Index in Serbia is the highest (11.1 in 2020).

According to Eurostat data⁷⁴ for 33 countries in 2015, in the last year in the EU/27 countries, 85% of young people participated in cultural and sports events (83% in cultural events and 45% in sports events), while 69% of young people participated in Serbia (in cultural events 57% and in sports events 43%). A total of 7.2% of young people from the EU27 and Serbia participate in artistic activities every day. According to Eurostat data for 2019, for 33 countries, the Internet was used daily by 94% of young people aged 16-29 in the EU27 (there is no difference in gender), and in Serbia by 96% (men 97% and women 94%). In the last 12 months, 57% of young people in the EU27 used the Internet to communicate with public authorities, and 33% in Serbia, while 12% of young people in the EU27 (13% men and 12% women) took part in public debates, consultations, voting, petitions), and 4% in Serbia (no gender difference). In 2019, 15% of young people aged 16-29 in the EU27 (16% men and 13% women) used the Internet to express their opinion on civil and political issues via websites (blogs, social networks, etc.), and 10% in Serbia. In 2019, 29% of young people in the EU27 were looking for a job online (men 28% and women 30%), and in Serbia 22% (men 16% and women 27%). 13% of young people (men 13% and women 12%) used the Internet for non-formal education through online courses in the EU27, and 11% in Serbia (men 9% and women 14%). The Internet for the sale of goods and services was used by 21% of young people in the EU27 (men 22% and women 20%), and in Serbia 13% (men 15% and women 12%). Internet banking in the EU27 was used by 59% (58% men and 59% women), while in Serbia this percentage was only 18% (19% men and 17% women).

Taking into account the continuous increase in the use of the Internet in everyday life and low participation of young people in socio-political life and social engagement in general, it is necessary to communicate more with young people through social networks and timely inform them about opportunities for quality leisure time, learning and participating in the decision-making process for the areas of interest. The EU Youth Strategy⁷⁵ emphasises the importance of young people having the opportunity to "learn to participate", as well as to support young people in researching and promoting the application of innovative and alternative forms of democratic participation, e.g., tools of digital democracy, with increasing availability of these tools, especially to young people who do not have access to the Internet and digital technologies, as well as the skills needed to use them.

In order to further develop youth volunteering⁷⁶, the EU has developed a programme – European Solidarity Initiative, in which young people from Serbia can participate, by volunteering in one of the programme countries in Europe, whereas for full use of this

⁷³ Source: https://www.divac.com/upload/document/youth_participation_index_2020.pdf

⁷⁴ Klačnja, S. (2020): Basic indicators of the position of young people in Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sports.

⁷⁵ EU Youth Strategy, p. 8.

⁷⁶ Klačnja, S. (2020): Basic Indicators of Position of the Youth in Serbia. Ministry of Youth and Sports, p. 60.

programme it is important for Serbia to become involved in full capacity. In times of crisis, such as the 2014 floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of active participation in society and volunteer actions is even more prominent. It is necessary to continue using digital tools⁷⁷ for a more active participation of young people in society and reaching their views and proposals on issues they are interested in, timely and objective informing young people on all topics, including the COVID-19 pandemic, online training and volunteering.

The Youth Human Rights Report⁷⁸ states that if young people are expected to take responsibility during the epidemic and play their part in preventing and spreading the epidemic, it is necessary to provide them with adequate and timely information.

The EU Youth Strategy⁷⁹ focuses on achieving meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural and political participation of young people. Therefore, youth engagement must be a cornerstone of future cooperation in the field of EU youth policy. Young people need to have the right to vote when it comes to designing, implementing and evaluating policies that apply to them. The Strategy calls on the Member States and the European Commission, within their competences:

- to encourage and promote the inclusive democratic participation of all young people in society and democratic processes;
- to actively involve young people, youth organisations and other organisers of work with young people in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies that affect the lives of young people at local, regional, national and European level;
- to support the establishment and development of youth advocacy at local, regional and national level, recognising young people's right to participate and self-organise, recognising youth representative structures and involving them in the work of local, regional, national and European authorities;
- to support and facilitate the EU Youth Dialogue, in order to include different attitudes of young people in decision-making processes at all levels and to encourage the development of civic competences, through citizenship education and the implementation of learning strategies;
- to support and develop opportunities for "participatory learning", which increases interest in participatory activities and helps young people prepare for participation;
- to research and promote the application of innovative and alternative forms of democratic participation, e.g., digital democracy tools and facilitate access, in order to support the participation of young people in democratic life and involve young people in an inclusive way, recognising that some young people do not have access to the Internet and digital technologies, nor the skills needed to use them.

All these proposals for a meaningful and active participation of young people in society are relevant for Serbia, not only because Serbia is a candidate country for EU membership, but also because of the efforts of the MoYS and all other youth policy actors to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the effects of public policies on young people systematically and in a sustainable way involve as many young people as possible, so that their voice is heard and respected. This is in line with inclusive youth policy, which is one of the backbones of the Strategy.

⁷⁷ An example of digital tool – U-Report <https://serbia.ureport.in/>

⁷⁸ Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (2021): Report on Human Rights of the Youth in the Republic of Serbia in 2020, p. 82. available at <http://www.bgcentar.org.rs/bgcentar/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Ljudska-prava-mladih-u-Srbiji-2020..pdf>

⁷⁹ The EU Youth Strategy, p. 9.

The Republic of Serbia has established a Permanent Expert Team for EU Dialogue with Youth within the Youth Council, in order to institutionalise the implementation of the EU Dialogue with Youth, with the aim of implementing the European Youth Strategy using mechanisms applied in EU member states. The permanent expert team was formed on the model of the National Working Groups of the EU Member States for the implementation of the EU dialogue with young people at all levels. Since 2014 and the presidency of Greece in the Council of the European Union, the Republic of Serbia has regularly participated in EU youth conferences. Youth delegates as well as decision-makers have made a huge contribution to the process, offering innovative perspectives and practices in the field of youth policies to all EU Member States and other countries participating in the EU Youth Dialogue. After the participation of the Republic of Serbia in the EU Youth Conference in March 2019 in Bucharest, as part of the Romanian Presidency, there was a pause in the participation of the Republic of Serbia and its representatives. The member states that chaired in the meantime did not include non-member states in the implementation of the cycle. The Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Youth Council of Serbia carried out various advocacy activities aimed at reintegrating Serbia into EU dialogue cycles with young people, which resulted in the participation of the Serbian youth representative at the EU Youth Conference in March 2021, as part of the Portuguese EU Council presidency. Representatives of both youth and the Ministry of Youth and Sports participated in the EU youth conference held in September 2021, as part of the Slovenian presidency of the EU Council.

One of the important mechanisms for the improvement of international cooperation, exchange of experiences and practices of young people is the Erasmus+ programme. According to the Tempus Foundation, which coordinates this programme in Serbia within the Erasmus+ programme in the field of youth, from 2014 until now, a large number of projects have been supported in which youth organisations from Serbia were coordinators or partners. 2,647 decentralised and centralised projects in the field of youth were approved, in the total amount of more than EUR 83.3 million.

In the survey of the position and needs of young people,⁸⁰ 5% of young people state that they feel threatened, discriminated against and that they belong to one of the vulnerable groups of young people. Young people believe that the most vulnerable to discrimination are young people at risk of poverty, young people with disabilities, young Roma and members of the LGBT+ population.

Graph 5 Which of the following vulnerable groups of young people are exposed to discrimination in society the most?

⁸⁰ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 216.

people in informal and temporary employment); The NEET rate is higher in rural than in urban areas; long-term unemployment for a significant number of young people is an obstacle to finding a quality job and results in the risk of poverty and social inclusion; young people with disabilities as well as Roma men and women face even more significant barriers in the labour market.

The data obtained in various research¹⁰¹ indicates that only quality work practices, those implemented in accordance with the quality standards established through the Recommendation on the quality framework for the implementation of practices at the European Union level,¹⁰² lead to positive effects for young people. Therefore, it is not enough to monitor only the number of young people involved in work practices, but it is also crucial to monitor whether they are carried out in a quality manner, which really enables the learning and development of young people's skills and thus positive effects on their employability.

All these data show that it is necessary to reduce the differences in the rate of enrolment and completion of pre-university education between the general population and vulnerable groups of children/youth and increase the percentage of those with higher education, especially among men and vulnerable groups, the Roma in particular. Additional efforts are needed to increase youth coverage through non-formal education.

Without new knowledge and innovations in the field of science, without their adequate application in everyday life of citizens, societies do not have the opportunity to progress in the 21st century. Therefore, recognising the potential of young people and creating adequate opportunities for their development in all areas in Serbia is the basic direction in which we will act with our partners. The Government of the Republic of Serbia established the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter referred to as: the Fund) in order to encourage and evaluate the outstanding achievements of young people in various fields, as well as their further training and professional development. Through the work of the Fund for Young Talents, more than 3,500 of the best high school and university students receive financial support on an annual level. The Fund provides its fellowship holders, through cooperation with important institutions, with the possibility of professional internships and employment, as well as through additional activities and benefits that can provide them with significant support in further education and professional development. It is necessary to continue intensive support for young people through the work of the Fund, which works under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation.

Over the last ten years, the biggest reduction in the youth unemployment rate in Europe is in Serbia. The unemployment rate of young people aged 15-30 in Serbia in 2020 was 19.3%, which is a decrease of 16.3 percentage points compared to 2014. According to Eurostat data for 2019, the unemployment rate of young people aged 15 to 29 was 11.9% in the EU27, and in Serbia it was 21.5% for that age. In 2020, when the pandemic began, there was a slight increase in the unemployment rate in the EU27 of 13.2% (1.3 percentage points), whereas in Serbia the unemployment rate continued to decrease and amounted to 20.5%. However, the

¹⁰¹ Improvement of the legal framework for regulating work practices in the Republic of Serbia, Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction and Belgrade Open School, https://sociojlnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Unapredjenje_pravnog_okvira_za_uredjenje_radnih_praksi_u_Republici_Srbiji.pdf and Guide for quality work practices, 2021, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, National Youth Council of Serbia, NAPOR and citizens' association "Empirija" available at http://www.napor.net/sajt/images/Vesti/Vesti_2021/Vodic_za_radne_prakse.pdf

¹⁰² [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014H0327\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014H0327(01))

youth unemployment rate in Serbia in 2020¹⁰³ is twice as high as the total unemployment rate of the working age population (9.5%), as well as the EU average, and much more needs to be done to improve the position of young people in the labour market. Special attention should be paid to youth entrepreneurship and increasing the share of women in it (only 23% of the self-employed in Serbia are women), as well as to the development of integrated services for young people at the local level. We emphasise the introduction of the concept of dual education, so that young people acquire functional and applicable knowledge. Taking into account the consequences that COVID-19 has on the education and employment of young people, these efforts must be intensified in order not to lose the positive trends achieved in this area.

In order to reduce the risk of poverty or social exclusion,¹⁰⁴ it is necessary to give special support to young people, especially in rural areas and those with lower levels of education. To that end, it is necessary to work on creating conditions for decent work and greater (self-) employability of young people. In order to reduce discrimination, increase social cohesion and provide equal opportunities to all young people, it is important to continuously work on social inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups, reducing and overcoming prejudices, both through youth and sports activities. It is necessary to work on creating conditions for decent work and greater (self-) employability of young refugees and asylum seekers. It is also necessary to provide adequate support to this category of young people through stimulating public policies for inclusion in education, overcoming language barriers and assistance in learning. In order to reduce discrimination, increase social cohesion and provide equal opportunities to all young people, it is important to continuously work on the social inclusion of young people from these vulnerable groups, as well as to reduce and overcome prejudice.

3.1.5. Health and well-being and safety

The World Health Organisation (hereinafter referred to as: the WHO)¹⁰⁵ has defined health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, rather than merely the absence of disease or disability.

The Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia¹⁰⁶ also contains issues related to the health of young people. The majority of young people (87%) rate their health as good and very good, the majority being men under the age of 24 coming from suburban areas. Only 1% of young people assess their health as bad. The percentage of young people who assess their health as good and very good grows during all six research waves. In the last 12 months, 16% of young people were worried about their mental health, more women than men. Concerns are highest among respondents aged 20-24 and the region of Vojvodina (24%). Only 53% of young people sought help/advice, far more women (65%) than men (38%). They most often asked for it from friends (42%), parents (26%), psychologists (18%), doctors (10%) and clergymen (4%). Compared to the previous year, the number of those who sought help from psychologists and doctors is increasing. The largest percentage of young people (85%) do not use tranquilizers, while 11% rarely use them.

¹⁰³ Bulletin: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Survey on Workforce in the Republic of Serbia, 2020. <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2021/Pdf/G20215671.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ Klačnjak, S. (2020): Basic Indicators of Position of the Youth in Serbia. Ministry of Youth and Sports, p. 62.

¹⁰⁵ Available at <https://www.who.int/about/who-we-are/constitution>

¹⁰⁶ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 143.

Young people are active and equal participants in all areas of social life, who, with the support of society, fully develop their potential and contribute to personal and social development and well-being.

Principles in working with young people and for young people

Youth policy and all activities undertaken by the of youth policy actors (hereinafter referred to as YPAs) under the Strategy should be based on the international and national system of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Juveniles (under the age of 18) have special protection and support. The following principles should be applied to all youth-related policies and activities:

1. Respect for human and minority rights, equality and non-discrimination

All young people are equal and enjoy equal status and equal legal protection, regardless of personal characteristics. We must not discriminate or treat young people unequally, directly or indirectly, on any grounds, especially on the basis of age, race, gender, nationality, religious beliefs, language, social origin, property status, membership in political, trade union and other organisations, mental or physical disability, health condition, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity and other real or presumed personal characteristics. Special measures introduced for the purpose of achieving full equality, protection and advancement of persons, or groups of persons in an unequal position, are not considered discrimination.

2. Support for personal and social empowerment of youth

Everyone, and especially the YPAs, within their activities and scope, support the independence and social empowerment of young people in the manner determined by the LoY, the Strategy and other instruments of youth policy.

3. Equal opportunities for all

Young people have the right to equal opportunities and participation in all areas of social life, in accordance with their own choices and abilities. The personal and social development of young people is encouraged by ensuring respect for diversity, gender equality, rights, freedom and dignity. Young people have the right to objective, tailored and easily accessible information, in order to develop and make decisions on the basis of full information.

4. Cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination at all levels of decision-making

All, especially YPAs, encourage and support raising awareness of the importance of youth and the social role of young people, through coordinated development, implementation and monitoring of youth policy, recognise and respect the potential of young people as an important social resource and expresses trust and support to young people.

5. Active youth participation and cooperation

All, especially YPAs, provide a stimulating environment and give active support in the implementation of youth activities of young people, taking initiatives and their meaningful involvement in decision-making and implementation processes, which contribute to personal and social development, based on full awareness of young people. Freedom of association, cooperation with peers and intergenerational cooperation, at the local, national and international levels, and active participation in political and social life are supported and encouraged.

