

SERBIA

Report on the preparation of post-2020 strategy



Regional Cooperation Council



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Abbreviations

CEFTA	Central European Free Trade Agreement
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CPE	Commissioner for the Protection of Equality
DWCP	Decent Work Country Programme
EC	European Commission
ERP	Economic Reform Programme
EU	European Union
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
MAP REA	Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
SR	Republic of Serbia
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEE	South East Europe
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WB	World Bank

Executive summary

This report is a comprehensive overview of all post 2020 strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia. It contains analytical results of short, medium and long-term priorities within these strategies and Action Plans in detail, as well as interlinks within the UN Agenda 2030 SDGs, the EU and other donor programmes and initiatives with key findings and general recommendations.

The first chapter provides a list of strategic documents valid after 2020 with key priorities under each existing and planned national strategy beyond 2020, as well as desk research results of additional available studies, analyses, strategic documents, reports and recommendations relevant until 2030. A particular focus is on the Fiscal Strategy, which is the integral part of the Economic Reform Programme (ERP), the Government's strategic plans and other relevant sectoral strategies of the Republic of Serbia which go beyond 2020. This section contains comprehensive overview of all national strategies and priorities until 2030 which will then serve as a basis for the development of a regional post-2020 Strategy.

The second chapter includes additional analysis of priorities and strategies which go beyond governmental sphere, i.e. IFIs, think-tanks and international organisations.

The third chapter provides the analysis of interlinkages between the European Commission priorities and Serbian national priorities. It contains the existing EC documents, such as the sectoral long-term strategies which are already developed within the European Commission and the vision of the new Commission.

The main and most extensive chapter of this report incorporates the analysis of mapped existing and potential national strategies and priorities, as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with detailed analysis of the strategic Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs for the Republic of Serbia, including detailed explanation of the institutional framework for planning, implementation and evaluation of the Agenda 2030 in Serbia.

This section includes reporting on the consultations with relevant institutions, line ministries and national offices for strategic planning, the EU Delegation, international organisations and donors that are active in Serbia and of relevance for the purpose of this report.

The final section incorporates mapping of all donor strategic documents and visions, and national coordination mechanisms for the development of strategies and mechanisms on strategic planning.

Mapping results shows that, under its existing strategic framework, Serbia is already committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Meeting the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda is inseparable from Serbia's EU integration process. These two processes are fully compatible and interdependent. It is therefore necessary to establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms that will allow better communication, exchange of information and greater involvement of civil society in order to ensure maximum effectiveness and complementarity of planned measures and resources. It is necessary to define common priorities of the Western Balkans within the strategic framework of the EU with the post2020 financial framework and investment plan.

I. Introduction and purpose of the report

The overall objective of this analysis is to conduct stock taking and identification of the existing mid- and long-term strategies, analyse priorities within the existing strategies, and provide an overview of the quantification of key national targets with respect to post-2020 vision and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through desk-based research and consultations with the representatives of Serbia, both government and non-governmental organisations, and donors and international organisations based in Serbia.

For the purpose of this analysis, strategic documents were analysed and strategies valid after 2020 were identified. Serbia has 32 long-term strategic documents with or without Action Plans that are in force in post-2020 period. There are 23 strategies without a timeframe. 34 Strategies, Action Plans and Programmes that are relevant for post-2020 period are under preparation. In accordance with the methodology, the priorities of each of these strategies are analysed and linked to the respective SDGs, as well as to the specific targets within each SDG for which Serbia has opted. Furthermore, the priorities identified in this way are linked to both the relevant negotiation chapters within the EU membership negotiation process and EU strategic documents valid after 2020.

The EU has played an active role throughout the process and is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs within the EU and in development cooperation with partner economies. Meeting the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda is inseparable from Serbia's EU integration process. These two processes are fully compatible and interdependent.

In line with this methodological principle, ten interviews were conducted with relevant stakeholders. The interlocutors were Assistant Ministers in charge of international cooperation. They are most often in charge of both European Integration and the 2030 Agenda and, together with the strategic planning Departments, participate in the drafting and implementation of strategic documents, and reporting and coordination with other ministries. In their written submissions, all ministries have provided a list of projects they are currently implementing that contribute to the implementation of strategies and directly or indirectly to the realisation of the SDGs.

Each ministry or Government Body draft mid- or long-term strategies covering the specific sector supported by different bilateral, international or other sources of donor assistance, both technical and financial. The European Union is the biggest donor in Serbia and the economy's number one partner in supporting development and ongoing reforms. Other donors also support Serbia in different areas of interest. Strategies are also important for donor coordination. This report provides a list of main bilateral donors and EU programmes and initiatives in Serbia with their mid-term strategic plans where they exist and where they are publicly available.

2. Current state of play

2.1 MID AND LONG-TERM NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

The mapping of the Republic of Serbia's strategic framework vis-a-vis the Sustainable Development Goals has encompassed all economy's strategic documents currently in effect. Where an area is not regulated by a strategy, the relevant plans and other public policy documents have also been taken into account. The database of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies has served as the basis for identifying the strategic framework. In addition, where possible, the strategy implementation status is indicated¹. There is a list of all relevant strategic documents and action plans adopted by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, with summary (only in Serbian) of key priorities. Finally, the strategic documents whose adoption is planned under the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (revision 2, 2016) – NPAA – are also indicated. For each Sustainable Development Goal, the background in the relevant area in Serbia is briefly outlined, using the SDG monitoring indicators defined by the UN where available. In addition, for each SDG, the relevant international processes, especially European ones, in which Serbia is involved and which are relevant to the achievement of that Goal, are outlined.

Development Partnership Framework (DPF) for Serbia 2016-2020 is a strategic document developed in close cooperation and through a partnership between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations Country Team in Serbia. This DPF is grounded in key national development priorities and it was formulated through an extensive consultation process that took place during 2014 and early 2015 among national and international stakeholders in Serbia.

This strategic framework presents five key results areas – i) Governance and Rule of Law, ii) Social and Human Resources Development, iii) Economic Development, Growth and Employment, iv) Environment, Climate Change and Resilient Communities, and v) Culture and Development - and nine outcomes. The new post-2020 Development Partnership Framework (DPF) for Serbia is under development.

One of the crucial documents is **Declaration on the role of national statistical offices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, which states that the national statistical offices are committed to contribute their expertise to measure SDGs in a professional, independent and impartial way. All data relevant for monitoring, evaluation and reporting of SDGs are publicly available on <https://data.stat.gov.rs/?caller=SDGUN&languageCode=en-US>. Indicators are also available on http://sdg.indikatori.rs/media/1514/sdg_serbia.pdf.

Second most important source of information is **the Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Serbia on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.² Deep structural reforms in Serbia, including provision of sustainable public finances, the 2030 Agenda financing included, enable the highest-aiming SDGs achievement. In collaboration with the UN development system, the

Government identified the inter-linkages between the goals and targets with the *acquis communautaire* through RIA. The MAPS mission to Serbia in 2018 provided support to improving coherence of sectoral and inter-sectoral government policies for the SDGs. The same year, the IMWG supported by the UN Country Team, organised the Subregional Conference on the Promotion and Progress on the 2030 Agenda providing momentum for the achievement of SDGs throughout the region.

A bold, long-term vision of transforming into sustainability within the Serbian strategic framework is laid on the two pillars: *the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis 2018-2021 and the National Priorities for International Assistance 2014-2017, with projections until 2020*.

The Serbian Government established six strategic pathways for “growing into sustainability for everyone everywhere”:

- Connect, partner and integrate Serbia in Europe and the world;
- Achieve a faster, inclusive and sustainable growth, based on economic, scientific and innovation resources;
- Render efficient and effective public services;
- Promote human rights and security;
- Education for the twenty-first century;
- Transformative digitalisation.

Serbia is striving to end depopulation, reduce inequalities, improve social inclusion and solidarity and empower women and girls to achieve gender equality. There is a need to undertake resolute measures to combat corruption, eradicate poverty and make transition to a carbon-neutral circular economy to meet the nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Through the broad coordinated network of partners, the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda implementation in Serbia needs to be developed through monitoring, reviewing, reporting and following up by the State institutions, local authorities and communities, human rights mechanisms, civil society, social partners, business communities, academia and research community, bilateral and multilateral development partners within, across, and beyond borders.

Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established in December 2015, composed of high-ranking representatives of 27 line ministries and Government offices, chaired by the Minister in charge of Demography and Population Policy. Institutional mechanism to coordinate, follow and report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was formally established. The National Statistical Office enabled quantification of key national targets. All data relevant for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on implementation of the 2030 Agenda national priorities are publicly available. Indicators are also available.

According to the Government guidelines, the IMWG planned and through the established national monitoring, review and reporting mechanism conducted the reporting process which resulted in the first Voluntary National Review report presented at the High-Level Political Forum. In its reporting the IMWG decided to focus equally on assessing both the legislative and the strategic framework – policies in place and the means of implementation, particularly the structure of the financial system and mobilisation of sources of funding along with the Agenda as a whole and specifically the SDGs which have priority for

¹ <https://rsjp.gov.rs/mapa/>

² <https://serbia.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/VNR%2C%20eng.pdf>

Serbia. This required the assessment of outcomes by covering the existing legislative framework, planning and strategic milestones and their implementation, as well as the costs of implementation to date and the resources provided from different sources, including the national SDG budgeting.

The Focus Group of the National Assembly of Serbia for the Development of Control Mechanisms for the Process of Implementation of the SDGs, established in 2017, initiated the first public hearing on SDGs implementation. The Assembly develops a legal framework and ensures budgeting for SDGs. Through liaising with local, cross-border, regional and international stakeholders and through inter-parliamentary cooperation, it is becoming the centre stage for public advocacy for SDGs.

Serbia lacks an umbrella document comparable in its format to a National Development Plan, which would be based on a long-term vision with clearly defined priorities, measures, and activities/projects to be implemented. Many strategies contain phrases such as 'National' or 'Development Strategy' in their titles, but their contents and areas they address show they cannot be considered overarching strategies because they deal only with strategic planning in individual sectors or parts of sectors. EU integration process made a significant contribution to the development of strategic planning and budgeting mechanisms.