6. Social responsibility and solidarity

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| <p>LSGU, SCTM, NAPOR, NAOYO</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Adopted standard of qualification of youth workers</p> <p>Baseline value: No Target value (2026): Yes Source of verification: Qualifications Agency</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of certified youth workers</p> <p>Baseline value: none Target value (2030): Number of certified youth workers Source of verification: NAPOR database</p> <p>Institution responsible for the implementation of the measure: NAPOR</p> <p>Indicator 3 Percentage of certified youth workers among YO coordinators and representatives of associations¹⁷⁹</p> <p>Baseline value: none Target value (2030): 20% for YOs and 20% for associations Source of verification: Database of NAPOR, LSGUs, associations</p> | <p>Qualifications Framework, provincial bodies responsible for youth, LSGUs, SCTM, NAPOR, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Standards for quality assurance of youth work programmes have been adopted and are being applied</p> <p>Baseline value: No (there are only Guidelines) Target value (2026): Yes Source of verification: NAPOR reports</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of accredited programmes that comply with programme quality assurance standards</p> <p>Baseline value: none Target value (2030): 100 Source of verification: reports of the Qualifications Agency and NAPOR reports</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of youth associations and for young people that have accredited the programme of adult education activities as PROAEA</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 1¹⁸⁰ Target value (2030): 50 Source of verification: Report of the Qualifications Agency</p> <p>Indicator 4 The number of digital programmes of youth</p> | <p>development, LSGU, CSOs, NAPOR, SCTM</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Share of local self-government units that provide integrated¹⁸¹ services for young people</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50% Source of verification: Reports of local self-government units, annual reports of NAPOR</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of integrated services in local self-government annually available to young people</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 300 Source of verification: LSGUs' reports</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of supported projects/programmes of youth work within informal education in rural areas of the Republic of Serbia on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: none Target value (2030): 100 annually</p> <p>Source of verification: NAPOR database, reports of MoTY, Ministry of Rural Care, provincial authority responsible for youth and</p> |
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¹⁷⁹ It is compared in relation to the number of YOs coordinators and in relation to the number of youth associations/unified register of associations.

¹⁸⁰ http://azk.gov.rs/?page_id=75150 Qualifications Agency – PROAEA centre.

¹⁸¹ Integrated (cross-sectoral) services are activities for young people that are carried out jointly by organisations that practice youth work and deal with young people and institutions, as a systemic solution to a specific problem or need of young people in the local community, which is recognised by young people, organisations and institutions or the local community. They are implemented in cooperation between organisations and institutions, and are established for a long period of time, with both parties participating in their creation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and adaptation to changing conditions over time. Integrated services are supported by LSGUs and financed from the city/municipal budget.

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| | <p>work on an annual level, which are in accordance with the standards for ensuring the quality of the programmes</p> <p>Baseline value: none Target value (2030): 10 annually Source of verification: Database and reports of NAPOR, MoTY, Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth, LSGUs, CSOs</p> | balanced regional development, LSGUs, CSOs |
| MEASURE 1.4 | MEASURE 1.5 | MEASURE 1.6 |
| <p>Youth work is recognised in the system of formal and non-formal education and among young people</p> <p>The institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: ministry responsible for information, ministry responsible for European integration, ministry responsible for foreign affairs, provincial authorities responsible for youth, LSGU, Tempus Foundation, media services, NAPOR, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Percentage of young people who believe that non-formal education programmes implemented by youth workers are important</p> | <p>Research and knowledge management in the field of youth work and non-formal education of young people are continuously conducted;</p> <p>Institution responsible for the implementation (coordination of the implementation) of the measure: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: ministries responsible for various areas of youth policy, SORS, research agencies, institutes, faculties, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of surveys on youth and youth work in the Republic of Serbia conducted on a representative sample,¹⁸² on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: 6¹⁸³ Target value: 9 Source of verification: website of MoTY, SORS and other research organisers</p> | <p>Harmonisation of youth work with international standards</p> <p>Institution responsible for the implementation (coordination of the implementation) of the measure: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: ministry responsible for European integration, ministry responsible for foreign affairs, ministry responsible for European integration NAPOR, KOMS, OPENS, CSOs, SKONUS</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of implemented measures within the international processes of harmonisation of youth work</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 2¹⁸⁴ Target value (2030): 4 Source of verification: Minutes from the sessions of the Expert Team for the Implementation of the Bonn Process and the</p> |

¹⁸² Representativeness of the sample is determined by the authority of the Republic of Serbia responsible for statistics.

¹⁸³ Survey of the MoYS, SORS, foundations and associations.

¹⁸⁴ The EU Youth Strategy and Bonn Process.

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| <p>for their personal and professional development</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 30% Source of verification: Survey on the position and needs of young people, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 2 Annual number of articles in traditional media (press, radio, TV) on youth work</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 24 Verification source: publications in the print media</p> <p>Indicator 3 Regional network of youth workers' associations established.</p> <p>Baseline value: No Target value (2026): Yes Source of verification: NAPOR reports; MoTY reports</p> | <p>Indicator 2 A mechanism for coordination of researchers in the field of youth policy has been established</p> <p>Baseline value: No Target value (2026): Yes Source of verification: MoTY reports</p> | <p>Youth Council</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of international and regional events on youth and youth work in which he participates entities that implement youth policy in the Republic of Serbia on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 6¹⁸⁵ Target value (2030): 10 Source of verification: MoTY Annual Report</p> |
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Specific goal 2 Spatial capacities and services for youth implementation policies are improved and functional in all LSGUs

This goal will be implemented through 4 measures:

Measure 2.1 Youth spaces are established and function in accordance with defined standards;

Measure 2.2 Improved quality of work of youth offices;

Measure 2.3 Improved system of data collection, processing and reporting on youth, at all levels, with special focus on young people from vulnerable groups;

Measure 2.4 Improved mechanisms of action and capacities of youth policy actors in the field of creation, implementation and monitoring of youth policy development.

¹⁸⁵ The MoYS data.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES

Measure 2.1 Youth spaces are established and function in accordance with defined standards

The existing institutional mechanisms for the implementation of youth policy and the active participation of young people in society need to be improved. In order to ensure quality in working with young people, it is necessary to establish new youth spaces and adapt existing ones in accordance with defined standards and raise the competencies of those who work with young people in non-formal education. This measure is therefore aimed at developing standards for youth spaces, both in terms of infrastructure and equipment, and in terms of non-formal education and informal learning programmes that are implemented in these areas and in terms of competencies of the implementers of these programmes. When developing standards for youth spaces, as well as during the process of adaptation and creation of spaces for young people, it is necessary to rely on the principles of universal design, in order to ensure that all spaces (physical and virtual) are accessible to young people with disabilities. Through a broad consultation process with young people, representatives of the civil and public sector, standards for youth spaces (including digital space, digital platforms-hubs) will be developed, in which young people can spend quality free time, attend free non-formal education programmes, receive psycho-social support, creative expression, recreational sports activities, informal learning in a safe environment, etc.

It is necessary to introduce standards related to digital youth work, i.e., digital platforms-hubs as spaces used by young people. This form of work with young people intensified during the pandemic, and it must be accompanied by appropriate standards. Its importance is also recognised in the EU Youth Strategy.

Research has shown that the existing number of youth spaces is not sufficient to meet the needs of young people in the local community and most of them are not available to all young people. That is why it is important to renovate and adapt the existing youth spaces in accordance with the standards that will be developed. Based on the analysis of the optimal scope and model of organising a network of youth centres in Serbia, and in order to provide integrated services for young people at the local level that are available to all young people, the best solution for establishing and operating youth centres will be reached. In the centres, young people will be able to receive various free services of comprehensive youth information, non-formal education, as well as space for expressing creative potentials and developing entrepreneurial ideas.

Special attention will be paid to increasing the number of local self-government units with provided youth space that meets the adopted standards, to ensure accessible and quality services for all, especially for those from vulnerable groups, by raising awareness of local decision makers about their importance, information campaigns, promoting examples of good practice in the functioning of such spaces and encouraging more active participation of young people in local youth councils and decision-making processes of importance to young people at the local level.

The implementation of this measure implies cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation, and its implementation will include competent ministries and bodies, LSGUs, the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, youth organisations and organisations for the youth and their associations, as well as young people themselves.

Type of measure: regulatory and institutional-managerial-organisational

Measure 2.2 Improved quality of work of youth offices

Important mechanisms for the development and implementation of youth policy and youth activities at the provincial and local levels are youth offices and youth councils. The Law on Youth¹⁸⁶ states that youth offices are established to provide conditions for active involvement of young people in the life and work of the community, empowerment of young people, providing support for organising various social activities of young people, learning and creative expression of youth needs. Currently, there are 140 youth offices and 80 local youth councils at the local level, and it can be said that, in addition to the existing youth spaces, basic mechanisms for developing youth potential and their active participation in social life at the provincial and local level have been established.

In order to create a safe environment for young people and ensure the quality of non-formal education and non-formal learning programmes, special attention will be paid to raising the competencies of those working with young people and a multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of projects and programmes.

A big step towards improving the quality of work of the YOs in the past period were the guidelines “Implementation of the National Strategy for Youth at the local level/standards of work of youth offices and competencies of coordinators.” However, data obtained by evaluating the performance of NYS implementation for the period from 2015 to 2020. ex-post and ex-ante analyses, as well as various Survey on the position and needs of young people, point to a number of challenges related to the implementation of youth policy at the local level. The main ones are the lack of YO in all LSGUs, uneven quality of YO work, lack of youth councils in all LSGUs, insufficient inclusiveness and functionality of established youth councils at the local level, insufficient number of systematised jobs for people working in YO, lack of budget for financing of local youth policy in all local governments and irregularities in the adoption of local action plans, etc.

By implementing this measure, we are trying to ensure that all local self-government units have developed and updated strategic documents for young people, which are in line with the Strategy, but also with the specifics of local self-government units. In order to improve the quality of YOs’ work, we will work on updating the existing YOs’ work standards and competencies of YO coordinators and elaborate the mechanism of their application through evaluation and self-evaluation, i.e., the implementation of YO work standards will be done through external evaluation and self-evaluation. Special attention will be paid to better informing young people about the activities of the YOs and their inclusion in them, while taking into account the availability of services, especially for young people from vulnerable groups.

Type of measure: regulatory and institutional-managerial-organisational

Measure 2.3 Improved system of data collection, processing and reporting on youth, at all levels, with special focus on young people from vulnerable groups

Results of the evaluation of the application of the NYS in the period from 2015 to 2020, Ex-post and Ex-ante analyses and consultations with young people and other youth policy actors (round tables, focus groups, etc.) during the development of the Strategy, indicated that it is necessary to improve the system of data collection on youth at all levels of government, as

¹⁸⁶ The Law on Youth (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 50/11 and 116/22 – amending law), Articles 17 and 18.

well as to improve the process of reporting on the implementation of activities planned by the Strategy and action plans for its implementation.

In the ex-post analysis,¹⁸⁷ three recommendations directly relate to the activities to be implemented through this measure:

1. The system of data collection and monitoring of the effects of measures and results of the National Youth Strategy should be improved, in order to ensure quality in the processes of creating and implementing NYS measures. This recommendation, first of all, implies the identification of grounded and realistic indicators for monitoring activities, results and strategic goals, but also defining the baseline values and target values that are to be achieved within the defined deadline for the implementation of the Strategy. Indicators must be aligned with existing data collection systems at European, national and local levels. Based on that, the system of data collection and processing should be improved, especially the system of reporting on implemented activities, in order to enable regular monitoring and evaluation and improvement of defined indicators.

2. A support system should be provided that will strengthen the capacity of all youth policy actors at the local, regional and national level to create, implement and monitor youth policy measures; The analysis showed that there is significant progress in terms of defining and forming bodies and mechanisms for implementing youth policy at all levels. However, the capacities of all relevant actors, especially local youth councils and youth offices, must be further strengthened through standardisation and evaluation of work, as well as recommendations related to the implementation of financial support to associations and their associations.

3. Cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels should be improved; All the findings indicate that one of the biggest challenges, especially in the field of implementing activities and monitoring the achieved results, is insufficiently developed cross-sectoral cooperation. The need to strengthen existing mechanisms that give good results (such as the youth council at the national level) is recognised, but also to establish some other platforms, which would ensure faster and better data exchange. In the next steps, some platforms and mechanisms proposed within the framework of international strategies, such as structured dialogue, management, etc., should be considered, which should be considered in the next steps. One of the starting points is the harmonisation of the data collection and processing system, in order to facilitate the reporting process and monitoring the achieved results.

In accordance with the finding given in the ex-ante analysis that most of the planned NYS activities were fully or partially implemented within the planned deadlines, but also that about 30% of activities were either not implemented (partially implemented), or there is no data on their implementation, and Greater support is needed for the development of the capacity of youth policy actors for implementation. Through this measure work will be done on raising the capacity of all those involved in the process of reporting on implemented measures and activities envisaged in the Strategy and action plans for its implementation.

Special attention will be paid to data collection and development of inter-sectoral cooperation mechanisms, as well as programmes and measures aimed at reducing social exclusion and segregation of vulnerable groups recognised by the Strategy, such as Roma, LGBT+ and displaced persons. It is important that more attention regarding segregation and social

¹⁸⁷ Ex-post analysis, pp. 61-62.

exclusion be paid to young people with disabilities and young people with disabilities, and appropriate actions will be planned in the Action Plan accordingly.

Also, when defining indicators that monitor the quality of the Strategy implementation, baseline values are given wherever possible, as well as target values for selected indicators and means of verification, which significantly facilitates the process of monitoring and evaluation of achieved results.

The MoTY will directly monitor the activities from the action plans of the Strategy for the implementation of which it is directly responsible, while the activities directly implemented by other ministries, institutions, civil society, business sector, etc. are indirectly monitored by the MoTY, through their reports. At the annual level, the MoTY will report to the Government on the implementation of the Strategy.

In order to implement this measure, through cross-sectoral cooperation and consultations with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia, appropriate forms will be prepared for reporting on implemented activities of action plans for the implementation of the Strategy and their effects on youth. These forms will be part of a reporting system based on defined indicators at the local, provincial and national levels.

The Working Group for Monitoring and Implementation of the Strategy and the Youth Council of the Government of the Republic of Serbia will have a significant role in the implementation of this measure, and it is necessary to work on strengthening the capacity of their members to report according to established patterns.

For the purpose of comprehensive, reliable and timely information, capacity building and greater youth activism and networking of youth policy actors, this measure will work on establishing a platform on the MoTY website, which will regularly publish data on the position and needs of young people and opportunities provided to them at all levels.

Work will also be done on recognising young people as a special category in reporting on the implementation of other public policy documents whose measures and activities are aimed at young people.

Type of measure: regulatory and informative-educational

Measure 2.4 Improved mechanisms of action and capacities of youth policy actors at the local level in the field of creating, implementing and monitoring the development of youth policy

In accordance with the Law on Planning System,¹⁸⁸ all LSGUs are obliged to develop a LSGU Development Plan. With this plan, as well as with public policy documents in the field of youth policy adopted at the national level and laws, local documents for young people should be harmonised. Therefore, special attention within this specific goal and measure 2.4 is paid to raising the capacity of youth officers in local self-government, but also informal youth associations, student parliaments, youth associations and youth associations and their associations to participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of these public policy documents based on analysis and research findings.

¹⁸⁸ The Law on Planning System, "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 30/18.

Specific goal 3: Young people are active participants in society at all levels

This goal will be implemented through 5 measures:

Measure 3.1 Creating conditions for the involvement of young people in decision-making processes and policies that affect them, as well as their development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

Measure 3.2 Encouraging volunteering and activism among young people;

Measure 3.3 Improving international cooperation, exchange of experiences and practices of young people and other youth policy actors and participation in the development, monitoring and evaluation of international documents of youth policy;

Measure 3.4 Developed mechanisms in the function of providing the optimal amount of allocated funds for young people at all levels;

Measure 3.5 Strengthening and systemic support to associations and youth offices in creating, implementing and monitoring public policies through cross-sectoral cooperation and dialogue of all relevant actors.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES

Measure 3.1 Creating conditions for the involvement of young people in decision-making processes and policies that affect them, as well as their development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Systematic work on creating stimulating conditions for active involvement of young people in decision-making on issues of strategic importance for the development of society is one of the priorities of the Strategy. In accordance with the principles of decentralisation, it is important to have structures at the provincial and local level through which the voice of young people can be heard and respected. The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life ¹⁹⁴ states in the introduction that active participation of young people in decisions and actions at local and regional level is essential if we want to build more democratic, open and richer societies. Participation in the democratic life of any community is not limited to voting or running in elections, although these are also important elements. The essence of participation and active citizenship is in law, resources, space and opportunity and, when necessary, support for participation and influencing decisions and engaging in actions and activities, in order to contribute to building a better society. That is why special attention within this measure in the Strategy will be devoted to the development of standards of inclusivity and functionality of local youth councils and the meaningful inclusion of young people in the development, implementation and evaluation of the implementation of local action plans for young people, as well as other public policy documents of importance for young people brought by LSGUs.

¹⁹⁴ Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life (2017), Council of Europe, available at <https://rm.coe.int/168071b549>

Also, it is important to introduce standards of youth participation in the process of development, implementation and monitoring of youth policies at all levels and decision-making that would help to really hear the voice of young people, both in the governmental and non-governmental sector. The brochure on participation and organisation of young people *Participate actively! KOMS*¹⁹⁵ indicates in which ways young people can actively participate in society, as well as the importance of reaching the 8th level of participation on the ladder of participation R. Hart described in the book *Children's Participation: from Tokenism to Citizenship*,¹⁹⁶ i.e., that young people and adults make decisions together.

Integrated services at the local level must be adapted and accessible to people with disabilities, marginalised and vulnerable groups in a way that ensures physical accessibility, but also accessibility to information and communication (the deaf and hard of hearing, blind and partially sighted youth, etc.). It is a prerequisite for the participation of young people with disabilities in the process of development, implementation and monitoring of policies for young people at all levels and in decision-making.

The Law on Youth states that provincial, city and municipal youth councils are established in order to coordinate activities related to the implementation of youth policy on the territory of the autonomous province and local self-government units. In the Dictionary of Youth Policy,¹⁹⁷ youth councils are established as advisory bodies of municipal/city/provincial/national assemblies, where the most important decisions are made, but also within city/municipal councils, i.e., governments. In this way, young people are involved in making important decisions such as initiating projects and programmes of importance to young people, adopting budgets, strategies and plans, and at the local level work programmes and reports of the YO and/or youth institutions, cultural institutions, youth centres, etc. The Youth Council gives an opinion on all issues of importance for young people.

Efforts will also be made to involve student parliaments at the local level and the community of student parliaments at the national level in youth councils, in order to hear the opinions and needs of high school students. According to SORS, at the beginning of the 2021/22 school year, there were 243,756 high school students, which means that high school students make up about 20% of young people in Serbia. When developing advice standards, this should be taken into account.

Special attention will be devoted to the improvement of participatory budgeting as one of the mechanisms of participatory democracy, which involves young people in decision-making processes at the local self-government level and/or at the micro-community level. Youth participatory budgeting programs that can be implemented at the level of local self-governments or at the level of micro-communities (e.g., secondary schools) can ensure the active involvement of young people in the decision-making process on the spending of public funds and influence on the improvement of their environment.

¹⁹⁵ Participate Actively! – a brochure on the participation and organisation of young people was created within the project “Step Ahead” of the KOMS, financed by the MoYS (2017), available at <https://koms.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Ucestvuj-Aktivno.pdf>

¹⁹⁶ Children's Participation: from Tokenism to Citizenship (1992) Roger Hart, available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/22721>

¹⁹⁷ The dictionary of youth policy was created within the project “Iskorak” (*One Step Ahead*) of the KOMS, financed by the MoYS; was developed in cooperation with NAOYO and NAPOR, available at <https://koms.rs/2016/08/16/preuzmi-besplatno-recnik-omladinske-politike/>

Access to integrated services at the local level is essential for young people, and it is therefore important to enable the participation of youth representatives in other advisory and permanent working bodies at the local and provincial level, such as local economic development councils, socio-economic councils, economic councils, employment councils, local migration councils, etc.

Through this measure, work will also be done on informing and raising the competencies of young people (knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities) in terms of democratic values, participation in decision-making, about the political system and culture, civil and political rights through the system of formal and informal education.

Since the active participation of young people in bodies, structures and conferences taking place at the international level is extremely important for Serbia, special attention within this measure will be directed towards further development of mechanisms for participation of young people and MoTY representatives in the work of the Council of Europe. Regional offices for youth cooperation as well as in international conferences and forums (ECOSOC, UNESCO, etc.). Also, in accordance with Serbia's strategic commitment to membership in the European Union and the active participation of youth representatives and decision-makers from Serbia in EU conferences on youth, special attention will be paid to the EU dialogue with young people. In accordance with the Decision of the Youth Council in May 2021, a Permanent Expert Team for EU Youth Dialogue was formed. Coordination of work, as well as professional and administrative tasks for the Permanent Expert Team for EU Youth Dialogue is performed by the KOMS.

Type of measure: regulatory and informative-educational

Measure 3.2 Encouraging volunteering and activism among young people

In accordance with the principle of social responsibility and solidarity, young people should actively contribute to building and nurturing social values and development of their community, especially through various forms of volunteer activities and to express intergenerational solidarity and actively work to create conditions for equal and full participation in all aspects of social life of every young person. The responsibility of people who work with young people is encouraged and developed, as well as the responsibility of young people in relation to their obligations in society.

Volunteerism has a positive effect on personal development and the acquisition of important competencies for further professional and personal development of young people, and at the same time brings benefits to the whole society. The Law on Volunteering¹⁹⁸ at the national level regulates the basic matter related to volunteering but does not specifically regulate the area of youth volunteering. Since work is underway on amendments to this Law, it is important to provide a stimulating volunteer environment as well as to regulate volunteering in emergency situations. The international normative framework related to volunteering includes various strategic documents, laws and programmes, primarily of the EU, CoE and UN. International documents are an important framework for drafting and amending the domestic normative framework. Especially important for young people is the European Solidarity Initiative 2021-2027,¹⁹⁹ a programme of the European Commission that is intended for young people and provides them with the opportunity to gain experience of living and

¹⁹⁸ The Law on Volunteering ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 36/10)

¹⁹⁹ Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps and amending Regulations (EU) No 1288/2013, (EU) No 1293/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU.

working in a foreign country through volunteering and work programmes. The programme also supports the development of digital skills, promotes inclusion and environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among participants and youth participation in democratic processes and civic engagement. In line with the flexibility of the programme, in 2021 it was added as an important thematic area – health, and the programme will mobilise young people in projects that address health challenges. In order for young people in Serbia to be able to use this programme fully, through measure 3.2, work will be done on including Serbia in this programme as full participants, and not only as partner countries.

Further development and support of the national volunteering programme “Youth Rule”, which has been implemented in cooperation with civil society continuously since 2010, will continue. Through this programme, international youth camps will be organised, youth volunteer projects will be implemented, project ideas of informal youth associations will be developed to improve the local environment with mentoring support and work actions in order to arrange space for youth in local communities, environmental protection, encouragement of humanity and solidarity, understanding and tolerance, security and intergenerational cooperation. Special attention will be paid to greater information of young people about the possibilities of inclusion in the programme “Youth Rule” and further development of the platform²⁰⁰ as well as the promotion of volunteerism. Through this programme, student parliaments are also supported and their capacities are strengthened in order to include as many young people as possible in volunteer activities, support activism, and the participation of young people in the decision-making process, etc.

It is important to encourage youth activism through their participation in work and involvement in associations as well as in association volunteer activities.

Although data from Survey on the position and needs of young people²⁰¹ indicate that the number of young people who participated in volunteer activities has been growing over the years (27% in 2021 and 22% in 2015) and that young people have huge family support for volunteering (93% in 2020), in international research, Serbia ranks very low in terms of volunteering in general. According to the Global Youth Development Index (YDI)²⁰² in 2016 on the indicator of civic participation (which also takes into account the time young people spend in volunteer activities), Serbia is on the YDI Youth Development Index at 155th out of 183 places (score 0.248), while according to the total score on YDI (0.693), Serbia is on the 48th place. This youth development index (aged 15-29) has five domains related to: education, health and well-being, employment, political participation and civic participation of young people. In August 2021, a new Global Youth Development Index was published.²⁰³ Unlike previous indices, two new domains have been introduced: peace and security and equality and inclusiveness, while political and civic/social participation have been integrated into one. Serbia has a total score of 0.802 and ranks 32nd out of 181 countries (high level of youth development). In the domain of civic and political participation, Serbia is on the 113th place, with almost 0.258, and of all the domains, it has the weakest result here.

Therefore, it is necessary to continue working on promoting civic participation of young people and volunteering, informing about opportunities for inclusion, promoting solidarity and respecting the principles of the United Nations Volunteers Programme²⁰⁴ that

²⁰⁰ <https://www.mis.org.rs/projekti/mladi-su-zakon-2020/>

²⁰¹ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 370.

²⁰² Global Youth Development Index, 2016 <https://thecommonwealth.org/youthdevelopmentindex>

²⁰³ Global Youth Development Index, 2021. <https://thecommonwealth.org/media/news/new-global-youth-development-index-shows-improvement-state-young-people>

²⁰⁴ United Nations Volunteers acclamation of ‘Declaration on Volunteering for a sustainable future’ (17 September 2011).

volunteering is a personal choice, a legitimate way for citizens to participate in community activities, environmental and social issues, then that volunteering is an unpaid job that does not replace paid work and does not replace paid workers and does not pose a threat to job security to paid workers. Work will also be done on recognising innovative ways of volunteering for young people, such as online volunteering, and on improving volunteer services.

Under this measure, special attention will be paid to the involvement of informal associations of youth, pupils and student parliaments in volunteer activities and training of young people and organisers of volunteer services for volunteering in regular situations and in emergency situations. Work will also be done on strengthening the sustainability of the community of student parliaments and their contribution to strengthening the competencies for responsible participation in a democratic society among peers.

The conclusions and recommendations of the comparative analysis of the position of young people in Serbia with other European countries²⁰⁵ state that the research data on the position and needs of young people indicate a small degree of youth participation in socio-political events, associations, cultural and artistic societies, political parties and small participation in cultural and artistic events and cultural and artistic creation. Young people show the most activism when it comes to recreational sports.

It is also stated that according to Eurostat data, 15% of young people aged 16-29 in the EU27 (16% men and 13% women) used to express opinions on civil and political issues via websites (blogs, social networks, etc.) in 2019, and in Serbia 10% (11% men and 9% women).

In accordance with the recommendations, through the use of digital tools for more active participation of young people, more work will be done on their inclusion in society, reaching their views and proposals on issues of interest, with timely and objective information of young people on all topics, including COVID-19 pandemic, online training and volunteering.²⁰⁶

Type of measure: regulatory and informative-educational

Measure 3.3 Improving international cooperation, exchange of experiences and practices of young people and other youth policy actors and participation in the development, monitoring and evaluation of international documents of youth policy

Within this measure, concrete activities will be implemented aimed at greater participation of young people in international conferences, forums, exchanges, participation in EU programmes and funds, such as Erasmus+, European Solidarity Initiative, Horizon Europe, European Social Fund plus, as well as in regional initiatives, engagement, connection and empowerment of young people and youth associations and unions in order to exchange experiences, examples of good practice and implementation of joint projects in accordance with the basic principles of domestic and international documents in the field of youth policy and youth support in pandemic and post-pandemic period.

The Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy until 2030 as well as the EU Youth Strategy for the period from 2019 to 2027 clearly emphasised the importance of the process of joint

²⁰⁵ Klačnja, S. (2020): Basic Indicators of Position of the Youth in Serbia. Ministry of Youth and Sports, p. 59.

²⁰⁶ Example of volunteering platform: "Volunteers Online" <https://volonterinamrezi.rs>

decision-making by young people and representatives of state bodies in charge of youth. Since Serbia has representatives of decision-makers and young people in the management structures of the Council of Europe (Youth Supervisory Board and Youth Advisory Body), as well as in the Partnership of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, further active participation of young people with decision-makers in these structures is envisaged.

Since the beginning of the establishment of the Regional Office for Youth Cooperation, Serbia has a youth representative in the Steering Board of this body, which represents the interests of young people and decides equally with other government and youth representatives on all issues within the competence of the Board.

Within the project “Youth Laboratory of the Western Balkans”, implemented by the Council for Regional Cooperation with EU financial support, in six economies of the Western Balkans in 2021, young people and decision makers worked through the management system to increase youth employability, and in 2021 work began on the second priority defined by young people, which is the mental health of young people. Further participation of young people in this and similar regional projects is planned, which connect young people and government officials in their efforts to contribute to solving the key challenges facing young people in the region and the world.

The Youth Hub Network of the Western Balkans and Turkey, led by the "Ana and Vlade Divac" Foundation with the financial support of the European Commission, has established a composite Youth Participation Index²⁰⁷ that measures the participation of young people in the political, economic and social spheres of public life by cross-checking numerous statistical data on national level in Serbia, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey.

In order to ensure the participation of young people from Serbia and to hear their opinion in important processes at the level of the European Union and the Council of Europe, the Permanent Expert Team for EU Youth Dialogue was formed in 2021 at the Youth Council, which is a unique example of such working body in a non-EU country. EU dialogue with young people is an ongoing process of consultation between young people and EU decision-makers, with the aim of jointly defining and implementing policies relevant to youth at all levels, in line with eleven European goals for improving the position of young people, reflecting European attitudes and priorities. youth. A Permanent Expert Team for the Implementation of the Bonn Process has been formed within the Youth Council, which provides the preconditions for the implementation of the joint strategic document of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, the Declaration on Youth Work, adopted in December 2020 at the Third Convention on Youth Work.

The involvement of young people in global education activities will continue, through cooperation with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, of which Serbia is a member. There will be work on informing young people about the principles of global education, developing and implementing various campaigns and actions, especially during the celebration of the Week of Global Education.

Support for the work of youth delegates to the United Nations will continue, as it is one of the good mechanisms for the voice of young people from Serbia to be heard in various bodies at the UN, as well as for young people around the world to unite in joint efforts to improve the position and quality of life of the youth on planet, through active participation in the

²⁰⁷Youth Participation Index available at <https://www.divac.com/youthwbt>

implementation and monitoring of the implementation of sustainable development goals, but also other important documents at the international level.

This measure will also support activities that contribute to the inclusion of young people from Serbia in various international youth activities, gatherings and events, as well as in the implementation of international agreements and memoranda of cooperation. Also, additional funds will be invested in financing young talents who acquire knowledge at prestigious international higher education institutions, as well as activities to enable their adequate employment and self-employment in Serbia and connecting with innovative projects that take place at the faculties where they were educated.

Since 2022 has been declared the European Year of Youth, and Novi Sad has won the prestigious title of European Capital of Culture for the year 2022, it is planned to continue a series of activities on international youth exchange, developing their creative potentials and networking, which will ensure sustainability of exceptional results achieved in Serbia, as part of the activities implemented through the programmes of OPENS, i.e., the European Youth Capital in 2019.

Type of measure: Incentive and informative-educational

Measure 3.4 Developed mechanisms in the function of providing the optimal amount of allocated funds for young people at all levels;

In order to monitor the total allocation for youth at all levels, special attention will be paid to developing mechanisms to ensure the optimal amount of funds allocated to youth at all levels, since at all levels of government are planned and implemented funds for activities aimed at young people, but that currently there is no mechanism through which all bodies at the national, provincial and local levels of government would express the amount of funds directly intended for young people. Also, in the indicators of various public policy documents, except in the Youth Strategy, there are generally no youth-sensitive indicators, as there are when it comes to gender responsive budgeting.

Therefore, it is necessary to develop a Guide for budgeting funds for young people for all levels of government and monitor their implementation.²⁰⁸ In order to see the total allocations for youth policy from state sources, it is necessary to allocate special budgets that are intended for the implementation of youth policy at all levels of government. It is also important in the planning and implementation of the budget to have data on the share of the budget intended for the implementation of youth policy that is allocated to support youth associations and youth and their associations and youth offices through competitions at national, provincial and local levels in reference to the entire budget intended for youth policy.

The existence of such data is important because it enables a realistic view of budget allocations for young people as well as the degree of implementation of allocated budget funds.