The National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis is a detailed, multi-annual plan for the alignment of domestic legislation with EU regulations. The first National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis covered the period from 2013 to 2016, and in July of 2014, the second NPAA was adopted for the period from 2014 to 2018.³ The Report on the implementation of **the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis** (NPAA) for the third quarter of 2019 is a relevant source of information for analysing plans to adopt new and revise existing strategies and action plans in the European integration process.⁴

Economic Reform Programme (ERP)⁵ - Since ERP is a rolling programme which establishes a system for monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of structural reforms, whose execution requires a longer period of time, in this year's cycle of ERP preparation, the priorities have largely remained unchanged, i.e. the reforms presented in ERP 2019-2021 are slightly amended reforms from ERP 2018-2020 with regard to the coverage and goals, with three new reforms added: one with an aim of establishing the system for environmental protection funding, the second with an aim of improving the conditions and eliminating barriers to trade, and the third with an aim of increasing the possibilities of employment of hard-to-employ persons and strengthening formal employment.

The selected structural reforms, which were subject of a broad public consultation process, are aligned with the three-year plan of total budget expenditure determined by the Budget Law, priorities defined in the national documents, as well as human capacity constraints of public administration with regard to the necessary number and skills for consistent and coordinated reform implementation.

SR	Title of Structural Reform
AREA: ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MARKET REFORM	
I	Energy market development coupled with energy infrastructure construction
2	Improvement of conditions for enhancing energy efficiency through harmonisation of the legislative framework and establishing a sustainable mechanism for financing energy efficiency projects
3	Improving the capacity and quality of road transport through the reform of the road sector with regard to the formation of a contractual relationship between the RS and the State Roads Managers and further implementation of a new way of contracting maintenance based on performance
4	Railway reform through improving rail safety and improving the regulatory framework
AREA: AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND SERVICES	
5	Improving the competitiveness of agriculture through the development of rural infrastructure, landscaping and market regulation and quality of agricultural products
6	Improving the keeping of the register of agricultural holdings and approval of national incentives in agriculture through the development of eAgrar
AREA: BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT AND COMBATING THE INFORMAL ECONOMY	
7	Simplification and guillotine procedures for business entities – CutAP initiative
8	Tax Administration transformation
9	Improving the geospatial sector by creating a strategic digital platform to support investment decision making
10	Establishing a sustainable environmental financing system
II	Introducing the concept of circular economy by defining a strategic framework
AREA: RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL ECONOMY	
12	Support for sustainable financing of research activities
13	Support for innovative start-up companies and digital transformation of companies
14	Increasing the accessibility of e-Government to citizens and businesses by improving customer service
15	Improvement of e-government services and education through the development of national information and communication infrastructure
AREA: TRADE-RELATED REFORMS	
16	Improve conditions and remove barriers to trade
17	Product info - Establishment of single digital service for technical regulations
AREA: EDUCATION AND SKILLS	
18	Qualifications oriented towards the needs of the labour market
19	Digitalisation of the education system and introduction of the uniform education information system
AREA: EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKET	
20	Improve national employment policy in line with good practice and EU standards
21	Creating conditions for monitoring, encouraging and supporting circular migration
AREA: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND INCLUSION	
22	Improvement of the adequacy, quality and targeting of social protection measures

3 http://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/nacionalna_dokumenta/npaa/third_revision_npaa_18.pdf

4 http://www.mei.gov.rs/upload/documents/nacionalna_dokumenta/npaa/npaa_trece_tromesecje_19.pdf

5 <https://mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/strategije/2019/Program%20ekonomskih%20reformi%202019%20-%202020.pdf>

Strategic planning system in Serbia is improved by implementation of the **Regulatory reform and improved public policy management strategy, 2016-2020**. The Government's General Secretariat has formulated guidelines for drafting the Government's strategic documents. The inconsistency of strategic documents has many repercussions on Serbia's overall regulatory system, especially in terms of the predictability of development directions in particular areas. Numerous inconsistencies have been identified amongst strategic documents, meaning that the expected outcomes and outputs of laws and other pieces of legislation cannot be directly linked to Serbia's development objectives, and often contradict them.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the **Regulation on the methodology of public policy management**, analysis of the effects of public policies and regulations and the content of individual public policy documents (Decree) at its 130th session held on 31 January 2019. The Decree was published on 8 February 2019 in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 8/18 and entered into force on 16 February 2019.

The Regulation represents a by-law adopted on the basis of the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (Article 51). The aforementioned regulation harmonises the process of planning, drafting and adoption of public policy regulations and documents at all levels, which will result in better and more efficient implementation. By adopting this regulation, mechanisms have been put in place to systematically prevent the adoption of ineffective regulations and documents that do not meet the prescribed standards and criteria.

Each strategic document must contain same parts or chapters which are unified: the vision and mission, priorities, objectives and results that need to be achieved as well as activities that support the achievement of the overall and specific targets set. Activities are mainly integrated in the action plans that are usually annexed to the strategies. The action plans also contain information about the budget, timeframe for implementation of specific activities, measurable indicators needed to evaluate the success of results achieved as well as the link to the specific objectives and the list of institutions and organisations responsible for the implementation of those activities, with budget and indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

In terms of duration and expiry of strategic and policy documents two sets of strategies with their priorities are analysed: strategies valid after 2020 and strategies with no defined validity deadline.

Institutions	Policy documents	
Ministry of Internal Affairs	National Strategy for Prevention and Countering Terrorism (2017-2021)	
	Strategy for Combating Cyber Crime (2019-2023)	Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Cybercrime 2019-2023
	Strategy for control of small arms & light weapons (2019 – 2024)	Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the Republic of Serbia 2019-2024
	National Strategy to Fight Organised Crime (2009)	
	Community Policing Strategy (2013)	Draft Community Policing Programme with a proposal of the Action Plan
	National Strategy for Protection and Rescuing in Emergency	
	National Disaster Risk Management Programme; Disaster Risk Programme for the Republic of Serbia	
	Strategy to Re-integrate Returnees Based on the Readmission Agreement	
	Migration Management Strategy	
	Development Strategy of the Ministry of Interior 2018-2023	Draft Action Plan for the period 2020-2021 for the implementation of the Development Strategy of the Ministry of Interior 2018-2023
	Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022	Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Strategy for Integrated Border Management 2021-2025 • Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Integrated Border Management • Preparation of the Draft Schengen Action Plan in accordance with the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism
Ministry of Finance	Economic Reform Programme 2019-2021	
	Fiscal Strategy of the Republic of Serbia - FISCAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2019 TO 2021	Public Financial Management Reform Programme for the period after 2020
Directorate of Public Procurement	Public Procurement Development Programme 2019-2023	

Ministry of Mining and Energy	Strategy for Development of Energy Sector of the Republic of Serbia, till 2025 with predictions until 2030, 2017-2030	Draft Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (INECPs)
	Implementation Programme of the Strategy for Development of Energy Sector 2017-2030	Draft National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
Ministry of Health	Strategy for Public Health in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2026	
	Strategy for Prevention of Drug Abuse 2014-2021	
	Strategy for Prevention and Control of HIV infection and AIDS in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2025	
	National Programme for Control of Bacteria Resistance to Antibiotics 2019-2021	
	Programme for Improvement of Mental Health Protection 2019-2026	
	National Programme for Prevention of Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol-Induced Disorders of the Republic of Serbia	
	National Programme for Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health	
	Birth Support Strategy (2018)	
	National Programme to Support Breastfeeding and Development Family Care of the New-borns (2018)	
	National Programme for Prevention of Obesity of Children and Adults (2018)	
Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government	Strategy of Professional Development of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia (2011)	
	Strategy for Professional Development of Local Self-Government Employees (2015)	
Ministry of Labour, Employment, Social Policy and Veterans	Employment and Social Reform Programme - ESRP	Draft Employment and Social Reform Programme - ESRP 2021- 25
	Strategy for the Occupational Safety in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2022	Draft Strategy for the Prevention of and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q3 2020).
	Strategy for Roma Inclusion	Draft Strategy for the Prevention of Violence Against Children 2020-30, and the accompanying Action Plan 2020-21 (and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q1 2020)).
		Draft National Employment Strategy 2021-26

		Draft Gender Equality Strategy 2016-20 will expire in 2020. Strategy for the Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking, Especially Women and Children 2017-20 (Official Gazette of RS, 77/17) will cease to be applicable.
Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	Strategy for Development of Adult Education in the Republic of Serbia (2015)	Smart Specialisation Strategy (draft)2020-2027
	Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025	Draft Education Strategy (2Q 2020)
Ministry of Culture and Information	Strategy for Development of New Generation Networks till 2023	
	Strategy for the Public Information System Development 2020-2025	
	Culture Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2017 to 2027	
Ministry of Environmental Protection	National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Protection Strategy (after the expiry of the National Environmental Protection Programme 2010-2019) • Waste Management Strategy with National Waste Management Plan -2019-2024- at final stage of preparation (after expiration of Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019) • A national strategy for environmental protection for the period after 2020 - preparations are expected to start by the end of the year • Waste management strategy with National Waste Management Plan -2019-2024 - in the final phase, is expected to be adopted in the coming period • Low-carbon development strategy with action plan for 2030 (Climate change strategy with action plan) - in the process of public debate • Biodiversity strategy - in the final phase, is expected to be adopted in the coming period • Air protection strategy - development of Strategy through IPA 2014 project - in progress • Sludge management strategy - at the final stage, expected to be adopted in the coming period • Circular Economy Programme - planned production by the end of 2020

	National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of introduction of cleaner production - in the final phase, it is expected to be adopted in the coming period
	Aarhus Convention-National Strategy for Application of Availability of Information, Public Participation and Legal Protection in Environmental Matters	
Ministry of Youth and Sport	National Youth Strategy (2015-2025)	
Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure	Strategy for Sustainable Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia, till 2030	Draft Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2035
	Strategy for Development of the Waterborne Traffic of the Republic of Serbia 2015-2025	Draft Transport Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020-2030
	National Strategy for Social Housing 2012-2022	
	National Strategy for Public Railway Infrastructure 2017-2021	Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investment in the Renovation of the National Building Stock
Intellectual Property Office	Strategy for Development of Intellectual Property 2018-2022	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Strategy to Support and Strengthen Home Country and Diaspora of the Serbs in the Region	
Ministry of Agriculture	Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2024 National Strategy for Improvement of Facilities Storing Food of Animal Origin Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia	
Ministry of Economy	Strategy for Tourism Development of the Republic of Serbia 2016-2025 Strategy for Development of Free Investment Zones in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2022	Industrial Development Strategy
Republic Directorate for Water Management	Strategy for Water Management in the Republic of Serbia (2016-2034)	
Ministry of Justice	Strategy for Development of Free Legal Assistance System in the Republic Serbia	
Office of the War Crime Prosecutor	National Strategy to Process War Crimes	
Commission for information of public importance and personal data protection	Personal Data Protection Strategy	