²⁰⁸ The "Ana and Vlade Divac" Foundation, in cooperation with the Permanent Conference of Cities and Municipalities in 2016, with the support of USAID, prepared a guide "Program budgeting and local youth policy" as a tool that local governments can already use, but it is necessary to create a comprehensive guide for all authorities. The guide is available at the link: https://www.divac.com/upload/document/programsko_budzetiranje_i_lokalna_omladinska_polit.pdf

Also, it is necessary to establish a mechanism based on when the allocation for youth provided by the international community through various programmes and projects will be monitored. In addition to considering the total allocation for young people, it is important to consider for which thematic areas the funds are determined and realised, which will help in better planning, allocation and implementation of new projects.

Type of measure: regulatory and incentive

Measure 3.5 Strengthening and systemic support to associations and youth offices in creating, implementing and monitoring public policies through cross-sectoral cooperation and dialogue of all relevant actors.

The Strategy pays great attention to supporting the meaningful participation of young people in democratic life and improving young people's access to exercising their rights. To this end, special work will be done to increase the capacity of the youth civil sector and youth offices to participate in participatory democracy and democratic citizenship. It is important for young people and those working with young people from the non-governmental sector to empower young people to use various mechanisms to participate in the creation, implementation and monitoring of the effects of public policies on young people. Survey on the position and needs of young people indicates that slightly less than a third of young people are ready to engage in the work of various bodies and organs that can initiate or make decisions relevant to young people (student parliament, local youth council, association, political parties, etc.). Also, only 4.2% of young people want to get involved in public debates on the adoption of regulations of interest to young people.

It is necessary to continuously work on raising the capacity of associations and youth offices to participate in the development of public policy documents and consult them during the work of the Permanent Expert Team for EU Youth Dialogue and the Permanent Expert Team for Implementation of the Bonn Process, which submit their reports to the Youth Council. According to Eurostat data for communication with public authorities, in the last 12 months in 2019, 57% of young people in the EU27 used the Internet, and 33% in Serbia. Only 12% of young people (13% of men and 12% of women) in the EU27 used the Internet in 2019 to participate in voting, public hearings and consultations, while in Serbia this percentage is even lower and amounts to 4% (no gender difference), although the internet is used daily by 96% of young people in the Republic of Serbia and 94% in the EU27. Youth workers have a great role in raising the capacity of associations and offices for young people and youth for active participation in social life. Youth work strengthens the participation of young people in society and helps them to express themselves and realise their potential. Therefore, measure 3.5 will work on further informing young people about various opportunities to participate in the development and monitoring of public policies and support youth associations and offices for active participation in these processes, through intersectoral and intergenerational cooperation and dialogue of all youth policy actors. Activities on empowering young people and the YOs for participation in participatory budgeting of local self-government units will be carried out²⁰⁹ in order to have young people participate in making important decisions in the

²⁰⁹ Participatory budgeting is a process that involves citizens and other interested parties in determining priorities and adopting spending plans within the local self-government budget. Sources: 1) Participatory Budgeting – basic principles, tools, activities, BIRN with the support of NALED and the EU (2013); 2) Participatory Budgeting, World Bank (2007) where Brian Wampler gives the following definition: “Participatory budgeting is a decision-making process through which citizens deliberate and negotiate over the distribution of public resources.” Participatory budgeting programmes in Serbia and the region are still a relatively new mechanism for creating and implementing public policies at the local level, although this practice has existed since the eighties of the last century and is very widespread, both in the developed countries of Western Europe and in America, Canada, Australia and South America, from which it originated. This process has been implemented

local community, greater transparency of local self-government units and strengthening trust between citizens and authorities.

Work will also be done on harmonisation of local youth policy measures with measures of migration councils and teams for combating human trafficking, analysis of the situation and youth as actors, their needs, and analysis of harmonisation of local youth policy priorities in relation to given migration mechanisms. In local youth documents, special attention will be paid to the creation of reintegration policy, programmes/initiatives that encourage better integration of returnees into the local community and the development of positive policies related to internal migration and circular migration of young people.

Type of measure: regulatory and informative-educational

Specific goal 3: Young people are active participants in society at all levels

| MEASURE 3.1 | MEASURE 3.2 | MEASURE 3.3 |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Creating conditions for the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes and policies that affect them, as well as their development, implementation, monitoring, implementation and evaluation</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for European integration, the ministry responsible for foreign policy, provincial authorities responsible for youth, the ministry responsible for social protection, LSGUs, educational institutions, SCTM, KOMS, CSOs</p> | <p>Encouraging volunteering and activism among young people</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for work, the ministry responsible for education, provincial bodies responsible for youth, LSGUs, educational institutions, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Share of young people who volunteered in the last year</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 7%²¹¹</p> <p>Target value (2030): 25%</p> <p>Source of verification: Annual Survey of the Position and Needs of Youth, MoTY</p> | <p>Improving international cooperation, exchanging experiences and practices of young people and other YPAs and participating in the development, monitoring and evaluation of international youth policy documents</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for education, the ministry responsible for European integration, the ministry responsible for foreign affairs, the ministry responsible for family care and demography, provincial authorities responsible for youth, LSGUs, SORS, SCTM, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Amount of allocated funds of ministries, provincial bodies and local self-government</p> |

in about 10% of cities and municipalities in Serbia in recent years. See more at the link http://www.lokalnefinansije.co.rs/pbvodic/ucesnici_u_procesu_pb.php

²¹¹Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 370.

| <u>Output indicators</u> | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Indicator 1 Percentage of LSGUs that established a youth council</p> <p>Initial value (2021): 55% of LSGUs do not have an established youth council Target value (2030): 100% Sources of verification: LSGU reports/Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth/ MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of meetings of the national, provincial and local youth councils in one calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 5 meetings at national level; provincial and local level: no data Target value (2030): a minimum of 4 meetings per year for each level Source of verification: Minutes from the meetings of the youth council, reports MoTY / Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth and LSGUs</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of young people involved in the EU dialogue mechanism²¹⁰ in one calendar year</p> | <p>Indicator 2 Number of informal youth associations²¹² supported during one calendar year at local, provincial and national levels</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 45²¹³ Target value (2030): 60 Source of verification: Annual reports of the MoTY, Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth, LSGUs, associations</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of organisers of volunteer services (for volunteering in regular situations and for volunteering in emergency situations)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 180 organisers of volunteer services Source of verification: MoTY Annual Report and records of volunteering organizers</p> <p>Indicator 4 The percentage of youth associations, youth associations and their alliances that are registered in the Uniform Records of MoTY and that encourage young people to activism and engage them in the work and activities of the association</p> | <p>units intended to support the participation of young people and YPAs in international bodies/processes/forums and organisations</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): RSD 12,000,000.00 Source of verification: Annual budgets of ministries, provincial bodies responsible for youth and local self-government units</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of international processes/mechanisms in which young people influence decision-making on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 5 per year Source of verification: Annual reports of MoTY, MEI, MFA</p> <p>Indicator 3 Proportion of young people familiar with the UN Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 9%²¹⁴ Target value (2030): 30% Source of verification: Annual Survey of the Position and Needs of Youth, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 4 Number of associations, YOs and unions supported to implement projects/activities, in accordance with the principles of global education at the local, provincial</p> |

²¹⁰ A continuous process of consultation between young people and decision-makers in order to jointly define and implement policies important for young people at all levels. The EU dialogue with youth ensures the active participation of young people in decision-making processes by giving them space to freely express their opinions and recommendations, thus contributing to the improvement of the position of young people (e.g., through participation in working groups, consultations, public debates, etc.). Cited based on: <https://dijalog.rs/eu-dijalog-sa-mladima/> retrieved on 12 November 2021.

²¹² Young people can also join informal associations whose goals or the area of achieving goals are aimed at young people, in accordance with this law, and which act in accordance with the law regulating the establishment and legal status of associations, Law on Youth ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 50/11 and 116/22 - amending law), Article 13, paragraph 5.

²¹³ The MoYS database.

²¹⁴ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 269.

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|---|---|--|
| <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 3000 Source of verification: Annual report of MoTY, MEI and KOMS</p> <p>Indicator 4 Share of young people in youth councils at local, provincial and national level in relation to the total number of council members</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50% Source of verification: Annual report of MoTY, PSSY, LSGUs</p> <p>Indicator 5 Inclusion of young people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in youth councils at all levels</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2024): YES, at all levels Source of verification: Annual report of MoTY, PSSY, LSGUs</p> | <p>Initial value: no data Target value (2030): 67% Source of verification: MoTY and CSO reports from JE</p> | <p>and national levels</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 10 Source of verification: MoTY Annual Report, MEI, Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth / LSGU Report</p> <p>Indicator 5 Number of international youth policy documents in the development, monitoring and evaluation of which young people participate.</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 5 Source of verification: Annual Report of the MoTY / Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth / LSGU Report</p> |
| MEASURE 3.4 | | MEASURE 3.5 |
| <p>Developed mechanisms in the function of providing the optimal amount of allocated funds for young people at all levels;</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: ministry responsible for finance, ministry responsible for social dialogue, ministries responsible for various areas of youth</p> | | <p>Empowering and systemic support to associations and youth offices in creating, implementing and monitoring public policies through cross-sectoral cooperation and dialogue of all relevant actors.</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: ministry responsible for human and</p> |

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| <p>policy, provincial bodies responsible for youth, LSGUs, SCTM</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Allocated funds at national, provincial and local levels are developed in accordance with the guide for budgeting funds for youth</p> <p>Baseline value: No Target value (2026): Yes Source of verification: Reports of the MoTY / ministries responsible for various areas of youth policy, PSSY, LSGUs</p> <p>Indicator 2 Share of the total budget intended for the implementation of youth policy at the annual level allocated for support to programmes or projects of youth associations and for youth and their associations and YOs at national, provincial and local level</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50% Source of verification: Law on Budget of the Republic of Serbia, Decisions on Provincial and Local Budgets</p> <p>Indicator 3 Share of LSGUs that allocate funds from the budget to support youth associations and youth through public competitions in the total number of LSGUs during the calendar year: Baseline value: none Target value (2030): 42% Source of verification: LSGU Annual Report</p> | <p>minority rights and social dialogue, the ministry responsible for state administration and local self-government, Ministries responsible for various areas of youth policy, provincial bodies responsible for youth, LSGUs, SCTM, OITeG, educational institutions, CSOs, the community of student parliaments</p> <p><u>Result indicators:</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of activities to support associations and YO in the creation, implementation and monitoring of public policies on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 10 Source of verification: MoTY reports / Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth Reports, LSGUs, associations</p> <p>Indicator 2 Proportion of young people willing to engage in the work of a body that initiates or makes decisions relevant to young people (Student parliament, local youth council, association, political parties, etc.)</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 33%²¹⁵ Target value (2030): 67% Source of verification: Annual Survey of the Position and Needs of Youth, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 3 Proportion of young people who have participated in public debates, consultations or voting on certain citizens' proposals in the last year, using the Internet</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 1.4%²¹⁶ Target value (2030): 25% Source of verification: Annual Survey of the Position and Needs of Youth, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 4 Share of LSGUs that implement participatory budgeting for the part of the budget allocated to youth policy during the calendar year</p> |
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²¹⁵ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 326.

²¹⁶ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 334.

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| | Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50% Source of verification: LSGUs, local youth councils, MoTY |
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Specific goal 4: Young people have equal opportunities and incentives to develop their potentials and competencies, which lead to social and economic independence

To achieve this goal, 6 measures are planned:

Measure 4.1 Support for the development of young talents;

Measure 4.2 Support for the development of aesthetic competencies and creativity of young people;

Measure 4.3 Support to entrepreneurship and youth employability;

Measure 4.4 Support to existing and innovative programmes for the development of youth career management skills;

Measure 4.5 Support to programmes for the development of digital competencies and digital citizenship;

Measure 4.6 Support for youth mobility programmes.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES

Measure 4.1 Support for the development of young talents

Supporting the development of young talent is extremely important for the MoTY. Through the work of the Fund, which was established by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in order to encourage and evaluate the exceptional achievements of young people in various fields, as well as their further training and professional development, successful and hardworking young people are valued. Every year, more than 3,500 of the best high school and university students receive financial support, and close to 5,000 apply. From 2008 until today, the Fund has awarded 34,613 awards and scholarships, in the total value of almost EUR 78 million.

Despite the significant results of the Fund, its promotion is needed as a mechanism for raising the motivation of young people to achieve the best results in the field of science and art. According to the Survey of the Position and Needs of Youth in 2021,²¹⁷ only 17% of young people are familiar with the work of the Fund, and the data for the last five years is similar. It is also necessary to promote the winners of funds from the Fund. The plan is to develop additional models and mechanisms that will ensure that the Scholarship Fund is active in its communities, contributes to the progress of the local community in which they live, promotes positive values, solidarity and empathy, and creates a community where every individual is respected regardless of their age, gender, nationality, religious beliefs, social background and

²¹⁷ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 318.

other personal characteristics and roles. The goal is for young talents to stay in the country, be promoters and mentors to other young people and contribute to the social development of their country.

This measure will be monitored through the number of young people who received annual financial support from the Fund, as well as through information on whether they were employed within a certain period of time in their country, how much they personally contributed to the development of their community and to what extent their success is promoted as a value and example to other young people.

Type of measure: Incentive

Measure 4.2 Support for the development of aesthetic competencies²¹⁸ and creativity of young people

The competencies of young people needed for the future in a time of extremely rapid change require flexibility and constant adaptation of education through the acquisition of new knowledge and skills development, which is most quickly achieved by creating and implementing various programmes of non-formal education and informal learning. Outcomes and impacts of formal and non-formal education, but also informal learning is measured through the level of development of competencies and their use for different situations in which young people will find themselves. The number and type of competencies required for each person, especially young people, is constantly increasing, which is a reflection of the rapid advancement of technology, digitalisation, rapid increase of relations in society, youth mobility, globalisation and changing priorities at the global level.

The aesthetic competence, as one of the interdisciplinary competences, is important for enriching young people in terms of a broad understanding of the cultural heritage of the human community, valuing works of art and culture in general and developing awareness of the importance of culture for human society.

Non-formal education and informal learning of young people about culture, aesthetic values, critical evaluation of works of art, will find a place in youth programmes and for young people. At the same time, conditions will be created to support young people in creating cultural content and works of art. Amateur cultural and artistic creation, application of new technologies in culture, digitalisation and development of digital research infrastructure, cultural and artistic creation of socially sensitive groups will be encouraged.

The implementation of this measure will require the cooperation of the MoTY and the Ministry of Culture, and the cooperation of youth associations and associations for the youth with local institutions of culture, education, civil sector, media and business is of key importance.

Indicators of success in achieving this measure will be monitored through the number of non-formal education programmes that result in the development of aesthetic competence, the number of youth associations that offer such programmes and are accredited by the PROAEA and the development of amateur activities at the local level (by gender).

²¹⁸ Interdisciplinary competence for the end of secondary education: https://ceo.edu.rs/wp-content/uploads/obrazovni_standardi/Opsti_standardi_postignuca/MEDJUPREDMETNE%20KOMPETENCIJE.pdf

The focus will be on young people from categories at risk of social exclusion, as culture is an area that offers a variety of opportunities to create, develop self-confidence, advance and be included in the community.

Type of measure: Informative and educational

Measure 4.3 Support to entrepreneurship /social entrepreneurship and youth employability

Youth unemployment in the Republic of Serbia, according to Eurostat data for 2019 given for 35 countries for young people aged 15 to 29, is 21.5% (20.8% for men and 22.5% for women), while the average in the EU27 11.9% (12% for men and 11.8% for women)²¹⁹, and a lot of effort is still needed to improve the position of young people in the labour market. Special attention should be paid to youth entrepreneurship and increasing the share of women in this area (only 23% of the self-employed in Serbia are women).