Key findings

- Serbia has 32 long-term strategic documents with or without Action Plans that are in force in post-2020 period.
- There are 23 strategies without a timeframe.
- 34 Strategies, Action Plans and Programmes that are relevant for post-2020 period are under preparation. Some of them are already drafted, some are in the public debate phase and some are adopted by the Government or under way to be adopted in the Parliament.
- 2020 will be “strategic planning year” for Serbia, having in mind that many strategic documents will expire after 2020.
- Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia (Article 51) harmonises the process of planning, drafting and adoption of public policy regulations and documents at all levels, which will result in better and more efficient implementation.
- By adopting this regulation, mechanisms have been put in place to systematically prevent the adoption of ineffective regulations and documents that do not meet the prescribed standards and criteria but also to set goals in line with national, EU and UN priorities.
- Further strengthening of capacities of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies as well as capacities of the Statistical Office is required for coordination of overall strategic planning, policy making and budgeting process in Serbia.
- EU integration process firmly contributes to development and regulation of strategic planning and policy making process in Serbia. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established, as well as consultation process which involves non-governmental actors both in preparatory and reporting phases. Transparency of the process is improved with the Government bodies and ministries being obliged to conduct public debate, publish draft strategies and laws before public debate and publish report on public debate results.
- Within the National Convention on the EU, a unique civil society organisations (CSO) platform with more than 700 CSOs, there are obligatory procedures developed by the Government to provide written answer to every proposal or recommendation by the CSO. This is precisely what CSOs in Serbia requested in direct dialog with the Government. This good practice can be implemented in all Western Balkans economies from the beginning of the Accession Negotiation Process.
- Better coordination mechanism for M&E must be set up in the future; those should include the Parliament, CSOs, donor community and the EU Delegation representatives.

2.2. REVIEW OF POST-2020 INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS BEYOND GOVERNMENT SPHERE

The SEE 2020 Strategy which is expiring in 2020 is based on a set of interlinked development policy pillars:

1. Integrated Growth: promotion of regional trade and investment linkages and policies that are non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable;
2. Smart Growth: committing to innovate and compete on value-added rather than labour costs;
3. Sustainable Growth: raising the level of competitiveness in the private sector, development of infrastructure and encouraging greener and more energy-efficient growth;
4. Inclusive Growth: placing greater emphasis on developing skills, creating employment, inclusive participation in the labour market and health and wellbeing;
5. Governance for Growth: enhancing the capacity of public administration to strengthen the rule of law and reduce corruption, the creation of a business-friendly environment and delivery of public services necessary for economic development.⁶

The Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area (MAP REA) stems from the SEE2020 and the obligations arising from the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). The development of a Regional Economic Area, as envisioned by this draft Multi-annual Action Plan, has four components and objectives within each of the components:

1. Trade (facilitation of free trade in goods, harmonisation of CEFTA Markets with the EU, creating NTMs and TDMs-free region and facilitation of free trade in services)
2. Investment (regional investment agenda, formalisation of agenda through appropriate instrument(s), implementation and monitoring of investment reforms, promotion of Western Balkan as a common investment destination, diversification of financial systems to boost investment and Smart Growth)
3. Mobility (mobility of researchers, mobility of professionals and mobility of students and the highly skilled) and
4. Digital integration (digital environment networks and services, connectivity and access, trust and security in digital services, digital economy and society and digital economy and society, data economy, standards and interoperability, innovation)

MAP REA is planned to contribute and motivate the WB economies to boost intra-regional trade, enhance competitiveness and promote investment, facilitate the movement of professionals and skilled people, and connect digitally businesses and citizens and so far it has achieve its envisaged plans.

The Economic and Financial dialogue between the EU, the WB and Turkey helps the economies in fulfilling EU economic accession criteria and addressing the existing gaps by setting out targeted policy guidance to support the process. The efforts to address long-term structural reforms with the aim of enhancing economic policy coordination of the Western Balkans were presented in ERPs 2019-2021.

⁶ <https://www.rcc.int/download/docs/ARI-report-2019-web.pdf/d85afffc9a9da89912e582b4b4934935.pdf>

The Joint Conclusions on the Western Balkans and Turkey with policy guidance based on the economies' ERP (2019 – 2021)⁷ were adopted on 17 May 2019 in Brussels.

These read “[...] Participants hereby invite Serbia to:

1. Maintain the identified medium-term budgetary objective close to balance. Contain overall spending on wages and pensions as a percentage of GDP. Implement the public sector wage system reform under the 2020 budget covering also security sector employees.
2. Increase government capital spending supporting long-term growth as a share of GDP in 2019 and over the medium term. To this aim, develop a single mechanism for prioritising and monitoring all investment regardless of the source of financing. Strengthen the fiscal responsibility framework by improving the system of fiscal rules, increasing its credibility and making it more binding and capable of anchoring fiscal policy.
3. Continue promoting the use of the local currency *inter alia* by fostering the development of interbank markets and secondary markets for government securities, and by considering additional ways to enhance long-term bank funding in dinar and hedging instruments. Implement the measures included in the recently adopted programme for resolving non-performing loans (NPLs) and the related action plan, including those aimed at further addressing NPLs in state-owned banks and government agencies. Finalise the privatisation and restructuring process of the remaining state-owned banks.
4. Use findings of the smart specialisation exercise to finalise a new industrial strategy. Adopt specific legislation on the alternative investment vehicles. Ensure that businesses and all social partners are consulted in time on all drafts of new legislation concerning their operations.
5. Gradually adjust electricity tariffs to reflect actual costs, including the costs of necessary maintenance and investments to upgrade the energy network and of meeting environmental standards and climate goals. Finalise unbundling of state-owned energy enterprises, in particular fully implement the long-delayed unbundling of Srbijagas and EMS and complete the functional unbundling of EPS in a compliant manner, as well as provide third-party access to gas infrastructure.
6. Significantly increase funding and the implementation of active labour market measures adjusted to the needs of the unemployed, in particular women, youth, including highly skilled persons. Adopt measures to incentivise the formalisation of labour in non-agricultural sectors. Reduce the high non-wage labour cost of jobs at the lower sections of the wage distribution.”

Among the many bilateral development partners which provided relevant support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the German Organisation for International Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. In the course of 2017 GIZ financially supported the development of the report by the Republic Public Policy Secretariat titled Serbia and the 2030 Agenda, which is a result of mapping the SDGs relative to the national strategic framework and thematic areas of negotiating chapters in the process of Serbia's accession to the EU. As part of its project activities supporting the public finance management, GIZ substantially contributed to the development of the first Voluntary National Review. Through the support GIZ provided to the Futurist Institute in Belgrade data was collected by line ministries, government offices, agencies and independent oversight bodies, civil society organisations, businesses, international organisations and the initial analysis was conducted in order to prepare the VNR.

⁷ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/05/17/western-balkans-and-turkey-joint-conclusions-of-the-economic-and-financial-dialogue-of-17-may-2019/>

Inputs from international development partners were also used for the purposes of VNR of Serbia to be presented at the 2019 HLPF in the same manner as analysed by the UN MAPS Mission and presented in its report [National Development and 2030 Agenda: Policy Support for Advancing SDG Progress in Serbia – Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Growth, Leaving no-one Behind](#).

Serbia Sustainable Development Issues: A Baseline Review is a baseline review of Serbia's human development and environmental challenges as well as the assets and limitations it faces in advancing towards attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). It provides background information for the design of a society-wide dialogue to help shape Serbia's nationalisation of the SDGs in line with its commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda. The document, made by Centre for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES), focuses on those SDG dimensions that are considered key for Serbia's human development and it does not address existing policy goals or options, nor their implementation.⁸

Key findings

- Continuation of support and monitoring of reform process is needed in post-2020 period
- Communication and cooperation with CSOs, science community, think-thank community is a precondition for better planning, but also for better understanding of key obstacles in the implementation of all strategies and reforms within EU integration process
- Work on identification of common priorities for WB region as a whole, exchange best practices and solutions and conduct common projects and initiatives

2.3. LINKAGES OF MAPPED STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRIORITIES

The EU has played an active role throughout the process and is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs within the EU and in development cooperation with partner economies. The Agenda reflects many of the EU's priorities for sustainable development, as set out in recent Communications and Council Conclusions.

The EU will implement the 2030 Agenda internally and globally, in cooperation with its partners. On 22 November 2016, the EU presented its response to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and adopted a sustainable development package - [Sustainable Development: EU sets out its priorities \(press release\)](#):

- An overarching [Communication on next steps for a sustainable European future](#) accompanied by a [Staff Working Document](#) that describes in broad terms the contribution of the various EU policies and legislation to the SDGs.
- A [proposal for a revision of the European Consensus on Development](#) that will serve as the basis for further discussions with the Council and the European Parliament. A proposal for a new European Consensus on development: [Fact sheet](#)

⁸ <https://ceves.org.rs/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Serbia-Sustainable-Development-Issues-FINAL-updated.pdf>

- [A post-Cotonou framework on the future relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States](#). Towards a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries after 2020: [Fact sheet](#)

The European answer to the 2030 Agenda includes two work streams:

The first track with the Communication is to join up the SDGs to the European policy framework and current Commission priorities, assessing where we stand and identifying the most relevant sustainability concerns. With this, the Commission commits to mainstreaming the SDGs into EU policies and initiatives. It will provide regular reporting of the EU's progress as of 2017 (including in the context of the UN High Level Political Forum), and promote sustainable development globally in cooperation with external partners. The Commission will take implementation forward with the Council and the European Parliament. In order to pursue the 2030 Agenda in partnership with all stakeholders, it will launch a multi-stakeholder Platform with a role in the follow-up and exchange of best practices on SDG implementation.