The Government of the Republic of Serbia is implementing systemic measures to improve youth employment in co-operation with the business and non-governmental sectors. The support of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and MoTY to youth entrepreneurship continues. In the last few years, young people have developed and implemented youth education programmes through projects to start their own business and manage their careers, and the results of the projects are becoming more visible from year to year. The issue of youth employability is at the top of the list of priorities of the MoTY, which annually allocates around 40% of funds for projects intended to encourage the employability and self-employment of young people from the total amount of funds intended for projects of youth associations, youth associations and their associations and LSGU projects that are approved through tenders.

Through this measure, the efforts that the Government of the Republic of Serbia invests in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee programme will be supported. This EU Youth Programme is under the competence of the MoLEVSA, and the appropriate indicators for its implementation and the number of NES branches will be regulated through the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan. Since this is an extremely important programme for young people, all partners responsible for the implementation of initiatives in the phases of: mapping will be involved in its implementation, outreach, preparation (activation) and offers. Given that a large number of young people are in NEET status, i.e., they are not employed, not in education or training, within the Youth Guarantee Programme, in the phase of implementing activities reaching out to young people, the active participation of CSOs and MoTY is planned. In this regard, it is necessary to first assess the capacities of CSOs, develop an outreach model according to which this activity will be implemented, and strengthen the capacities of CSOs that will implement outreach activities to young people. It is also necessary to ensure sustainable funding of youth outreach activities. In the Action Plan for the implementation of this strategy, activities will be developed to support the implementation of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan.

In order to improve the employability of young people, special attention will be paid to the working practices of young people. Employers, as well as youth workers and youth associations, will play a major role in involving young people in work practices, through this

²¹⁹ S. Klačnja: Basic Indicators of Position of the Youth in Serbia. Ministry of Youth and Sports, 2020 [https://www.mos.gov.rs/public/documents/upload/sport/inspekcija/Analiza%20osnovnih%20pokazatelja%20polozaja%20mladih,%20MOS%20S.%20Klasnja%20novembar%202020.%20godine%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.mos.gov.rs/public/documents/upload/sport/inspekcija/Analiza%20osnovnih%20pokazatelja%20polozaja%20mladih,%20MOS%20S.%20Klasnja%20novembar%202020.%20godine%20(2).pdf)

type of raising employability competencies, in order to increase the coverage of young people, especially from the NEET category. The importance of work practices has been recognised at the level of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, so that the process of drafting and passing the Law on Work Practices is underway. The implementation of the project “Improving Employability of Young People through Work Practices” is underway, which is implemented by UNICEF in partnership with MLSW and NES, and in which representatives of MoTY, non-governmental and business sectors also participate.

Work practices should be of high quality and in accordance with the Recommendation on a quality framework for the implementation of practices, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers of the EU in 2014.²²⁰ The criteria of quality work practices are given in the recommendations. In the Guide to quality work practices,²²¹ it is stated that, "Work practices represent work experience programs that include learning and training, and which are carried out with the aim of improving employability and the transition to employment." In that their goal is the acquisition of new knowledge and skills and quality work experience, work practices differ from volunteering, which is done for the general good or for the good of another person."

Ex-ante analysis²²² shows that young entrepreneurs face a number of difficulties, among which the most important are access to finance, burdensome fiscal burden and parafiscal and administrative charges, as well as lack of information, practical skills and mentoring. Several studies point to inadequate entrepreneurial learning within formal education, as well as a lack of relevant non-formal education programmes. Some groups of young people face additional barriers to starting their own business. Young people with physical disabilities face inadequate infrastructure of public institutions and lack of necessary qualifications of public administration employees, young women with lack of information on women's entrepreneurship and reconciliation of business and private life, socially vulnerable young men and young women with problems regaining social rights, assistance if their job fails, and young Roma with discrimination and lack of conditions for providing finances. In addition to the young people from sensitive groups listed in the ex-ante analysis, special attention will be paid to the process of employment of young people who leave the system of alternative care, primarily through support in raising their employability skills.

Progress in supporting young people in entrepreneurship and employment will be monitored through the level of their information on the conditions and opportunities to start their own business, through indicators of their empowerment / capacity development for self-employment and the number of those who organised their own business. The number of young people who used incentive measures, that is, non-refundable funds for women entrepreneurs and young people according to the Government Decree of 24 December 2021, will also be monitored.

Through this measure, efforts will be made to advocate the introduction of various benefits for young business beginners²²³, with the aim of encouraging entrepreneurship and gaining work experience for young people. It is important to work on simplifying the applications of young

²²⁰ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014H0327\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32014H0327(01))

²²¹ Guide for quality work practices, 2021, Belgrade Center for Human Rights, Youth umbrella organization, NAPOR and citizens' association "Empirija", http://www.napor.net/sajt/images/Vesti/Vesti_2021/Vodic_za_radne_prakse.pdf

²²² Ex-ante analysis, p. 13.

²²³ Gray Book 14, NALED, recommendation 1.4. <https://naled.rs/htdocs/Files/09208/Siva-knjiga-14.pdf>

seasonal and casual workers in order to exercise their rights in accordance with recommendation 4.5. given by NALED in the Grey Book.²²⁴

This measure will lead to a higher level of entrepreneurial competencies of young people, better informing young people about the opportunities and incentives offered to them for self-employment, increased sustainability of established entrepreneurial companies by young people.

In addition to quantitative data, the most common obstacles, difficulties and challenges in entrepreneurship in the opinion and experience of young people will be investigated, in order to work on overcoming them more efficiently.

In addition to quantitative data, the most common obstacles, difficulties and challenges in entrepreneurship according to the opinion and experience of young people will be investigated, in order to work on overcoming them more effectively.

Type of measure: Incentive and informative-educational

Measure 4.4 Support to existing and innovative programmes for the development of youth career management skills

Career guidance and counselling, the issue of professional identity, as well as the choice of the right professional path in the conditions of dynamic changes in society, is a key area of personal, educational and professional development of young people.

The multisectoral character of this measure has contributed to the definition of this area in public policy documents and laws of several ministries. The first strategy of career guidance and counselling in the Republic of Serbia was adopted in 2010, at the proposal and with the coordination of the MoYS. The ministries in charge of education and employment, the NES, the Chamber of Commerce, universities, local self-government units, and civil society organisations participated in its development. Over the last decade, the MoYS has continuously provided support to youth associations, youth associations and their federations that implement career guidance and counselling projects to increase employability, employment and entrepreneurship.

For the development of young people's career management skills, the connection between formal and informal education and the recognition of the importance of informal education of young people by employees in the formal education system is extremely important. In accordance with the recommendations given in the Report on the Review of the National Career Guidance and Counselling Support System (CGCSS) in Serbia²²⁵ it is important to identify an interdepartmental and intersectional body relying on one of the existing structures that would coordinate policies and practices to support career development at the systemic level, and thus career guidance and counselling of young people. It is also necessary to strengthen the capacity of career guidance practitioners and young people's access to CGCSS services, as well as to revise the existing online and digital services of CGCSS. Through Measure 4.4. these recommendations will also be worked on.

²²⁴ Gray book of NALED, recommendation 4.5. <https://naled.rs/htdocs/Files/09208/Siva-knjiga-14.pdf>

²²⁵ Report on the review of the national system of support for career guidance and counseling in Serbia, ETF, 2022, https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-07/Career%20Guidance%20Review_Serbia_SR.pdf

CGCSS activities by YOs should primarily be aimed at those young people who otherwise cannot receive support in career development from other actors at the local level and thus be available to all interested young people. Therefore, special attention will be paid to reaching young people in NEET status (not employed, in education or training). Also, work will be done on the development of mechanisms and models for the coordination of CGCSS activities by YOs. Through this measure, work will also be done to improve the cooperation of YOs with other actors active in the field of CGCSS (NES, educational institutions, universities, companies, CSOs, career development centres, etc.). The participation of YOs in the Youth Guarantee Program is also important, which plays an important role in the development of skills for managing the career of young people.²²⁶

Schools, YOs and non-governmental organisations are cooperating intensively at the local level in this area. A systematic approach has been developed through the training of young people in high school, the opening of career development centres at universities and colleges, the obligation of educational institutions to have career guidance teams. Significant contribution is also provided by foreign partners, so that, with the expert support of donors, programmes, guides, manuals, webinars have been developed in order to respond in the most efficient way to the challenges that young people face in this area. As a recommended framework in quality assurance, career guidance and counselling standards have been developed that provide a basis for planning, developing and evaluating services in the education, employment, social protection and youth sectors.

The need to strengthen the skills of young people in managing their careers still exists and will increase, bearing in mind the disappearance of some occupations and the emergence of numerous new ones. Based on the results of the Youth Position and Needs Survey, about 55% of young people did not participate in career guidance and counselling activities. Tracking new needs for specific jobs, the demands that those jobs place, will accelerate the innovation of existing programmes and the development of new competencies. The focus is on young people with disabilities.

Young people will work on the promotion of career guidance and counselling programmes. They are already involved in working groups for the preparation of the Law on Work Practices and amendments to the Law on Volunteering. A career centre model in youth offices has been developed and piloted in several cities. Their employees are sensitised by additional trainings for professional orientation or career guidance and successfully cooperate with other actors at the local level, especially in terms of providing career information services for young people. Many non-governmental organisations at the local level have proven to be effective in providing career guidance to people from the NEET category, those who have left education, the Roma or the migrant population.²²⁷

The results of the implementation of this measure will be monitored through indicators on the active involvement of young people in career guidance and counselling programs, as well as the implementation of adequate programs of career management activities by their associations and unions. The quality of the programme will be monitored and evaluated through those programme holders (providers) who provide career guidance and counselling services in accordance with the adopted standards.

²²⁶ Youth entrepreneurship, employability of NEET youth and career management skills of young people in Serbia, M. Đukić, Council for Regional Cooperation/WBYL, 2022,
<https://www.mos.gov.rs/storage/2022/06/wbyl-youth-entrepreneurship-neet-sr-finalno.pdf>

²²⁷ Source: Career guidance in Serbia in support of broader goals of employment, employability and education, ETF 2022,
https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/202207/Career%20Guidance%20Review_Serbia_SR.pdf

Type of measure: Informative and educational

Measure 4.5 Support to programmes for the development of digital competencies and digital citizenship

Digital skills in modern conditions enable employment, productivity, creativity and success, especially of young people who regularly develop basic skills, and then have the opportunity to advance and gain higher levels of digital expertise, which allows them to participate in emerging industrial sectors and establish their own companies in the labour market. Most jobs already require basic digital skills. ICT use has increased significantly in the last five years in more than 90% of jobs, and in the future almost all jobs will require digital skills²²⁸. Knowledge of digital skills can be of various degrees, from basic digital literacy needed by all citizens, to possessing the competencies needed to perform specific jobs at intermediate level and finally to possessing advanced specialised computer skills, as well as scientific research in information technology and development.²²⁹

At the core of this competency is knowledge of the general principles, mechanisms and logic on which digital technologies are based and the use of various devices, software and networks. In addition to knowledge, digital competence includes the skills to use, access, select, evaluate, create, programme and share digital content. Young people use digital technologies through formal and non-formal education and informal learning, for professional engagement and training and active participation in social life. The special value of digital literacy and digital competence was manifested during the COVID-19 pandemic in all areas of life, especially in education and e-business.

It is necessary to work continuously with young people to build a critical attitude about the advantages and challenges they face when using information and communication technology, especially security, threats to privacy and technological dependence, and at the same time it is important to develop and support openness of young people to further training and the development of new technologies, as digitalisation is key to the faster growth and development of society and the well-being of young people in the future. Cooperation of youth offices, youth centres and clubs with educational institutions and especially with student parliaments is important for the development of digital literacy of young people and continuous use of the benefits that digitalisation brings for active participation of young people in society.

The MoTY and the Government of the Republic of Serbia will continue to support the development of digitalisation, digital literacy, but also digital citizenship, which includes safe, responsible and efficient use of technology, knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of digital citizens, understanding the digital world and managing their digital accounts.

Achieving this measure requires research and analysis of the level of development of digital competencies of young people, differences between them according to education, gender, type of settlement, region, personal needs, mapping of the most vulnerable groups, availability of digital devices and the like, to plan support for strengthening digital competence was efficient and effective. Thus, for example, employment opportunities have been reduced in rural areas, and work that would take place digitally represents a chance for young people from rural areas.

²²⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/digital-skills-gap-europe>

²²⁹ The Strategy for the Development of Digital Skills in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2024, "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 21 of 6 March 2020.

The development and use of digital competences by young people will be monitored through supported projects for young people at all levels and the involvement of young people in training in the field of digital skills. The Ministry of Education, monitors the number of young people, especially women, who are educated and trained for ICT occupations.

Type of measure: Informative and educational

Measure 4.6 Support for youth mobility programmes

The mobility of young people at national, regional, European and wider international levels strengthens their personal and professional development, encourages empowerment for active participation in a democratic society, strengthens youth organisations, raises the quality of youth work, volunteerism, promotes inclusion, solidarity and intercultural dialogue and cooperation. Youth exchanges and programmes of professional development activities for youth workers supported through the Erasmus+ programme is available to young people, but they are insufficiently used, as well as the opportunities offered to them through regional and international cooperation programmes. The main reason for such a situation is the lack of information about the possibilities of inclusion in this programme, but also other programmes and projects of youth mobility (scholarships, exchanges, study visits, training, internships, etc.).

The “Return Point” platform provides relevant information for our returnees from abroad who want to start a business or continue their professional career in the Republic of Serbia, study, invest in development and the like, and contribute to the return of young people with international experience to their country. The support provided by the state by creating stable conditions for employment and other conditions for a better quality of life for young people has a special role in the return of young, educated people to our country. In 2021, over 90,000 of our citizens from abroad returned to our country. They recognised new employment opportunities that are, above all, related to teleworking, but also other opportunities for young people. This trend is expected to continue.

This measure will support programmes/initiatives that encourage better integration of returnees into the local community – integration of young returnees after readmission into the local community, connecting young people from the local community with young migrants, especially in municipalities with migrant centres; support for young migrants. Special attention will be paid to the fight against xenophobia, social cohesion and the understanding of migration as a chance for development.

Most young people are most ready to change their place of residence due to work, but a large number also state schooling and marriage. Due to work, 11% of young people travel to another place every day, mostly aged 25-30. Slightly more than half of young people do not plan to leave the country for a longer period of time in the next two years, while 21% plan to leave for a certain period of time or permanently. There is an increase in the number of young people who do not plan to leave the country in the next two years. Young people who plan to leave the country cite work as the most common reason (85%).²³⁰ That is why it is important to invest as much as possible in education and employment of young people, in order to facilitate the transition from the world of education to the world of work.

²³⁰ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 295.

<https://www.mos.gov.rs/public/documents/upload/sport/inspekcija/Istrazivanje%20polozaja%20i%20potreba%20mladih%20u%20Srbiji%202020.pdf>

Since migration also has development potentials, especially internal migration and there is a willingness of young people to change their place of residence due to work and schooling, they can be in the function of greater employability of young people and development of rural areas, with appropriate incentives (housing support, educational and cultural offer, availability of health and social services, etc.).

The results of the implementation of this measure will be monitored through the information of young people about mobility programmes, the number of young people who participated in them and the degree of satisfaction with the quality of the programme.

Type of measure: Informative and educational

Specific goal 4: Young people have equal opportunities and incentives to develop their potentials and competencies, which lead to social and economic independence

| MEASURE 4.1 | MEASURE 4.2 | MEASURE 4.3 |
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| <p>Support for the development of young talents</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for education, the ministry responsible for information, Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, provincial authorities, LSGUs, CCIS</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of young people who received financial support from the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value (2020): 4,200 (2,100 women)²³¹</p> | <p>Support for the development of aesthetic competencies²³³ and creativity of young people</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: the ministry responsible for culture</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for youth, the ministry responsible for education, provincial authorities responsible for culture, public information, education and youth LSGUs, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of non-formal education programmes/projects that contain activities for the development of aesthetic competencies and creativity of young people</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 30 Source of verification: MoTY Annual Report / Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth / LSGUs / Ministry</p> | <p>Support for entrepreneurship/social entrepreneurship and youth employability</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for the economy, the ministry responsible for work, employment and social issues, the ministry responsible for information, NES, provincial authorities responsible for the economy and youth, LSGUs, NALED, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of young people involved in projects/actions for the development of entrepreneurial</p> |

²³¹ According to Annual Evaluation of Implementation of the Action Plan for Implementation of the 2020 National Youth Strategy.