A second track will launch reflection work on developing further the longer term vision and the focus of sectoral policies after 2020, and reorient the EU budget's contributions towards the achievement of the EU's long-term objectives through the new Multiannual Financial Framework beyond 2020. By adopting such a comprehensive approach, the EU seeks to mainstream the SDGs into the Commission's everyday work and to engage all stakeholders, Member States and the European Parliament in its implementation to work towards full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the most recent five years of available data, the EU made progress towards almost all of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG). Progress in some goals has been faster than in others, and within goals, movement away from the sustainable development objectives also occurred in specific areas.

EU progress over the past five-year period appears to have been strongest towards SDG 3 'good health and well-being', followed by SDG 1 'no poverty' and SDG 8 'decent work and economic growth'.

The EU also made progress towards SDG 4 'quality education', SDG 11 'sustainable cities and communities', SDG 17 'partnership for the goals', SDG 2 'zero hunger', SDG 5 'gender equality', SDG 7 'affordable and clean energy', SDG 10 'reduced inequalities' and, to a minor extent, SDG 12 'responsible consumption and production' and SDG 15 'life on land'. SDG 13 'climate action' and SDG 9 'industry, innovation and infrastructure' are characterised by an equal number of positive and negative developments of the indicators.

It should be noted that progress towards a given goal does not necessarily mean that the status of that goal is satisfactory for the EU. For example, in the case of SDG 15, which focuses on terrestrial ecosystems, some of the indicators show good progress, but this should not lead to the conclusion that ecosystems or biodiversity in the EU are in good health. In the case of SDG 2, emphasis was put on environmental indicators, as there are no major concerns on food security.

In the case of three goals – SDG 6 'clean water and sanitation', SDG 14 'life below water' and SDG 16 'peace, justice and strong institutions' – trends cannot be calculated due to insufficient comparable data over the past five years; or a trend calculation is not applicable.

Eurostat is called to regularly monitor progress towards the SDGs in an EU context. For this purpose it coordinated the development of the [EU SDG indicator set](#) and keeps it up to date. It also produces regular monitoring reports on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context.

To find out more about the SDGs in an EU context and the results of Eurostat's monitoring, please see the pages '[Key findings](#)' and '[Indicators](#)' in this section.

The Communication foresees regular monitoring of progress towards the SDGs in an EU context. The Eurostat publication '[Sustainable Development in the European Union – Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context -2019 edition](#)' is the most recent of these regular monitoring exercises. It looks at the aspects of the SDGs that are relevant from an EU perspective and therefore does not aim at exhaustively assessing EU progress towards the 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda. It provides a first statistical assessment of trends in relation to the SDGs in the EU during the past five years ('short-term') and, whenever data availability allows, during the past 15 years ('long-term').

The indicator trends are described on the basis of specific quantitative rules. For indicators for which quantitative EU targets exist, the progress is analysed in relation to those targets. This applies to 16 out of the 99 indicators, mainly in the areas of climate, energy consumption, education, poverty and employment. All other indicators are analysed according to the direction and speed of change. The indicator trends are presented visually in the form of arrows. The methodology applied is explained in detail in the monitoring report.

The monitoring report builds on the [EU SDG indicator set](#). 100 indicators (36 of which are multipurpose, i.e. are used to monitor more than one SDG) have strong links with the above-mentioned Communication and the EU policy initiatives mentioned in the accompanying Commission Staff Working Document '[Key European action supporting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development](#)'.

The EU SDG indicator set is open to annual reviews to incorporate indicators from new data sources as well as to take into account new targets in line with the longer-term vision of the EU after 2020 and the priorities of the new Von der Leyen Commission. In preparation of the EU SDG monitoring report 2020, the indicator set was reviewed between October 2019 and January 2020.

Under the second headline goal – an economy that works for the people – the EC wants 'Europe to strive for more when it comes to social fairness and prosperity⁹'. There is an explicit mentioning of the willingness to 'refocus the European Semester into an instrument that integrates the UN SDGs¹⁰'. This is very important in the context of the Western Balkans because of the EU's approach to further strengthen the economic governance in the candidate economies and potential candidates. Therefore, the EC provides assessment of 2019-2021 ERP for each economy including Serbia.¹¹

European Union Global Strategy¹² underlined that any European state which respects and promotes the values enshrined in the Treaties may apply to become a Member of the Union. A credible enlargement policy grounded on strict and fair conditionality is an irreplaceable tool to enhance resilience within the

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/srbia_2019-2021_erp.pdf

¹² https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/eugs_review_web_0.pdf

economies concerned, ensuring that modernisation and democratisation proceed in line with the accession criteria. The EU enjoys a unique influence in all these economies. The strategic challenge for the EU is therefore that of promoting political reform, rule of law, economic convergence and good neighbourly relations in the Western Balkans and Turkey, while coherently pursuing cooperation across different sectors.

EU policy towards the candidate countries will continue to be based on a clear, strict and fair accession process. It will focus on fundamental requirements for membership first and feature greater scrutiny of reforms, clearer reform requirements, and feedback from the European Commission and Member States, as well as local civil societies. At the same time, EU support for and cooperation with these economies must deliver concrete benefits and must be communicated well. This means cooperating on counter-terrorism, security sector reform, migration, infrastructure, energy and climate, deepening people-to-people contacts, and tailoring some of the EU's assistance with the aim of visibly improving citizens' wellbeing.

The EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy sets out the strategic direction for the full range of external action and integrates the need for the EU to implement the 2030 Agenda, including addressing the security-development nexus. It calls for promoting integrated solutions to the challenges of conflict, fragility and crisis, recognising that sustainable development and peace and security are mutually dependent. It brings together the EU's diplomatic action, including mediation, action and support to third parties, with development engagement and other tools.

The EU Development cooperation policy through the **Agenda for Change, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU Enlargement Policy** are contributing towards achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions. The EU supports judicial reforms in the enlargement and key neighbourhood economies in order to contribute to effective and independent justice and security sector systems. Through its financial assistance and political dialogues the EU is promoting a broader concept of security, encompassing inclusive and accountable institutions at all levels to strengthen resilience of states and societies. The EU invests in reinforcing key democratic actors – parliaments, civil society, independent media, human right defenders, non-governmental organisations, election administrations and domestic observers, local authorities, anticorruption services and will continue efforts to promote dialogue between different stakeholders.

European Commission strategy **A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU enlargement with the Western Balkans** (2017)¹³ confirmed the European future of the region as a geostrategic investment in a stable, strong and united Europe based on common values. The Strategy clearly spells out that the EU door is open to further accession when – and only when – the individual economies have met the criteria.

The Strategy sets out an Action Plan with six concrete flagship initiatives targeting specific areas of common interest: rule of law, security and migration, socio-economic development, transport and energy connectivity, digital agenda, reconciliation and good neighbourly relations. The Strategy explains the steps that need to be taken by Montenegro and Serbia to complete the accession process in a 2025 perspective; while others could catch up, Montenegro and Serbia are the only two economies with which accession

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf

talks are already under way. This perspective will ultimately depend on strong political will, the delivery of real and sustained reforms, and definitive solutions to disputes with neighbours.

The new EC President Ursula Von der Leyen reaffirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans: “I see an important role in the continued reform process across the region. We share the same continent, the same history, the same culture and the same challenges. We will build the same future together.”

Revised Enlargement Methodology published by EC in February 2020 sets out the Commission’s proposals to strengthen the EU accession process. It aims to make the enlargement process more credible, predictable, dynamic and subject to stronger political steering. This will reinvigorate the accession process and make it more effective, enhancing credibility and trust on both sides.

The revised enlargement methodology builds on main principles:

- *Credibility*
- *Stronger political steer*
- *A more dynamic process*
- *Clustering chapters* will allow for more thorough political discussions on thematic areas and to identify opportunities for *early alignment and integration* into EU policies.
- *Predictability for both sides*
- *Defining more clearly the conditions for candidate countries.*
- *Clear incentives: supporting solid and accelerated economic development and tangible benefits for citizens*
- *More decisive measures sanctioning any serious or prolonged stagnation or even backsliding:* from slowing down negotiations, to adjusting funding and withdrawing benefits of closer integration.

The new methodology will be formalised into the negotiating frameworks for North Macedonia and Albania. Many of the proposals could also be attractive for Serbia and Montenegro, as they can contribute to making the process more dynamic, predictable and credible for them as well. Serbia and Montenegro will be able to opt in if they wish. The negotiating frameworks already in place for Montenegro and Serbia would however not need to be changed.

The European Council granted Serbia the status of candidate country in 2012. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Serbia and the EU entered into force in September 2013. Meetings of the joint bodies under the agreement took place at regular intervals. Serbia continued to implement the SAA, although a number of compliance issues remain.

Since the opening of Serbia’s accession negotiations in January 2014, 18 out of 35 chapters have been opened, two of which were provisionally closed.

European Commission Country Report on Serbia for 2018¹⁴ was presented in June 2019. As regards the **political criteria**, there is an urgent need to create more space for genuine cross-party debate, in order to forge a broad pro-European consensus which is vital for the economy’s progress on its EU path.

Serbia is moderately prepared in the area of public administration reform. A coordinated monitoring and reporting system of the public administration reform strategy and public financial management reform programme is yet to be established.

Serbia’s judicial system has some level of preparation. Currently, the scope for political influence remains of concern. Serbia has some level of preparation in the fight against corruption. Limited progress has been made. There is no measurable impact of corruption-prevention reforms.

Overall, corruption is prevalent in many areas and remains an issue of concern. Serbia has some level of preparation in the fight against organised crime. The legislative and institutional framework for upholding fundamental rights is broadly in place. Consistent and efficient implementation of legislation and policies needs to be ensured.

As regards the **economic criteria**, Serbia has made some progress and is moderately prepared in developing a functioning market economy. External imbalances are on the rise, although their financing remained healthy. Price pressures remained subdued and inflation contained. Major fiscal adjustments over previous years have significantly improved debt sustainability. Financial sector stability was preserved and labour market performance has improved with the exception of the youth activity rate, which declined. Major structural reforms of public administration, the tax authority, and state-owned enterprises advanced slowly, prolonging long-standing inefficiencies. The authorities are addressing weaknesses in the budgetary framework and its governance at a slow pace. The state retains a strong footprint in the economy and the private sector is underdeveloped and hampered by weaknesses in the rule of law and in the enforcement of fair competition.

Serbia has made some progress and is moderately prepared to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. The structure of the economy improved further and economic integration with the EU remained high. However, despite some progress, the quality, equity and relevance of education and training do not fully meet labour market needs. Investment increased but remains insufficient, after years of underinvestment, to address infrastructure gaps.

Serbia overall remained committed to bilateral relations with other enlargement economies and neighbouring EU Member States and an active participant in regional cooperation. In the context of being granted the seat of the Transport Community Treaty Secretariat, Serbia should now provide further support to ensure the conditions are in place for it to take up operations swiftly.

As regards its ability to assume the obligations of membership, Serbia has continued to work towards aligning its legislation with the EU acquis across the board. Serbia has a good level of preparation in some areas such as company law, intellectual property, transport policy, science and research, education and culture, and customs. Serbia improved the linking of its investment planning to budget execution but has yet to develop a single mechanism for prioritising all investments regardless of the source of funding in accordance with the government’s public finance management reform programme. In areas such as public procurement, statistics, external relations, social policy and employment, monetary policy and financial services, Serbia is moderately prepared. Serbia continued to make good progress in agriculture and in aligning with the EU transport acquis while limited progress was noted in the area of energy. The policy areas of environment and climate change have yet to receive adequate attention.

¹⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-serbia-report.pdf>

Serbia needs to address, as a matter of priority, issues of non-compliance with the SAA, regarding in particular state aid control, fiscal discrimination on imported spirits, and restriction to competition in the card-based payment system. Serbia needs to progressively align its foreign and security policy with the European Union's common foreign and security policy in the period up to accession.

Serbia continued to manage the effects of the mixed migratory flows towards the EU. It made some progress in implementing the integrated border management strategy. The European Border and Coast Guard Status Agreement with the EU was initialled. The strategy and action plan to counter irregular migration have been adopted. Serbia needs to respect the obligation of readmission of third country nationals under the EU Serbia Readmission Agreement.

The main obstacles to Serbia's progress towards EU membership are in the area of political criteria (democracy, freedom of expression, freedom of media...) and the rule of law, while some economic progress is being made. The weakness of institutions, lack of political will and the rule of law are among main obstacles to the implementation of the main strategic goals and the implementation of laws, which are largely in line with EU legislation and with EU strategic framework. 2020 will be a year of strategic planning for both the EU and Serbia. Most of the strategies expire in 2020 and the new strategic planning cycle should embrace the SDGs and be transmitted through European strategies to the national level, both in the Member States and in the candidate countries.

Serbia has aligned its strategies with those of the European Union and has taken into account the main strategic goals of the EU. Considering that Serbia enters the election process this year, it is possible that the strategic planning process will slow down considerably. A new Government will be fully operational in June and it will be difficult to come up with all post-2020 strategies and action plans by the end of this year.

EU Commission priority	Policy Areas	Strategic Framework of the Republic of Serbia
	<u>Sustainable industry</u> Ways to ensure more sustainable, more environmentally-respectful production cycles	
	<u>Building and renovating</u> The need for a cleaner construction sector	Strategy for Sustainable Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia until 2030
	<u>Sustainable mobility</u> Promoting more sustainable means of transport	Strategy for Development of the Waterborne Traffic of the Republic of Serbia 2015-2025 National Strategy for Public Railway Infrastructure 2017-2021
		National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
		Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2024
	<u>A European Green Deal</u> Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent <u>Biodiversity</u> Measures to protect our fragile ecosystem	National Strategy for Improvement of Facilities Storing Food of Animal Origin Aarhus Convention-National Strategy for Application of Availability of Information, Public Participation and Legal Protection in Environmental Matters National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP)
	<u>From Farm to Fork</u> Ways to ensure more sustainable food systems	
	<u>Eliminating pollution</u> Measures to cut pollution rapidly and efficiently	
An economy that works for people Working for social fairness and prosperity	<u>A deeper and fairer economic and monetary union</u> Combining stability with fairness and democratic accountability	Fiscal Strategy of the Republic of Serbia - FISCAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PERIOD FROM 2019 TO 2021 Public Procurement Development Programme 2019-2023
	<u>Internal Market</u> A deeper and fairer internal market	Strategy for Development of Adult Education in the Republic of Serbia (2015) Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme (ESRP)

	<u>Jobs, growth and investment</u> Boosting investment and creating jobs	National Youth Strategy (2015-2025) Strategy for Tourism Development of the Republic of Serbia 2016-2025		I.National Security Strategy 2. Defence Strategy
	<u>Boosting jobs</u> Helping European businesses and consumers move towards a more sustainable use of resources.	Strategy for Development of Free Investment Zones in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2022	<u>Promoting our European way of life</u> Building a Union of equality in which we all have the same access to opportunities.	3.National Strategy for Prevention and Fight against Terrorism 2017-2021 4. Strategy for Fight against Cyber-Crime 2019-2023 5. Strategy for Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons 2019-2024
	<u>European Semester</u> Assessing compliance with the EU's economic rules, coordinating economic policies across EU countries in an annual cycle.	Economic Reform Programme 2019-2021		
<u>A Europe Fit for the Digital Age</u> Empowering people with a new generation of technologies	<u>1. Data protection</u> Reforming data protection to give people control over their data and help businesses comply. Ensuring that non-EU economies protect data of EU citizens.	Personal Data Protection Strategy Strategy for Development of New Generation Networks till 2023 of the Republic of Serbia. Strategy for the development of artificial intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2020 to 2025	<u>Judicial cooperation</u> Tackling crimes such as human trafficking, smuggling and corruption; creating a European area of justice by linking the different national legal systems.	National Strategy to Fight Organised Crime (2009) Strategy for Fight against Cyber Crime (2019-2023) Community Policing Strategy (2013)
	<u>2. Better access to online goods for consumers and businesses</u> Helping to make the EU's digital world a seamless and level marketplace to buy and sell.	DRAFT - SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FROM 2020 TO 2027 - Made in smart and creative Serbia		Strategy for Development of Free Legal Assistance System in the Republic Serbia National Strategy to Process War Crimes
	<u>3. The right environment for digital networks and services</u> Designing rules that match the pace of technology, such as the rollout of next-generation 5G mobile connections or the Action Plan on Financial Technology.		<u>Fundamental rights</u> Fighting discrimination and promoting gender equality, particularly by safeguarding the rule of law and fundamental rights.	Roma Inclusion Strategy Migration Management Strategy Strategy to Re-integrate Returnees Based on the Readmission Agreement
	<u>4. Economy and Society</u> Ensuring that citizens and businesses can take full advantage of the opportunities digitalisation can offer.		<u>Migration</u> Towards a European agenda on migration	
			<u>A stronger Europe in the world</u> Europe to strive for more by strengthening our unique brand of responsible global leadership	National Security Strategy Defence Strategy Strategy to Support and Strengthen Home Country and Diaspora of the Serbs in the Region National Strategy for Protection and Rescuing in Emergency National Disaster Risk Management Programme; Disaster Risk Programme for the Republic of Serbia

	<p>Trade policy The EU helps businesses make the most of global opportunities to ensure prosperity, fair competitiveness and investment.</p> <p>Security and defence Aiming to strengthen the EU's ability to prevent and manage crises through the development of civilian and military capabilities.</p> <p>EU enlargement Investing in peace, security and stability in Europe. A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation Open trade – without sacrificing Europe's standards</p> <p>Humanitarian aid, civil protection Providing needs-based humanitarian aid with particular attention to the most vulnerable victims.</p>	
	<p>Future of Europe The Commission's contribution to shaping the Conference on the Future of Europe - an open, inclusive and transparent public debate</p> <p>Better regulation Better regulation is about designing EU policies and laws in the most efficient and effective way possible.</p>	

I. EU action plan for the Circular Economy

In 2015, the European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Action Plan, which includes measures that will help stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy, boost global competitiveness, foster sustainable economic growth and generate new jobs.

The [EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy](#) establishes a concrete and ambitious programme of action, with measures covering the whole cycle: from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials and a revised legislative proposal on waste. The [annex to the action plan](#) sets out the timeline when the actions will be completed. The proposed actions will contribute to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles through greater recycling and re-use, and bring benefits for both the environment and the economy.

The [revised legislative framework](#) on waste entered into force in July 2018. It sets clear targets for reduction of waste and establishes an ambitious and credible long-term path for waste management and recycling. Key elements of the revised waste proposal include:

- A common EU target for recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035;
- A common EU target for recycling 70% of packaging waste by 2030;
- There are also recycling targets for specific packaging materials:
 - Paper and cardboard: 85 %
 - Ferrous metals: 80 %
 - Aluminium: 60 %
 - Glass: 75 %
 - Plastic: 55 %
 - Wood: 30 %
- A binding landfill target to reduce landfill to maximum of 10% of municipal waste by 2035;
- Separate collection obligations are strengthened and extended to hazardous household waste (by end 2022), bio-waste (by end 2023), textiles (by end 2025);
- Minimum requirements are established for extended producer responsibility schemes to improve their governance and cost efficiency;
- Prevention objectives are significantly reinforced, in particular, requiring Member States to take specific measures to tackle food waste and marine litter as a contribution to achieve EU commitments to the UN SDGs.

The Political Guidelines for the next European Commission underlined that it will propose a New Circular Economy Action Plan focusing on sustainable resource use, especially in resource-intensive and high-impact sectors such as textiles and construction.¹⁵

Interlinkages between European Commission priorities and national priorities of the Republic of Serbia

Strategic framework of the Republic of Serbia in this field will be completed and harmonised with EU strategic framework and legislation through adoption of:

- National Environmental Protection Strategy (after the expiry of the National Environmental Protection Programme 2010-2019)
- Waste Management Strategy with National Waste Management Plan 2019-2024 at final stage of preparation (after expiry of Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019)
- National strategy for environmental protection for the period after 2020 - preparations are expected to start by the end of the year.
- Low-carbon development strategy with action plan for 2030 (Climate change strategy with action plan) - in the process of public debate
- Air protection strategy - development of Strategy through IPA 2014 project - in progress
- Sludge management strategy - at the final stage, expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Circular Economy Programme - expected to be adopted by the end of 2020

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en.pdf

2. The Environmental Implementation Review (EIR), announced in 2016 ([COM\(2016\) 316 final](#)), is a tool to help deliver the benefits of EU environmental law and policies for businesses and citizens through better implementation. It aims to address the causes of implementation gaps and find solutions before problems become urgent and reach the stage of infringements.