²³³ The student is familiar with the cultural heritage of the human community, has the awareness of the value of cultural and artistic works and their importance for the development of society.

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| <p>Target value: 5,000 (2,500 women) Source of verification: Report of the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of media releases promoting young talent Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 200 Source of verification: media releases</p> <p>Indicator 3 Share of scholarship holders of the Fund of the Republic of Serbia who were employed in Serbia within six months to one year after completing their studies out of the total number who submitted a certificate that they were employed in Serbia</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 72%²³² Target value: 85% Source of verification: Report of the Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia</p> | <p>of Culture / Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of young people involved in programmes/projects/actions for the development of aesthetic competencies and youth creativity on an annual basis (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 10,000 (even gender representation) Source of verification: Annual Report of MoTY/ Ministry of culture/LSGU / Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth / Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities</p> | <p>competencies and for improving the employability of young people and for involvement in social entrepreneurship on an annual basis (<i>by gender</i>)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 8,000 Source of verification: Annual Report of the MoTY / Ministry of Economy / Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth / LSGUs / Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs / NES/ Provincial Secretariat for Economy and Tourism, reports of the European Commission and other international donors</p> <p>Indicator 2 Share of young people informed about existing support measures for self-employment and social entrepreneurship on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target values: 67% Source of verification: Survey on the position and needs of young people, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 3 Improved public policy measures to support young entrepreneurs, including social entrepreneurs</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): Yes Source of verification: annual report of MoJ, MoLEVSA,</p> |
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²³² Of the total number of contracts concluded under the Competition for student scholarships in the Republic of Serbia for the academic year 2018/19 (1357), 1234 scholarship recipients, i.e., 91%, submitted a certificate of status. Out of that group of scholarship holders (1,234), 485 scholars submitted proof that they work in the Republic of Serbia, that is, 39% of scholarship holders. Of that group of scholarship holders (485), 353 scholarship holders, or 72%, were employed within six months to a year after completing their studies, while 132 scholarship holders were employed later.

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| | | <p>MoF, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 4 Number of projects of citizens' associations and LSGUs to improve the employability of young people on an annual level that are financed by MoTY</p> <p>Baseline value: (2021): 41 Target value (2030) 50 Source of verification: MoTY annual report</p> |
| MEASURE 4.4 | MEASURE 4.5 | MEASURE 4.6 |
| <p>Support for existing and innovative youth career management skills development programmes</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: the ministry responsible for education</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: Ministry responsible for youth, NES, Qualifications Agency, educational institutions, faculties, LSGUs/ YO, CSOs,</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Share of young people who participated in career guidance and counselling activities (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: 42% (M 42%, F 41%²³⁴) Target value (2030): 60% (evenly distributed by gender) Source of verification: Survey</p> | <p>Support for programmes for the development of digital competencies and digital citizenship</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of the implementation) of measures: Ministry responsible for telecommunications</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: Ministry responsible for youth, Ministry responsible for education, Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation, OITeG, NES, provincial authorities responsible for education, information and youth, LSGUs, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of young people involved in digital skills training per year (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 6,000 (evenly represented by gender) Source of verification: Annual reports MoTY, Ministry of Education, MoIT, PSSY, LSGUs, NES, Provincial Secretariat for Education</p> | <p>Support for youth mobility programmes</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: the ministry responsible for education</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: Ministry responsible for youth, Ministry responsible for European integration, Tempus Foundation, provincial authorities responsible for education and youth, LSGUs, SKONUS, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Share of young people informed about mobility programmes offered to young people</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50% Source of verification: Survey on the position and needs of youth MoYS, Tempus Foundation reports</p> |

²³⁴ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), pp. 137-138.

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| <p>on the position and needs of young conducted by the MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 2 Share of YOs implementing career management programmes and activities</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 75% Source of verification: NAOYO, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of career guidance and counselling service providers in accordance with adopted standards</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50 Source of verification: Qualifications Agency</p> | <p>Indicator 2 Number of projects in the field of development of digital competencies supported at local, provincial and national level in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 30 Source of verification: annual reports of MoTY, Ministry of Education, MoIT, PSSY, LSGUs, NES, Provincial Secretariat for Education</p> | <p>Indicator 2 Number of young people participating in mobility programmes in a calendar year (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 3,000 (evenly represented by gender) Source of verification: Survey of the position and needs of young MoTY, MoTY Report, Ministry of Education, MSTDI, Tempus Foundation Reports</p> <p>Indicator 3 Percentage of young people satisfied with participation in youth mobility programmes on an annual basis (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 67% Source of verification: Survey on the position and needs of young people, MoTY</p> |
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Specific goal 5: Created conditions for a healthy and safe environment and social well-being of young people

To achieve this goal, 5 measures are planned:

Measure 5.1 Support to programmes that contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles and mental health of young people;

Measure 5.2 Support to existing and new youth safety improvement programmes;

Measure 5.3 Support to the development of youth and youth programmes in the field of environmental protection;

Measure 5.4 Support to youth housing independence;

Measure 5.5 Support to programmes that contribute to the improvement of social inclusion of young people.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES

Measure 5.1 Support to programmes that contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles and mental health of young people

The development of healthy lifestyles is one of the basic ways of preventive action in terms of psychophysical health in working with young people. Therefore, through this measure, activities will be undertaken that contribute to creating conditions for the development of healthy styles, informing about the importance of avoiding health risks and implementing preventive programmes for preserving the mental health of young people. Support will be provided for the development and implementation of innovative and youth-friendly and accessible risk prevention programmes, with full respect for privacy as well as programmes aimed at developing awareness of the harmfulness of psychoactive substance consumption, the importance of doing sports and recreation for health, the importance of reproductive health and stigmatisation programmes on mental diseases and mental health prevention.

Young refugees and asylum seekers are also a vulnerable group of young people, who must be provided with appropriate health support, both through inclusion in programmes for the development of healthy lifestyles and mental health, and through the removal of obstacles to exercising the right to health care. Due to their precarious and vulnerable position, refugees and asylum seekers belong to a high-risk group, as a result of which they can become victims of exploitation. In the context of health support for this category of persons, the Strategy highlights the importance of the development of reproductive health support programs, as well as general health support.

Data from the European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs from 2019 (ESPAD) ²³⁵ show that 38% of young people in Serbia aged 15-16 have used cigarettes at some point in their lives, which is less than the average of the participants in the research, which is 41%. However, 87% used alcohol or are using it, which is far more than the average of 79%. The use of other psychoactive substances (cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamine, etc.) in Serbia is 8.6%, while the overall average is 17%. Subjective participants' assessment of the availability of certain psychoactive substances shows that alcohol and ecstasy are more available, while cigarettes, marijuana and cocaine are less available compared to the ESPAD average of research participants. The data show that it is necessary to work with young people in Serbia, above all, on reducing alcohol use and providing support to the development, implementation and promotion of extracurricular activities of students.

In the conclusions and recommendations of the research on the basic indicators of the position of young people in Serbia, ²³⁶ it is pointed out that the World Health Organisation recommends moderate-intensity physical activity every day for 30 minutes, since sport promotes healthy lifestyles and moderate physical activity is important for health and control of body mass. Playing sports, especially for recreational purposes, is important to be available to all young people, regardless of financial status and place of residence. Special attention will be paid to the inclusion and inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups in these programmes, projects and activities.

In order to develop integrated services for young people at the local level, this measure will work on improving the cooperation of youth offices with health and educational institutions

²³⁵ The ESPAD survey (anonymous questionnaire) is conducted every fourth year, and the last one was conducted in 2019 in 34 European countries and in Kosovo*. 99,647 students aged 15/16 participated in the research, i.e., those young people who turned 16 by the end of the calendar year in which the research is conducted, available at: http://www.espad.org/sites/espad.org/files/2020.3878_EN_04.pdf

²³⁶ Klašnja, S. (2020): Basic indicators of the position of young people in Serbia, MoYS, p. 61.

and will support the development, implementation and promotion of extracurricular activities of students and various communities in schools, such as schools, clubs and counselling centres for young people, where various activities can take place that can contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles and mental health of young people. Through the joint work of youth offices, youth centres, youth and school clubs and development counselling, all resources available in the community will be used in a targeted manner, in order to develop healthy lifestyles and protect the mental health of young people.

It is important that counselling centres for the protection of sexual and reproductive health and the improvement of mental well-being and psychosocial support for young people are available to everyone, adapted to their needs, with reliable data, including motivating adults (parents, guardians, teachers, youth workers) to provide support in making informed decisions. and safe decisions.

The issue of mental health of young people has become relevant again due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on young people's health. One of the first international studies on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on youth in education, employment, mental health and activism,²³⁷ conducted from April and May 2020 in 112 countries, analysed data for 11,130 young people aged 18-29. The main results of the research speak of the high impact of this disease on the lives of young people. Anxiety or depression affects 17% of young people, and mental health is more endangered in women and young people aged 15-24. Among young people who misjudge their health, there are twice as many whose work or study is hampered by the pandemic. The KOMS survey on youth health,²³⁸ conducted in August 2021, pointed out that according to the self-assessments of young people who participated in the survey (70% of respondents are female), the frequency of symptoms of fear, anxiety and depression is high. Slightly more than a third of respondents (34.2%) stated that they needed the services of a psychologist/psychotherapist in the last six months but did not seek them. Slightly less than half of young people (47%) are informed about health and similar topics through the websites of public institutions. The importance of digital health literacy of young people was emphasised.

Due to different socio-economic conditions, it is necessary to ensure that the provided psycho-social assistance is available to all young people equally. This type of help is particularly stigmatized in smaller communities, local governments, where young people, in addition to not knowing who to turn to, also face condemnation from the environment in the process of seeking psychological help. It is precisely for these reasons that additional work is needed to break down prejudices, motivate young people to seek professional help and make information available.

This measure should contribute to the development of young people's competencies for practicing healthy lifestyles. Therefore, special support will be given to programmes and projects aimed at reducing prejudice and stigmatisation related to mental health and increasing services that are available and free of charge for young people through various counselling centres and youth spaces where professionals would work with young people, which is in line with the overall goal of the Programme on the Protection of Mental Health in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2019 to 2026: Improved mental health care system

²³⁷ International Labour Organisation (2020) Youth and COVID-19 Impacts on Jobs, Education, Rights and Mental Well-Being, Survey Report 2020 ILO, available at: <https://www.decentjobsforyouth.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Youth-and-COVID-19-Survey-Report-English.pdf>

²³⁸ Youth Health: Position and Needs of Young People in the Republic of Serbia, available at <https://koms.rs/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Istrazivanje-Zdravlje-mladih-.pdf>

for prevention, treatment and provision of comprehensive, integrated services, in accordance with the best international practice. Special attention will be paid to programmes to raise awareness of young people about the importance of using modern methods of contraception and the use of health care services in the field of sexual and reproductive health. We expect that the application of this measure will increase the number of outdoor spaces for the development of healthy lifestyles, increase physical activity and recreational exercise of young people, reduce obesity, greater protection of reproductive and mental health, respect for the importance of protection against COVID-19 and other infectious infections. and reducing the use of psychoactive substances.

It will also influence the development of young people's competencies for critical assessment of the quality and sources of information from the Internet and for raising self-confidence and developing strategies to resist negative influences from cyberspace through various online messages, video games, etc., which endanger the health and safety of young people. This will reduce the health risk caused by the adoption and dissemination of various unverified and harmful information through social networks. Since the Strategy envisages work on raising the competencies of young people for media literacy, this measure will also contribute to the positive effects of increased media literacy of young people.

Type of measure: regulatory and informative-educational

Measure 5.2 Support for existing and new youth safety improvement programmes

This measure is aimed at increasing the safety culture of young people, i.e., improving their knowledge, skills and abilities and adopted attitudes of respecting safety rules, which are manifested through appropriate models of behaviour. By developing a security culture, young people are able to adequately respond to security risks and threats to which they are exposed in everyday life.

Since the number of young people exposed to injuries or suffering in traffic accidents is high, and 7.8% of men and 1.3% of women consume alcohol several times a week²³⁹, in cooperation with the competent authorities, work will be done to develop traffic culture and implement various traffic accident prevention programmes, with special emphasis on compliance with the ban on the use of psychoactive substances. To that end, programmes and campaigns will be carried out about the harmfulness of consuming psychoactive substances and the consequences of their use on health.

Also, in cooperation with associations and youth offices, prevention programmes of all forms of violence will be implemented, including gender-based violence, both in the physical and in the virtual space. By violence we mean mental, physical, sexual violence and sexual harassment, persecution, early marriages and human trafficking. The CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence²⁴⁰ explains the forms of gender-based violence against women, and these will also be included in prevention programs.

²³⁹ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 177.

²⁴⁰ Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Council of Europe, 2011, <https://rm.coe.int/1680462540> and Law on the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, "Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia - International Agreements", No. 12 / 2013. <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/mu/skupstina/zakon/2013/12/5/reg>

Special focus will be on developing a peer support network for young people who are victims of violence or at risk of becoming so, as well as on developing online tools for early warning of risk situations, in order to provide timely support. The improvement of the national platform against violence “I Protect You” will continue, which integrates in one place all the necessary aspects of basic prevention and tools for combating violence in schools. Programmes for the prevention of all forms of discrimination, strengthening tolerance and intercultural understanding, the fight against hate crimes, hate speech and similar negative social phenomena will also be worked on. Special attention will be paid to programmes for improving the position of the LGBT+ community, taking into account that they are one of the most discriminated groups of young people. Also, work will be done to promote and raise awareness about human trafficking, risks of irregular migration and understanding of migration in the function of development. A special focus will be on programs aimed at young people on recognizing the risks of human trafficking, timely response and protection against exploitation.

In order to provide equal opportunities to all young people, resocialisation programmes will be developed and implemented.

The application of this measure will affect the protection of life and health of young people, the preservation of integrity and the development of competencies for protection against various risks and threats in everyday life and the greater support of peers in situations dangerous to safety. The development of youth media literacy will also reduce the consequences of violence in cyberspace.

All this will contribute to the creation of a society in which young people will be able to carry out their plans and wishes and make healthy choices in a safe environment that will, we believe, lead to improvements in the implementation of youth rights and reduce all forms of discrimination and violence.

Type of measure: Informative and educational

Measure 5.3 Support to the development of youth programmes and youth in the field of environmental protection

This measure will work on the development and implementation of youth programmes for young people aimed at increasing environmental awareness, understanding the importance of reducing air, land and water pollution, implementing a green economy, combating the negative effects of climate change, proper treatment of nature, actions afforestation, etc. It is important to strengthen the competencies of young people for active and meaningful participation in the development and implementation of public policies in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development at all levels, including international. Particular work will be done to continuously provide support to young people and strengthen their resilience to crisis situations and natural disasters.

Youth workers and youth offices play an important role in non-formal education of young people related to the topic of environmental protection and the availability of verified information, with the support of bodies and bodies responsible for environmental protection, education and youth. We will also work with media representatives who have a great influence on the development of environmental awareness, as well as with parents and educators. It is important to support the active participation of students and student parliaments in contributing to the achievement of indicators for evaluating the quality of school work, which refers to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, children’s rights, protection

of the human environment and sustainable development. Young people should acquire knowledge about sustainable development and environmental protection through formal education.