On 4 April 2019, the European Commission adopted the second EIR package. The first package was adopted on 3 February 2017. The 2019 package consists of 28 Country Reports which map progress since 2017 and contain priority actions for each Member State; a Communication identifying common challenges across economies.

The EIR initiative is in line with the [Commission's Better Regulation](#) policy, which includes improving implementation of existing legislation and policies and it is linked to the process of [Greening the European Semester](#). The EIR fits in with a series of activities for improving the [implementation of environmental legislation](#).

3. Green Public Procurement

Europe's public authorities are major consumers. By using their purchasing power to choose environmentally friendly goods, services and works, they can make an important contribution to sustainable consumption and production - what we call Green Public Procurement (GPP) or green purchasing.

Although GPP is a voluntary instrument, it has a key role to play in the EU's efforts to become a more resource-efficient economy. It can help stimulate a critical mass of demand for more sustainable goods and services which otherwise would be difficult to get onto the market. GPP is therefore a strong stimulus for eco-innovation.

To be effective, GPP requires the inclusion of clear and verifiable environmental criteria for products and services in the public procurement process. The European Commission and a number of European countries have developed guidance in this area, in the form of national GPP criteria. The challenge of furthering take-up by more public sector bodies so that GPP becomes common practice still remains. As does the challenge of ensuring that green purchasing requirements are somewhat compatible between Member States - thus helping create a level playing field that will accelerate and help drive the single market for environmentally sound goods and services.

'Greening the European Semester' is about how to ensure that macroeconomic policies are sustainable, not only economically and socially, but also environmentally. Environmental policies can contribute to sustainable economic recovery and jobs growth in many ways. Resource efficiency and circular economy are clearly such a contribution, but there are many more themes, such as environmental fiscal reform, including tax shifts from labour to environmental pollution.

Interlinkages between European Commission priorities and national priorities of the Republic of Serbia

ERP Structural reform 10 Establishment of a sustainable system for environmental protection financing by improving the functioning of the Green Fund is in direct connection with the EU Greening the European Semester. Environmental protection is one of the most expensive' and

most complex chapters in the process of Serbia's EU accession negotiations. Serbia is obliged to significantly increase investment in this area, with estimated investment needs of about EUR 8.5 billion over the next ten years. The allocations need to increase from the current 0.3 to 0.4% of GDP to at least 1.2-1.4% of GDP in order to meet the prescribed standards in this area, primarily through investment in infrastructure, and reach the goals of the National Environmental Protection Programme. Most environmental protection investment will be based on budget funds, where the existing funding system cannot ensure the necessary level of investment. In order to ensure a steady inflow of funds into the Green Fund and greater use of IPA funds, an efficient financial, legal and institutional framework, which will ensure predictability, stability and continuity of investment in environmental protection, needs to be established. In October 2018 an inter-ministerial Working Group for Establishing a Sustainable Financing System Aimed at Implementing Projects in the Area of Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency was established. Employment is expected to increase due to the development of circular and green economy and faster economic growth, depending on the amount of public investment. The final outcome is the improvement of the quality of the environment and of the life of all citizens, both women and men.

The overall goal of the **Public Procurement Development Programme 2019-2023 of the Republic of Serbia**¹⁶ is further development of modern and efficient public procurement system. The plan is also to support closing of the Negotiation Chapter 5 by fulfilling the closing criteria.

Achievement of the overall goal is envisaged through 4 determined individual objectives:

1. Improve efficiency of the procedure
2. Supported competition in the public procurement market
3. Lower the risk of irregular procedure
4. **Provide support to the promotion of ecological and social aspect in public procurement and innovations** (directly corresponds to Greening European Semester)

4. Communication Safer and Healthier Work for All

In January 2017, the Commission adopted its ["Communication on Safer and Healthier Work for All - Modernisation of the EU Occupational Safety and Health Legislation and Policy"](#). The document identifies the following three key actions in the field of safety and health at work:

- Stepping up the fight against **occupational cancer** through legislative proposals accompanied by increased guidance and awareness-raising;
- Helping businesses, in particular **micro-enterprises and SMEs**, to comply with occupational safety and health rules;
- Cooperating with Member States and social partners to **remove or update outdated rules** and to refocus efforts on **ensuring better and broader protection, compliance and enforcement** on the ground.

Interlinkages between European Commission priorities and national priorities of the Republic of Serbia

Serbia supports this strategic EU goal through the **Strategy for Occupational Safety in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2022**. Working environment in the Republic of Serbia is constantly changing due to

¹⁶ <http://www.ujn.gov.rs/vesti/program-razvoja-javnih-nabavki-u-republici-srbiji-za-period-2019-2023-godine/>

number of factors, primarily demographic and technological, which creates new challenges in occupational risk, requires constant adaptation, but is also an opportunity to improve overall working conditions. Proactive measures in occupational safety are always considered a smart investment, since employers' biggest loss is in a case of employee's death or serious injury. Provision of decent working conditions also increases productivity. The Occupational Safety Strategy, valid until 2022, gives a general framework of the prevention policy, with the aim to:

1. Prevent and reduce the number of injury cases and professional diseases
2. Improve health and well-being of employees and preserve their working abilities
3. Support innovation, quality and efficiency

Efficient and effective professional risk prevention system also influences safety conditions, occupational health and employee productivity.

The overall goal of the Strategy is to improve work safety and preserve general health of working population, with the aim of preventing work injuries and occupational diseases, or their reducing. The Strategy aims to reduce the number of total work-caused injuries in the Republic of Serbia by 5% as compared to the previous 5-year period of strategy implementation.

All relevant entities in the safety and public health system need to take part in implementation activities and full integration of safety regulations.

Specific strategic goals are:

1. Improvement of occupational safety and health
2. Prevention of work-caused injuries and professional diseases
3. Improvement of track-records of work-caused injuries

Key indicators of general and specific goals are presented in the Action Plan for Strategy Implementation for the period from 2018 to 2022.

5. CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE BY 2050

The European Commission calls for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.

On 28 November 2018, the Commission presented its strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy by 2050.

The strategy shows how Europe can lead the way to climate neutrality by investing into realistic technological solutions, empowering citizens, and aligning action in key areas such as industrial policy, finance, or research – while ensuring social fairness for a just transition.

Following the invitations by the European Parliament and the European Council, the Commission's vision for a climate-neutral future covers nearly all EU policies and is in line with the [Paris Agreement](#) objective to keep the global temperature increase to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to keep it to 1.5°C.

Key documents

28/11/2018 - COM (2018) 773 - [A Clean Planet for all - A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy](#)

The 2030 climate and energy framework includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.

Key targets for 2030:

- At least 40% cuts in **greenhouse gas emissions** (from 1990 levels)
- At least 32% share for **renewable energy**
- At least 32.5% improvement in **energy efficiency**

The [framework](#) was adopted by the European Council in October 2014. The targets for renewables and energy efficiency were revised upwards in 2018.

Greenhouse gas emissions – a cut of at least 40%

A binding target to cut emissions in the EU by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

This will enable the EU to move towards a low-carbon economy and implement its commitments under the [Paris Agreement](#).

To achieve the target:

- [EU emissions trading system](#) (ETS) sectors will have to cut emissions by 43% (compared to 2005) – to this end, the [ETS has been revised for the period after 2020](#)
- non-ETS sectors will need to cut emissions by 30% (compared to 2005) – this has been translated into individual binding [targets for Member States](#).

Renewables – increasing to at least 32% share

A binding [renewable energy](#) target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32% of final energy consumption, including a review clause by 2023 for an upward revision of the EU level target.

The original target of at least 27% was revised upwards in 2018.

Energy efficiency – increasing by at least 32.5%

A headline target of at least 32.5% for **energy efficiency** to be achieved collectively by the EU in 2030, with an upward revision clause by 2023.

The original target of at least 27% was revised upwards in 2018.

Governance system

A transparent and dynamic [governance process](#) will help deliver the objectives of the [Energy Union](#), including the 2030 climate and energy targets, in an efficient and coherent manner.

The EU has adopted [integrated monitoring and reporting rules](#) to ensure progress towards the 2030 climate and energy targets and its international commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Based on the [better regulation principles](#), the governance process involves consultations with citizens and stakeholders.

National Energy and Climate Plans

Member States are obliged to adopt integrated [National Climate and Energy Plans](#) (NECPs) for the period 2021-2030. Member States had to submit their draft plans by the end of 2018. The final plans must be submitted by the end of 2019.

National long-term strategies

Under the governance system, Member States are also required to develop national long-term strategies by 1 January 2020, and ensure consistency between their long-term strategies and NECPs.

Benefits

A joined-up approach for the period up to 2030 helps ensure regulatory certainty for investors and coordinate EU countries' efforts.

The framework helps drive progress towards a low-carbon economy and build an energy system that

- ensures affordable energy for all consumers,
- increases the security of the EU's energy supplies,
- reduces our dependence on energy imports,
- creates new opportunities for growth and jobs, and
- brings environmental and health benefits – e.g. through reduced air pollution.

Interlinkages between European Commission priorities and national priorities of the Republic of Serbia

National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia

Protection of the **environment** and resources of the Republic of Serbia, which involves a responsible attitude towards the environment in terms of soil quality, ground and surface water resources and atmosphere, biodiversity, as well as the use of natural resources and the management of hazardous waste, is of utmost importance for the security of the Republic of Serbia. Active monitoring of the situation and taking measures to protect against irreversible environmental changes caused by climate, geophysical and technological impacts is one of the conditions for sustainable development.

Improving economic and energy security is important for the economic development and overall progress and security of the Republic of Serbia. It will reduce dependency and increase the resilience of national economy to global economic distortions and the unpredictability of the world financial system. Economic security will be ensured by maintaining the macroeconomic balance and reducing social stratification.

The Republic of Serbia advocates that all disputes and issues of common interest in economic relations be resolved through co-operation and negotiations. Particular attention will be paid to preventing the criminalisation of economic activity and protection against economic espionage.

Construction of electricity and infrastructure for natural gas, oil and oil derivatives, and further diversification of sources and directions of energy and energy supply, formation of obligatory energy reserves, improvement of energy efficiency and increase of energy or energy production capacities, will ensure energy stability, i.e. reliable, secure, efficient and quality supply of energy to all consumers in the Republic of Serbia.

In this regard, the use of alternative and **renewable energy sources** will be increased and measures will be developed for the sustainable use of natural resources while protecting available non-renewable energy resources, as a strategic reserve. Research on the energy potential of the sun, wind and watercourses will also be undertaken to ensure energy stability in different climate change scenarios.

In order to increase **energy security**, Republic of Serbia is committed to regional and global energy integrations, but will work intensively to reduce energy dependency and sustainable electricity prices. The energy market will be developed by providing an open and integrated energy market with regional and European markets.

Protection of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia

Protection of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia is achieved by attaining the following goals:

- monitoring, assessing, planning and taking measures to mitigate the impact of climate change;
- flood and fire protection;
- improving the quality of the environment;
- effective management of hazardous waste;
- enhancing the ability and capacity to manage resources.

Monitoring, assessing, planning and taking measures to mitigate the impact of climate change in the Republic of Serbia is of primary importance for sustainable development in all areas of social life. In this regard, the organisational capacities and technical and technological systems for weather monitoring, as well as for the assessment of climate and hydrological impacts on the territory, biodiversity and population of the Republic of Serbia will be improved. To mitigate the effects of climate change, preventive measures will be planned and implemented, as well as measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP)¹⁷

The goal of NERP is to reduce the total annual emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrous oxide (NO_x) and powdered matter from old large combustion plants in order to reach the emission limit values prescribed in Part I of Annex V to the IED Directive by 1 January 2028 at the latest.

Achieving this is to be ensured by establishing maximum emissions for SO₂, NO_x and powdered materials. These maximum emissions correspond to the annual maximum emissions of each individual plant. The sum of the total annual maximum emissions for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and powders for all plants covered by NERP are listed in Annex 5.

Strategy for Development of Energy Sector of the Republic of Serbia, till 2025, with predictions until 2030¹⁸

Provision of energy security, energy market development and overall transition towards sustainable energy sector are imposed as key priorities of energy sector development in the Republic of Serbia, i.e. principles based on which the energy sector policy by 2030 should be developed.

Energy Security

- Reliable, safe, efficient and quality supply of energy and energy products;
- Setting up conditions for reliable and safe operation and sustainable development of energy systems and energy sector in general.

Energy Market

- Competitiveness in electricity market based on non-discrimination, publicity and transparency;
- Protection of energy and energy product consumers;
- Development of electricity and natural gas markets and their connection with the single energy market of EU;
- Stronger connection of energy system of the Republic of Serbia with energy systems of other economies, especially the neighbouring ones.

Sustainable Energy

- Provision of conditions for energy efficiency improvement in energy and energy consumption;
- Creating economic and financial conditions for increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources and for combined production of electricity and heat energy;
- Creating institutional, financial and technical preconditions for using new energy sources;
- Promotion of environmental conditions and environmental protection system in all fields of energy activities;
- Establishing more favourable legal and institutional conditions and logistics for more intensive investment into energy sector.

Implementation Programme of the Strategy for Development of Energy Sector, till 2025 with predictions until 2030, for the period from 2017 to 2030¹⁹

The Energy Strategy defines the strategic priorities of energy development of the Republic of Serbia for the mentioned period, namely:

I. Ensuring energy security through:

1. reliable, safe, efficient and quality energy and energy supply;
2. establishment of conditions for reliable and safe operation of all systems within the energy sector and for their sustainable development.

In order to ensure a secure, reliable and high-quality energy supply, it is necessary to promote rational use of energy, provide adequate reserves of oil and natural gas and various sources of supply to these energy sources, to build new capacities for electricity production (renewable energy sources, as well as conventional energy sources, with high energy efficiency) and capacities for transmission and distribution of electricity and energy products that will ensure secure supply at the lowest total cost.

II. Development of energy market through:

1. Ensuring competitiveness in the energy market on the principles of non-discrimination, publicity and transparency;
2. protection of customers of energy and energy products;
3. development of electricity and natural gas markets and their integration into the European Union's single energy market;
4. Stronger connection the energy system of the Republic of Serbia with the energy systems of other economies, especially the neighbouring ones.

In accordance with the Energy Community Treaty, the Republic of Serbia has set the establishment of a regional energy market as one of its priorities. This market should facilitate integration into the EU energy market, allow more investments in this sector and contribute to its development.

III. Transition to sustainable energy through:

1. provision of conditions for improvement of energy efficiency in carrying out energy activities and energy consumption;
2. creation of economic and financial conditions for increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources and for combined production of electricity and heat energy;
3. creation of institutional, financial and technical conditions for the use of new energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, biogas, etc.);
4. improvement of the state and system of environmental protection in all fields of energy activities;
5. establishment of favourable legal and institutional conditions and logistics for more intensive investment in energy.

Urban Development Strategy has the following key goals: improved quality of life, environment, health and safety of urban settlements and citizens; high level of adaptability to climate changes; reducing the effect of climate changes through improved environmental parameters, waste management and energy efficiency; adaptation to climate changes and establishment of rapid response system in crisis situations.

¹⁷ https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/javne_raspbrane/konačni_NERP_EPS_i_NIS.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2015/I01/I/reg>

¹⁹ <https://www.mre.gov.rs/doc/efikasnost-izvori/UREDPA%20O%20UTVRDJIVANJU%20PROGRAMA%20OSTVARIVANJA%20STRATEGIJE%20RAZVOJA%20ENERGETIKE%20ZA%20PERIOD%20OD%202017%20DO%202023.pdf>

5. Strengthening European civil protection

In 2019 the EU strengthened all components of its disaster risk management to better protect citizens from disasters. The upgraded EU Civil Protection Mechanism established a new European reserve of additional capacities (the 'rescEU reserve') that includes firefighting planes and helicopters, medical evacuation capacities and a medical team trained for setting up a field hospital. Through the strengthened mechanism, the EU will be better prepared and respond to all types of emergencies, such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies, and through common stockpiling of medicine.

The Action Plan for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030

implementation includes a strong focus on linking EU internal and external disaster risk reduction priorities with the biodiversity strategies and eco-system-based approaches.

Interlinkages between European Commission priorities and national priorities of the Republic of Serbia

National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia defined **flood and fire protection** as one of its priorities due to the fact that a significant increase in the number of torrential and other large-scale floods can be expected due to hydrological changes and impacts, which would result in significant material damage and loss of human lives. Based on the assessments made, in order to prevent such consequences, it is necessary to intensify the construction of anti-storm structures, implementation of preventive measures for fire protection and environmental protection measures.

National Strategy for Protection and Rescuing in Emergency defines five strategic areas that form the framework for disaster management and disaster risk reduction in Serbia and are consistent with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The Hyogo Framework for Action is a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards adopted by 168 Member States of the United Nations in 2005 at the World Disaster Reduction Conference.

- Ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction becomes a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Reduce the underlying risk factors
- Strengthen disaster preparedness or disaster response at all levels

EU PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE FOR SERBIA supporting fulfilment of EU Accession Criteria and UN SDGs

Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME) is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs, running from 2014 to 2020, with a budget of €2.3 billion. COSME will support SMEs in the following areas:

- Facilitating access to finance
- Supporting internationalisation and access to markets
- Creating an environment favourable to competitiveness
- Encouraging an entrepreneurial culture

In accordance with the **Economic Reform Program**, the Finance Strategy will be further developed, as well as the implementation of optimized public support programs for SMEs and sole traders in accordance with the adopted strategy. The mobilization of stakeholders to make a better use of the possibilities offered by the EU programs (COSME) and regional programs (WB EDIF) will be conducted during next three years.

Creative Europe

The Creative Europe programme aims to support the European audiovisual, cultural and creative sector.

Erasmus +

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, and gain experience abroad.

Set to last until 2020, Erasmus+ doesn't just have opportunities for students. Merging seven prior programmes, it has opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organisations.

Europe for Citizens Programme

The aim of the Europe for Citizens Programme is to contribute to citizens' understanding of the EU, its history and diversity and to encourage the democratic participation of citizens at EU level. The programme is open to the EU Member States - and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission - to:

- Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates*
- EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement

Specific rules apply for each strand: See [European remembrance](#) and [Democratic engagement and civic participation](#).

Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Kosovo* have signed an agreement on participation in the Europe for Citizens Programme.

European instrument for democracy and human rights (EIDHR)

The EIDHR instrument can grant aid where no established development cooperation exists, and can intervene without the agreement of the governments of third countries. It can support groups or individuals

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ (International Court of Justice) Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

within civil society defending democracy as well as intergovernmental organisations that implement the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. Work with, for and through civil society organisations gives to the EIDHR its critical profile. Assistance under EIDHR complements other tools which are used to implement EU policies for democracy and human rights. These range from political dialogue and diplomatic initiatives to various instruments for financial and technical cooperation, including the [Development Co-operation Instrument](#) and [ENPI](#). It also complements the more crisis-related interventions of the [Instrument for Stability](#).

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions.

Instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA II)

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is the means by which the EU supports reforms in the 'enlargement countries' with financial and technical help. The IPA funds build up the capacities of the economies throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region. For the period 2007-2013 IPA had a budget of some € 11.5 billion; its successor, IPA II, will build on the results already achieved by dedicating € 11.7 billion for the period 2014-2020.

Current beneficiaries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

EU pre-accession funds are a sound investment into the future of both the enlargement economies and the EU itself. They help the beneficiaries make political and economic reforms, preparing them for the rights and obligations that come with EU membership. Those reforms should provide their citizens with better opportunities and allow for development of standards equal to the ones citizens of the EU enjoy. The pre-accession funds also help the EU reach its own objectives regarding a sustainable economic recovery, energy supply, transport, the environment and climate change, etc.

CUSTOMS 2020

Customs 2020 is an EU cooperation programme providing national customs administrations with the possibility to create and exchange information and expertise. It allows developing and operating major trans-European IT systems in partnership and establishing various human networks by bringing together national officials from across Europe. The goal of the programme is to offer support and guidance to customs administrations in order to increase the efficiency of the EU internal market through cooperation among participating economies (i.e. their customs administrations and officers).