In line with the priority objectives of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Government's programme for the period from 2020 to 2022, which refers to environmental protection and green transformation and energy transformation and sustainability, it is important to improve harmonised planning of public policies and regulations in the field of air protection, the fight against climate change, energy and health protection in order to start the transformation towards the "green agenda". In this process, young people are irreplaceable partners and that is why this measure strengthens their competencies for participation in these processes as well. Work will be done on the development of special programmes and measures for young people intended to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The expected effects of this measure on young people are their more active participation in activities that contribute to sustainable development, environmental protection and the fight against climate change, as well as better understanding of the impact of pollution in environmental media, as one of the risk factors for health.

Type of measure: Informative and educational

Measure 5.4 Support for housing independence of young people

One of the basic challenges that young people in Serbia face is the lack of appropriate conditions for the independence of young people due to the unfavourable economic position of young people and insufficiently developed housing policy for young people. In order to solve this challenge, which is also recognised in the NYS, an initiative was launched to develop measures for housing independence of young people in which youth associations for youth and their unions (KOMS, OPENS, NAPOR and NAOYO), the Prime Minister's Office, MoTY and other relevant ministries took an active part. In the Action Plan for the implementation of the Government programme for the period from 2020 to 2022 within the priority goal 4.2. Protection of basic human rights and improvement of population policy, as one of the expected results, it is stated that support measures for the independence of young people have been improved. To that end, funds will be allocated to support young people to become independent.

Improved measures for solving the housing issue of young people will be solved through various mechanisms: subsidised measures for housing young people and young couples, young scientists, construction of non-profit apartments for young people, encouraging the return of young people to the village and buying a house with a garden, etc. In cooperation with the competent ministries, work will be done on improving the conditions for temporary housing of young people (subsidised rent of apartments, student dormitories, subsidised housing for students living outside student dormitories, etc.).

In accordance with the Law on Housing and Building Maintenance, the Decree on establishing the Housing Support Programme for Youth is being prepared with the aim of supporting the independence of young people, through subsidised lease or purchase of a suitable apartment, in order to eliminate negative demographic trends and create conditions for youth contribution to local government development. It is important to recognize as beneficiaries of housing support young people who are unemployed, and who have knowledge and skills that are in demand on the labour market and that are of interest to

LSGUs, i.e. the state administration body, but have not solved the housing issue. This enables positive internal migration and contributes to the development of employment policy and, indirectly, population policy.

The effects of the implementation of this measure will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of young people in Serbia, increased opportunities for starting a family, reduction of emigration, economic progress of the country and improvement of demographic indicators.

Type of measure: incentive

Measure 5.5 Support to programmes that contribute to the improvement of social inclusion of young people

Since in order to reduce discrimination, increase social cohesion and provide equal opportunities to all young people, it is necessary to continuously work on social inclusion of young people from vulnerable groups, reduce and overcome prejudice, the implementation of all goals of the Strategy contributes to a certain extent to social inclusion. and through measure 5.5.

In the EU27 in 2018, the risk rate of poverty or social exclusion was 26.2% for young people aged 16 to 29 (27.3% women and 25.2% men), while in Serbia it was 35.7% (34.7% women and 36.5% men). The at-risk-of-poverty rate for young people in the EU27 was 20.5% (women 21.6% and men 19.4%), and for Serbia it was 26% (women 25.2% and men 26.7%). According to the results of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC 2019), the at-risk-of-poverty rate in Serbia was 23.2%, and the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate was 31.7%, which is an improvement compared to 2016. However, children and young people under the age of 24 are still most at risk of poverty. Monitoring the implementation of the indicators of the first goal of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda for the period from 2015 to 2030, which refers to poverty reduction, also shows that young people in Serbia are exposed to higher risks of poverty and social exclusion than the general population.

The data indicate the need to invest additional efforts of all youth policy actors in this area. In order to reduce the risk of poverty or social exclusion, it is necessary to give special support to young people, especially in rural areas and those with lower levels of education. It is necessary to develop concrete measures of social inclusion that prevent segregation of young people with disabilities, i.e., give special support to young people from vulnerable groups, in order to be included in the regular education system, labour market, as well as measures to ensure independent living and active participation. communities.

The strategy recognises vulnerable groups of young people, marginalised ones, those at risk of social exclusion and poverty as multiple discriminated and excluded groups of young people. That is why support is foreseen for them through all goals. In addition, measure 5.5 is aimed at programmes, projects and activities that directly contribute to improving the social inclusion of young people. With the implementation of this measure, greater inclusion of vulnerable groups of young people in society and their equal participation in various aspects of social life is expected. Special attention in youth work and in the use of local youth services will be paid to young people at risk of social exclusion and young people in the alternative care system. It is also important to work on the prevention and protection of all forms of gender-based violence, including gender-based violence on the Internet.

Annual surveys on the position and needs of young people²⁴¹ show that from 2018, the number of young people who feel discriminated against is decreasing. Young people believe that young people at risk of poverty, young people with disabilities, young Roma and members of the LGBT+ population are most exposed to discrimination. As the percentage of young people who believe that young people with disabilities, young parents and young members of the LGBT+ population are exposed to discrimination, special attention will be paid to these young people.

The challenge is the lack of accurate records of young people from socially vulnerable categories, especially in the domain of official and thus recognised data, as well as the lack of analysis of their real needs (except for partial sectoral analyses), requires that programmes, activities and services planned for improvement their position does not always reflect the real needs of this target group. Therefore, through youth work in the community, special attention will be paid to determining the needs of young people at risk of social exclusion.

In order to provide integrated services for young people at the local level, it is important that representatives of the youth and YOs are involved in the work of the migration council and the development of local action plans to solve the issues of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in order to improve the position of this sensitive group of young people.

Type of measure: regulatory and informative-educational

Specific goal 5: Created conditions for a healthy and safe environment and social well-being of young people

| MEASURE 5.1 | MEASURE 5.2 | MEASURE 5.3 |
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| Support for programmes that contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles and mental health of young people | Support for existing and new youth safety improvement programmes | Support to the development of youth and youth programmes in the field of environmental protection |
| Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth | Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth | Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of the implementation) of measures: the ministry responsible for environmental protection |
| Participants in the implementation of the measure: ministry responsible for health, ministry responsible for information, ministry responsible for social policy, ministry responsible for trade, provincial authorities responsible for youth and health, LSGUs/YOs, SIPRU, school and student | Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for internal affairs, the Agency for Traffic Safety, the ministry responsible for health, the ministry responsible for education, the ministry responsible for telecommunications and information, the ministry responsible for social affairs, the ministry responsible for human and minority rights and | Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry responsible for youth, the ministry responsible for health, the ministry responsible for education, provincial bodies responsible for environmental protection, health, education and youth, LSGUs/YOs, CSOs |
| | | <u>Output indicators</u> |

²⁴¹ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 217.

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| <p>dormitories, CSOs, media services</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of young people participating in prevention programmes and activities to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent risky behaviour on an annual basis (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value (2020): 50,000²⁴² (no data by gender) Target value (2030): 70,000 (evenly represented by gender) Source of verification: Annual reports of MoTY, MH, provincial bodies in charge of youth and health, LSGUs, reports of programme implementers</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of local self-government units that have available and free counselling services for young people in the field of health and psycho-social support services</p> <p>Baseline value: not available Target value (2030): 67% Source of verification: LSGU reports, Survey on the position and needs of young people, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 3 Share of young people who sought help due to concerns about their mental health</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 53%²⁴³ (M 53,3% F 51,9%)</p> | <p>social dialogue, the ministry responsible for justice, the Coordinating Body for Gender Equality, the Centre for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, provincial authorities in charge of security, youth and health, LSGUs, scientific institutes, research agencies, educational institutions, media, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Decreased percentage of young people killed in traffic (killed and injured) compared to the baseline value.</p> <p>Baseline value (2018): 109 young people died in traffic and 6342 were injured²⁴⁴ Target value (2030): 55 killed and 4500 injured Source of verification: Traffic Safety Agency</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of supported projects of prevention and support for the improvement of youth safety at the local, provincial and national level in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value 60 Source of verification: Annual reports: MoTY, Ministry of Education, MoI, provincial bodies in charge of youth, education and security of LSGUs</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of young</p> | <p>Indicator 1 Number of supported projects in the field of environmental protection involving young people at local, provincial and national level in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline values: no data Target value (2030): 70 Source of verification: MoTY Annual Report, annual report of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, provincial bodies responsible for environmental protection, health and youth, LSGUs</p> <p>Indicator 2 Share of young people participating in environmental actions at local, provincial and national level in a calendar year (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline values (2021): 10% (M 10.1%, F 9.5%)²⁴⁵ Target value (2030): 40% (equal representation by gender) Source of verification: MoTY Annual Report, Annual Survey of the Position and Needs of Youth MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of meetings of the LSGU youth council with representatives of local institutions responsible for environmental protection on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 4 Sources of verification: annual report of LSGUs, MoTY, MEP</p> <p>Indicator 4 Number of meetings of green youth councils of LSGUs</p> |
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²⁴² MoYS database.

²⁴³ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 152.

²⁴⁴ Traffic Safety Agency, Overview report, Safety of young participants (aged 15-30) in traffic, 2019.

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| <p>Target value (2030): 67% (evenly represented by gender) Source of verification: Survey on the position and needs of young people, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 4 Number of supported projects targeting young people at health risk and young people from groups at risk of social exclusion at the local, provincial and national levels in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 67% (evenly represented by gender) Source of verification: Survey on the position and needs of young people, MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 5 Number of supported projects and informational and educational campaigns aimed at youth at health risk and youth from groups at risk of social exclusion, including young refugees and asylum seekers, at the local, provincial and national levels in the calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 60 Sources of verification: annual reports: MoTY, MH, provincial authorities in charge of youth and health, LSGUs, reports of program implementers.</p> <p>Indicator 6</p> | <p>people participating in prevention and support programmes to improve security during the calendar year (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 10,000 (evenly represented by gender) Sources of verification: annual reports of MoTY, Ministry of Education, MoI, PSOO, LSGUs</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementing the measure: the ministry in charge of youth</p> <p>Indicator 4 Number of peer violence prevention programmes at the local, provincial and national levels in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 50 Sources of verification: YO reports, MoTY / Provincial Secretariat / LSGU Annual Reports</p> <p>Indicator 5 Number of projects supported in competitions in the field of public information on the prevention of risky behaviour of young people and reduction of all forms of discrimination and violence (peer violence, digital violence, substance abuse, weapons abuse, radicalisation and extremism of young people, etc.) on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 11</p> | <p>with youth representatives on an annual basis</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 2 Sources of verification: annual report of LSGUs, MoTY, MEP</p> |
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²⁴⁵ Survey on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia, Ninamedia, (2021), p. 268.

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| <p>Number of supported media literacy programs and workshops</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 9 Target value (2030): 30 Source of verification: MoIT, MoTY, reports of project implementers.</p> <p>Indicator 7 Number of projects supported in competitions in the field of public information that deal with the topic of affirmative content for young people, including science-based information on sexuality and protection of personal integrity</p> <p>Baseline value (2021): 5 Target value (2030): 10 Sources of verification: annual reports of MoIT, reports of project implementers.</p> <p>Indicator 8 The percentage of improved and harmonized public policies that contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles and mental health of young people</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 75% of the total number brought Source of verification: annual report of the RS Government and relevant ministries</p> | <p>Target value (2030): 30 Source of verification: Annual reports of MCI, MoTY, reports of project implementers.</p> <p>Indicator 6 Number of supported projects for prevention of violence against girls and women and support for improving security during the calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: (2021): 2 Target value (2030): 10 Source of verification: Annual reports: MHRDP, MIA, MoTY, PSSY, LSGU, Ministry of Education, MoHMRSB, Gender Equality Coordination Body, CSOs</p> <p>Indicator 7 Number of expert analyses on security challenges, risks and threats to which young people are exposed in the Republic of Serbia</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 5 Sources of verification: annual reports: MIA, MoTY, PSSY, LSGUs, MoLEVSA, Ministries of Education, CSOs, scientific institutes, research agencies</p> <p>Indicator 8 The number of supported programs and projects for the prevention of the problem of trafficking in young people at the local, provincial and national levels in the calendar year</p> | |
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| | <p>Baseline value (2021): no data Target value (2030): 6 Sources of verification: annual reports of MoLEVSA, Centre for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, MIA, reports of project implementers.</p> | |
| MEASURE 5.4 | MEASURE 5.5 | |
| <p>Support for housing independence of young people</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Developed public policy measures to support youth housing</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementing (coordination of the implementation) the measure: the ministry responsible for housing affairs</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry in charge of youth SIPRU, provincial authorities in charge of housing and youth, LSGUs, CSOs</p> <p>Baseline value: No Target value (2023): Yes Source of verification: Annual report of MGIS and MoTY</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of young people who received support under housing independence measures during the calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 500 young people per year Source of verification: Annual report of MGIS and MoTY</p> | <p>Support for programmes that contribute to improving the social inclusion of young people</p> <p>Institution responsible for implementation (coordination of implementation) of measures: ministry responsible for youth</p> <p>Participants in the implementation of the measure: the ministry in charge of social affairs, the ministry in charge of education, the ministry responsible for internal affairs, the ministry responsible for health, the ministry responsible for justice, the ministry responsible for human and minority rights, and social dialogue, the Centre for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, SIPRU, provincial authorities responsible for social policy, gender equality, local self-government, security, youth and education, LSGUs/ YOs, CSOs</p> <p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <p>Indicator 1 Number of programmes and projects to support the social inclusion of young people from categories at risk of social exclusion at the local, provincial and national levels in a calendar year</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 30 Sources of verification: annual reports of MoYS, Provincial Secretariat, LSGUs</p> <p>Indicator 2 Number of young people at risk of social exclusion who are beneficiaries of local services and support programmes on an annual basis (by gender)</p> <p>Baseline value: no data Target value (2030): 1,000 (equal gender representation)</p> | |

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| | <p>Source of verification: Annual reports of MoTY, Provincial Secretariat for Regional Development, Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government, LSGUs, SIPRU</p> <p>Indicator 3 Number of programs and projects supporting the social inclusion of young migrants and refugees, at the national, provincial and local levels during the calendar year</p> <p>Initial value (2021): no data Target value (2030): 10</p> <p>Sources of verification: annual reports of MoLEVSA, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, MoTY, reports of project implementers.</p> |
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7. MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY AND MANNER OF REPORTING ON THE RESULTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The MoTY is the competent state body for coordination, development and improvement of youth policy, implementation of the Strategy as a public policy document, as well as for other national plans and programmes concerning youth. The Government forms a Working Group for monitoring and implementation of the Strategy, whose tasks are to propose measures to harmonise activities on the implementation of the Strategy, monitor the implementation and participate in the evaluation and preparation of reports for the Government. Representatives of young people also participate in the work of this Working Group according to the principle of management.

The MoTY will directly monitor the activities from the action plans of the Strategy that are being implemented at the national, provincial and local level, and for the implementation of which it is directly responsible. Activities directly implemented by other ministries, institutions, civil society, business sector, etc., are monitored indirectly by the MoTY, through their reports.

An important mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the Strategy at the national level is the Youth Council of the Republic of Serbia, as an advisory body of the Government, established by the Government Decision on 24 January 2014. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Tourism and Youth. The competence of the Council is to encourage and coordinate activities related to the development, implementation and implementation of youth policy and to propose measures for its improvement. The Youth Council currently has 40 members, of which 19 are representatives of state bodies whose areas of interest are youth, one is a representative of the provincial body responsible for youth, 15 representatives of youth associations, youth associations and their associations, two representatives of youth offices, one joint representative of national councils of national minorities and two distinguished experts. The Council is one of the mechanisms that ensures that the voice of young people is heard and respected and that they participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of the implementation of public policies.

The activities of the Council take place through sessions that are open to other representatives of interested parties, including international organisations, donors and the like, which is used in practice. Initiatives of interest to young people can be launched at the Council and bodies in charge of monitoring certain areas of youth policy can be formed. Representatives of youth associations and associations, members of the Council, communicate and collect opinions and initiatives of their members, which they present and advocate during the work of the Council. Members of the Youth Council from the ranks of institutions inform the Council about the results of work with young people within their competence. Additional support to the Council's work is the Working Group for Monitoring the Implementation of the Strategy, which collects data and reports and submits them to the Youth Council for further consideration.

At the level of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth monitors and supports the work of youth associations and associations for the youth, federations, as well as local youth offices directly and through coordination of the Provincial Youth Council, and at the local level key bodies, bodies and organisations in charge of youth are city or municipal youth councils, formed by the LSGUs, YOs, city councillor in charge of youth, as well as associations that conduct youth activities.

The MoTY is responsible for establishing a comprehensive monitoring system. A significant role in the process of monitoring and data collection is played by the YOs, as well as other institutions and associations that conduct youth activities. The line ministries, as well as state organisations and institutions, are responsible for achieving the results and monitoring the activities for which they are determined by the Strategy and the accompanying action plan. The Autonomous Province and LSGUs submit to the Ministry of Youth and Sports at least once a year a report on the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy in their territory.

The basis for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy is a set of indicators that are determined at the level of measures, specific goals and general objective, as well as implemented activities from the action plan. Quantitative indicators will be monitored through the SORS and EUROSTAT data, and qualitative through special surveys organised by the MoTY, its partners and other organisations and institutions, including international organisations. In addition to the data published by the bodies responsible for statistics, data are collected, through the monitoring and reporting system, by organisations, institutions and line ministries, which implement the Strategy and Action Plan. Also, the MoTY supports the development of alternative data collection networks, as well as the production of records and networking of data sources available at the local level.

The MoTY and the Youth Council are institutionally responsible for reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Strategy. The Working Group for the implementation of the Strategy prepares and submits a report based on the monitoring of indicators to the Youth Council for adoption. The line ministries participate in the preparation of the report for the Government.

The MoTY reports to the Government through the public administration body responsible for coordination of public policies on the results of the implementation of the action plan of the Strategy no later than 120 days after the end of each calendar year from the day of its adoption. Also, the MoTY reports on the results of the implementation of the Strategy within 120 days after the end of every third calendar year from the day of its adoption and will submit the final report no later than six months after the end of the Strategy implementation period.

The reports are published on the website of the MoTY and the e-Government portal in an open digital format, suitable for download and further use.

8. ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL EFFECTS

For the implementation of the general goal, specific goals and measures envisaged by the Strategy, funds are allocated in the budget of the Republic of Serbia, as well as in the budget of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and LSGU budgets, but also from other sources, in accordance with positive legal regulations, with the planned contribution of IPA funds²⁴⁶ of the EU, participation of the private sector, associations conducting youth activities and other national and international programmes and donors. In accordance with the Law on Youth, the Autonomous Province and the Local Self-Government determine action plans for the implementation of the Strategy on their territory and provide funds in the budget for the implementation of these plans. The Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the period from 2023 to 2025 will contain the budget for 2023, with cost projections for 2024 and 2025, which will be harmonised with the medium-term expenditure framework from the defined procedure for preparing the budget for 2022 year, as well as in accordance with the limits set by the Ministry of Finance for the following years for the relevant sections.

The dynamics of the implementation of measures will be defined through three-year action plans. The first Action Plan will be adopted for the period from 2023 to 2025, the second for the period from 2024 to 2028, and the third for the period from 2029 to 2030.

The Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2023, in Section 37 – Ministry of Tourism and Youth, provided funds for Programme 1302 – Youth Policy in the amount of RSD 603,031,000.²⁴⁷

Funds for the implementation of the Strategy, in addition to funds from IPA funds, are provided through the project “Prospects for Young People in Rural Areas in Serbia” (PN 2021.2223.2), which lasts from November 2021 to October 2025, which is supported by the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ), is implemented by the German Organisation for International Cooperation (GIZ), with the MoTY as a key partner. The total funds for this project amount to 7 million euros. Also, funds will be used from the four-year project “Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development /Phase III”, implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with relevant ministries and partners, with the support of the Swiss Government through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Negotiations are underway to provide funds for the implementation of planned measures from other international sources of funding (donations, new IPA projects, etc.).

9. CONSULTATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

²⁴⁶ IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

²⁴⁷ These funds are planned by the Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2023 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 138/22).

Pursuant to Article 41, paragraph 4 of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 30/18), Article 77, paragraph 2 Law on Public Administration (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, Nos. 79/05, 101/07 and 95/10, 99/14, 30/18 – as amended, 47/18), Article 3, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Rulebook on Guidelines for Good Practice for Public Participation in the Preparation of Draft Laws and Other Regulations and Acts (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 51/19), on 22 June 2021, MoYS announced the start of work on the drafting of the NYS Audit and invited the interested public, youth, institutions, associations that carry out youth activities and other interested persons to submit their written proposals and comments and thus began the process of updating the existing or new strategy for youth. The results of these consultations were published on 2 July 2021 on the website of MoYS.

By the decision of the Minister of Youth and Sports of 27 July 2021, a Special Working Group for drafting the Strategy (hereinafter referred to as: SWG) was formed, consisting of 27 members, representatives of all relevant state bodies and institutions and representatives of youth associations, youth and their associations: The Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Rural Care, Ministry of Family and Demography, KOMS, National Association of Youth Work Practitioners, National Association YO, Youth Capital of Europe Novi Sad, Centre for Youth ad and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

In order to implement a broad consultative process, and before drafting the Strategy, during August and in the first half of September, six round tables were held throughout Serbia, with the aim of transparent, comprehensive and systematic, direct dialogue with relevant representatives of the youth sector and provide young people with an overview of their proposed goals and measures that the Strategy should contain. The proposals and conclusions from these round tables were published on 27 September on the website of the MoYS. The round tables were attended by 114 representatives of youth, youth associations and youth associations, representatives of local self-government units (youth offices, members of municipal councils and cities),²⁴⁸ including representatives of the National Youth Council of

²⁴⁸ The Niš Cultural Centre Festival, Non-Governmental Organisation Exit Team, Proaktiv, Office for Youth of the City Municipality of Pantelejš, Foundation 1%, Student Parliament of the University of Niš, Health Centre, Red Cross, Association of Citizens Windmill (*Vetrenjača*), Non-Governmental Organisation Smart Group, Siniša Dimitrijević – photographer, Association Konektor, informal group PRLMNT, Jedi Movement, VRS Youth Council, Office for Youth, Sports and Physical Education, Kuršumljija Youth Office, European Youth Club / Pirot City Administration, Committee for International Cooperation of Medical Students of Serbia, Bora Stanković Gymnasium, Humanitarian Organisation Find Raoul, Youth Empowerment Club 018, University of Pristina with temporary headquarters in Kosovska Mitrovica, Technical Secondary School Zaječar, Sports Association of the City of Zaječar, Roma Association Zaječar, Day Care Facility for Children and Youth with disabilities in Development, Youth Office Zaječar, Timok Youth Centre, Informal Group Outhide Festival, Svetozar Marković Main Library, Zaječar Gymnasium, City Administration of the City of Zaječar, Kragujevac Youth Office, Youth of JAZAS Kragujevac OJKG/Business Innovation Programmes: BIPS, Student Parliament of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, Ministry of the Interior, Kragujevac Police Administration, Sports Association Radnički, Mayor’s Assistant for Youth and Cooperation with the University of Kragujevac, Office for Youth Smederevska Palanka, Second Kragujevac Gymnasium, Sports Association Radnički, Faculty of Medical Sciences in Kragujevac, Student Parliament of the University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Economics of the University of Kragujevac, Student Parliament of the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Čačak, Nova Varoš Youth Office, Ivanjica Youth Office, Užice Police Administration, Novi Pazar Youth Office, Ivanjica Youth Club, Šabac Youth Office, Izadi Counselling Centre, Humanitarian and Environmental Organisation “Cap to a Smile”, Creative Youth Centre Pančevo, Novi Sad Youth Forum, Provincial Secretariat, Association of Pensioners of the City of Novi Sad, Youth Delegate of Serbia to the United Nations, Centre for Individual Development and Improvement of the Association – PSIHOZON, Goran Movement of Vojvodina, Ecological Centre Radulovački, Association of Environmental Protection Engineers, Centre for Youth Work, Youth Forum, European Student Forum of the

Serbia (KOMS), National Association of Youth Work Practitioners (NAPOR), the National Association of Youth Offices (NAoYO) and the Youth Association of the Association “Novi Sad Youth Capital of Europe” (OPENS).

Four thematic groups (youth work, youth spaces, active participation of young people in society and personal development) were established for the preparation of the Strategy, in which members of the SWG, as well as other stakeholders, participated. It was agreed that the Strategy should answer the key questions which are:

Who? – Youth workers, youth and all other youth policy actors.

What? – They plan, create, implement, evaluate the effects and report on the implementation of youth policy, i.e., all measures and activities of state bodies, institutions, associations and other entities, which are aimed at improving and advancing the position of young people.

How? – Through cross-sectoral cooperation, harmonisation and coordination of activities.

Where? – In spaces for young people (places where youth activities take place) and through institutional mechanisms for active participation in society.

Why? – To support young people in organising, social action, development and achieving the potential for personal and social well-being (through personal development and active participation in society).

In the period from 21 to 24 October 2021, representatives of the youth sector and the MoYS participated in a four-day workshop, where they worked out a proposal for general and specific goals and measures within thematic areas. The specific goals are defined on the basis of five areas of youth policy that have been identified as key to improvement during the period of validity of the Strategy²⁴⁹.

It was stated that the thematic area, which in the previous, initial consultations was defined as personal development, covers various aspects, so it is a more adequate solution to be considered and elaborated through two separate goals. One is related to personal development in a narrower sense, and its focus is on education and (self-) employment, and the other is related to health and well-being, including ecology and safety. Priority topics include social inclusion and gender equality, cross-sectoral topics that permeate and affect all other areas. They will be the focus of all measures and activities planned by the Strategy, and social inclusion will be additionally defined as a special measure.

The working draft of the Strategy was forwarded to the SWG at the end of November for further consideration and work. At the request of the representatives of KOMS in PRG, the deadlines for commenting were extended from 5 to 22 December. After receiving the comments, the work on the drafting of the Strategy continued and the PRG determined the text of the Draft Strategy. The text of the Draft Strategy with ex-post and ex-ante analysis was posted on 8 February on the website of the MoYS and on the e-Consultations portal for public

Faculty of Political Sciences, Committee for International Cooperation of Medical Students, Union of High School Students of Serbia, Youth Office Obrenovac, Young Researchers of Serbia, City Municipality of Obrenovac, Association of Young Businessmen of Serbia, UKP Department for Suppression of Juvenile Delinquency, Police Department for the City of Belgrade, Union of Scouts of Serbia, Youth Office Stari grad, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Association of Students with Handicap, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Institute for Development and Innovation, UNION University Nikola Tesla, Association for Affirmation of Culture, available at <https://www.mos.gov.rs/vest/izvestaj-o-sprovedenom-postupku-konsultacija-u-postupku-izrade-nacrta-zakona-o-mladima-i-revizije-nacionalne-strategije-za-mlade>

²⁴⁹ At the workshop, it was concluded that it is necessary to divide the thematic area of Personal Development into two areas due to its breadth, so that in the further work on the Strategy, five areas were considered and five special goals were defined accordingly.

consultations with all stakeholders, before determining the Strategy. 95 comments were received from 12 interested parties. Most of the comments have been partially or fully adopted and incorporated into the text of the Strategy Proposal. Explanations are given for partially adopted and non-adopted comments and the Consultation Report was published.

In the period from 29 July to 19 August 2022, the MoYS held a public hearing on the Proposed Youth Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030, in accordance with the Conclusion of the Committee for the Legal System and State Bodies of the Government of the Republic of Serbia 05 No. 66-5734/2022-I, dated 27 July 2022. During the public discussion, the MoYS held six round tables in six cities of Serbia in August 2022. A major role in the involvement of young people was played by representatives of associations/unions that are members of NYS SWG. Through social networks, round tables and various consultations through associations and alliances that are members of NYS SWG, 6,812 young people were informed and involved. In the consultation process during the development of the new strategy, the MoYS organised a total of 12 round tables in 2021 and 2022, in which 296 young people directly participated. Also, 31,022 followers, including young people, were informed about the consultations through the MoYS social networks. After the public discussion on the Proposed Strategy for Youth in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030, 164 written comments were received from 21 interested parties. Most of the comments were partially or fully adopted and incorporated into the text of the Strategy Proposal. Explanations were given for partially adopted and non-adopted comments. The report on the public debate on the Proposed Youth Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030 was published on the MoYS website and the e-Consultation portal. After incorporating the adopted comments into the text of the Strategy, the final Youth Strategy Proposal in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2022 to 2030 was drawn up and forwarded to the authorities for their opinion. After the entry into force of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Ministries on 22 October 2022 and the formation of the Ministry of Tourism and Youth, within the new Government of the RS, as well as after the adoption of the Law on the Budget of the RS for 2023, a Proposal for a Youth Strategy was prepared in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2023 to 2030, which was sent to the authorities for their opinion in December 2022. After the comments were entered, the final text of the Youth Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2023 to 2030 was drawn up.

10. ACTION PLAN

The first action plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the period from 2023 to 2025 will be adopted within 90 days from the day of the adoption of this strategy.

11. FINAL PROVISIONS

The National Youth Strategy for the period from 2015 to 2025 shall cease to be applied as of the date of the publication of this Strategy (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”, No. 22/15).

This Strategy shall be published on the Government website, the website of the Ministry of Tourism and Youth and the e-Consultations portal, within seven working days from the day of adoption.

This Strategy shall be published in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia”.

05 Number: 66-519/2023

In Belgrade, 26 January 2023

GOVERNMENT

PRIME MINISTER

Ana Brnabić

Annex 1 – Meaning of abbreviations

GIZ – German International Cooperation Organisation
EU – European Union
EC – European Commission
EUROSTAT – EU Statistics Office
ESC – European Solidarity Initiative
LoY – Law on Youth
IOM – International Organisation for Migration
UR - Unique records of youth associations, youth associations and their associations
LSGU – Local self-government unit
YO – Youth office
OITeG – Office of Information Technologies and e-Government
KOMS – National Youth Council of Serbia
MoFCD - Ministry of Family Care and Demography
MCTI – Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
MEI – Ministry of European Integration
MoH – Ministry of Health
MEP – Ministry of Environmental Protection
MoIT - Ministry of Information and Telecommunications
MC – Ministry of Culture
MoHMRSD – Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue
MoSTDI - Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation
MoYS - Ministry of Youth and Sports
MoJ – Ministry of Justice
MoESTD - Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
MoLEVSA – Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs
MoS – Ministry of Sports
MoTY - Ministry of Tourism and Youth
MoI – Ministry of Interior
NAoYO – National Association of Youth Offices
NAPOR – National Association of Youth Work Practitioners
NYS – National Youth Strategy for the period from 2015 to 2025
OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPENS – Youth Capital of Europe Novi Sad
CSOs – civil society organisations
SWG – Special working group for the preparation of the Strategy Proposal
PSSY – Provincial Secretariat for Sports and Youth
ROYC – Regional Office for Youth Cooperation
SORS – Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
RS – Republic of Serbia
SDC – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
CoE – Council of Europe
SIPRU – Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction of the Government of the Republic of Serbia
SCTM – Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
SKONUS – Student Conference of the University of Serbia
YPAs – Youth policy actors
Strategy – Youth Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2023 to 2030
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

The translation of the Strategy into English was provided by the project “Prospects for Young People in Rural Areas in Serbia” implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Youth of the Republic of Serbia, as part of the German Development Cooperation.