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Specific objectives of the Customs 2020 programme:

- Support customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and of the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights
- Increase safety and security, protect citizens and the environment
- Improve the administrative capacity of the customs authorities

- Strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses

The programme is primarily aimed at EU Member States. However, under certain conditions, candidate and potential candidate countries may also join the programme and receive support in building capacity to carry out customs procedures prior to and after the accession. Apart from EU Member States, the programme is currently participated in by EU candidate countries – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

Programme activities can be divided into three separate groups:

- IT capacity building
- Joint actions
- Improving human resources management

The Republic of Serbia joined Customs 2020 programme on 19 November 2014, upon the entry into force of the International Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Serbia on the participation of the Republic of Serbia in Customs 2020 programme.

The implementation of the programme in Serbia falls under the responsibility of Customs Administration of the Republic of Serbia (<http://www.upravacarina.rs/en/Pages/default.aspx>), which has appointed a programme coordination team.

FISCALIS 2020

Fiscalis 2020 is an EU cooperation programme enabling national tax administrations to create and exchange information and expertise. It enables development and operation of major trans-European IT systems in partnership, as well as the establishment of various person to person networks by bringing together national officials from across Europe. The programme has a budget of €234.3 million and will run for seven years from 1 January 2014.

Apart from EU Member States, the programme is participated in by EU candidate countries as well – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

General objective of the programme is to improve the proper functioning of the taxation systems in the internal market by enhancing cooperation between participating economies, their tax authorities and their officials.

Specific objective of the programme is to support the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning and the implementation of Union law in the field of taxation through:

- ensuring exchange of information
- supporting administrative cooperation and, where necessary and appropriate
- enhancing the administrative capacity of participating economies with a view to assisting in reducing the administrative burden on tax authorities and the compliance costs for taxpayers.

Operational objectives and priorities of the programme:

- A. to implement, improve, operate and support the European Information Systems for taxation;
- B. to support administrative cooperation activities;
- C. to reinforce the skills and competence of tax officials;
- D. to enhance the understanding and implementation of Union law in the field of taxation;
- E. to support the improvement of administrative procedures and the sharing of good administrative practices.

The Republic of Serbia joined the programme in 2015.

OTHER FUNDS

The Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)²⁰ is a financial instrument launched in 2009 by the European Commission, leading financial institutions and several donor countries in order to facilitate the preparation and implementation of priority investments in infrastructure in the Western Balkans economies. It is a regional instrument which, through various sources of funding, supports the enlargement of the European Union and the socio-economic development of the economies of the Western Balkans that are the beneficiaries of this instrument.

The Western Balkans Investment Framework deals with financing and providing technical assistance in the implementation of strategic investments in the following areas: energy, environmental protection, social sector, transport and private sector development.

WBIF consists of two funds through which it combines donations and loans: the Joint Grant Facility and the Joint Lending Facility. Funds are provided by donors and financial institutions, with the purpose of financing the preparation (grants for technical assistance) and implementation (investment grants and loans) of infrastructure projects.

In addition to infrastructure projects, WBIF also finances the development of general studies dealing with individual sectors, as well as capacity building, thus contributing to the overall development of investments in the Western Balkans region.

The European Commission has approved approximately USD 1 billion to the Western Balkans Investment Framework during the period 2014-2020 for improving key transport and energy corridors in the Western Balkans economies, as well as corridors that link the region and Member States of the European Union. This initiative, known as the “Connectivity Agenda”, is a part of the Western Balkans 6 process (Berlin Process), and aims to create safe and efficient transport routes through corridors, as well as a safer and more accessible matching between the electricity needs and total supply. The Western Balkans Investment Framework has so far supported investments in a total value of around EUR 4.65 billion in Serbia, through projects in all sectors which are eligible for funding. Of this number, 46 grants were for technical assistance, while the remaining 6 projects were approved through investment grant rounds. The Republic of Serbia also participates in 19 regional projects supported through the Western Balkans Investment Framework.

MADAD²¹

The European Commission has, by its decision of 10 December 2014, established **the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis - the “Madad Fund”**. The initial objective of this fund was to support the refugees from Syria and the countries of their residence (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey). The Fund was later extended to refugees and migrants from other vulnerable countries, as well as to providing support to non-EU economies affected by the migrant crisis, which enabled the Republic of Serbia to apply for funding.

In 2016 and 2017, Madad Fund support was approved to the Republic of Serbia for financing current operating expenses, nutrition, provision of health services and access to education for migrant children and improvement of conditions for accommodation of refugees and migrants at reception centres - primarily in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Ministry of Interior, as well as with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The European Union has established the **Solidarity Fund (EUSF)²²** with the aim of providing support to Member States and states in the process of EU membership negotiations in order to more easily overcome the consequences of large-scale natural disasters. This expresses European solidarity with the regions and economies in Europe that are affected by natural disasters. By covering parts of public expenditures, the EUSF contributes to the efforts of the states to carry out activities aimed at reconstructing the economy and remedying the damage caused by natural disasters.

The Republic of Serbia, as an economy in the process of EU membership negotiations, applied for a grant from the EU Solidarity Fund on 30 July 2014 in order to remedy the damages and reconstruct the areas affected by May 2014 floods.

Regional Housing Programme²³

The Regional Housing Programme is a joint initiative of four economies - Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro - which aims to provide permanent housing solutions for 27,000 most vulnerable refugee families (74,000 individuals) in the region. Of this, 16,780 families (about 45,000 individuals) are from Serbia.

The Programme is being implemented as part of the Sarajevo Process, and on the basis of the Belgrade Declaration, signed on 7 November 2011 by ministers of foreign affairs of four programme beneficiary economies. These economies were most affected by the conflicts of the 1990s and therefore have a significant refugee population.

The funding for the implementation of the Programme is provided by donors, the European Union being particularly prominent, which finances this Programme from Multi-country and National Pre-accession Funds (IPA). Other donors are the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Norway, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Italy, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Turkey and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

21 https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/neighbourhood/countries/syria/madad_en

22 http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/archive/thefunds/solidarity/index_en.cfm

23 www.regionalhousingprogramme.com

Through the Programme, a large number of different housing solutions are provided: assignment of construction material packages, construction of prefabricated houses, purchase of rural houses and construction of residential buildings. In this way, it is ensured that refugee families solve their housing problems/issues in a way that suits them the most, at their current place of residence, bearing in mind that the Programme is implemented in more than 120 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia.

Key findings

- The new European Commission should in 2020 operationalise strategic objectives in priority areas and harmonise its own strategic framework with the UN Agenda 2030.
- The UN SDGs should be considered and transferred to both Member States and candidate countries national strategies. Clear and functional order and relation among the EU and national strategies need to be set up as a precondition for the use of financial and other sources of support.
- The new European budgetary framework should respond to the objectives of both Member States and candidate countries.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms need to be strengthened.
- It is necessary to define common priorities of the Western Balkans region in the strategic framework of the EU with the financial framework and instruments.
- Continuous capacity building of candidate countries is needed to make more effective and efficient use of financial assistance instruments, funds and programmes already available to candidate countries.
- Better communication strategy needs to be created and implemented to achieve a higher level of enthusiasm for Western Balkans EU enlargement among the Member States.
- The clear perspective of membership of the Western Balkans economies needs to be reaffirmed and the belief that the EU is a key player in the Balkans needs to be strengthened.
- Civil society knowledge and resources need to be more involved and used, both in the strategic planning and policy-making process as well as in the monitoring and evaluation process.

2.4. LINKAGES OF MAPPED STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES WITH UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

At the summit held in September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/70/1 - *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The 2030 Agenda is a universal strategy and countries will mobilise all resources in order to achieve targets by 2030. The 2030 Agenda, and its 17 goals, include all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

Given that the EU integration is Serbia's strategic goal and all reforms are geared towards that goal, there is full consensus to implement the sustainable development goals through the EU integration process.

Accordingly, the prioritisation process and the nationalisation of sustainable development goals should follow the same principles and standards established by the EU. This means that all development plans and public policy documents in the process of Serbia's EU integration should integrate the 2030 Agenda and use it to profile Serbia as a future EU member state.

Mapping results show that, under its existing strategic framework, Serbia is already committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nevertheless, there are areas where key sector-specific strategies are missing or where the implementation of specific strategic documents is not monitored, which hinders the assessment of Serbia's progress in the achievement of the relevant SDGs.

SDG I - Poverty reduction

Poverty (I.1), (I.2), Social protection (I.3) with Indicators:

I.I.1. Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)

I.2.I. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

Serbia declared that seeks to achieve those specific targets under SDG I.

Many strategies of the Republic of Serbia recognise the importance of sectoral public policies for the realisation of the poverty reduction goal. SDG I is strongly linked to the areas of education, employment, rule of law, institutional building, health care and many other segments which are dealt with by other sustainable development goals.

The Reform Programme of Employment and Social Policy in the EU Accession Process (ESRP) is one of the most important documents for SDG I implementation. The ESRP, which was adopted in May 2016, contains key reforms and programmes of the Republic of Serbia in the area of employment and labour market, human capital and skills, social inclusion and protection, as well as challenges in the pension and health care system. One of the important topics of this document is unemployment of youth as a vulnerable category. The ESRP has not been revised in 2018 or 2019. It is expected to be revised in 2020 and aligned with the second most important reform document drafted as part of the European integration process - the Economic Reform Programme (ERP). Under the latest ERP the following measure has been planned: increased labour activation of social welfare beneficiaries who are fit for work, hard-to-employ unemployed persons in line with employment legislation and other hard-to-employ persons from particularly vulnerable groups, and strengthened formal employment. Adoption of new legislation will facilitate greater labor activation of social welfare beneficiaries who are fit for work and hard-to-employ unemployed persons from particularly vulnerable groups.

New legislation will enable social security for seasonal workers, flexibility and legal security for workers leased by an agency to another employer for the purpose of performing temporary work under its supervision and management. Action Plan of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Implementation of the National Programme for Combating the Informal Economy is set to be revised.

These two documents, ERP and ESRP, overlap in the area of protection of social rights. National Employment Strategy for the period from 2011 to 2020 expires this year and it is expected that a new strategy will be adopted. In an interview with the representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social

Policy we were informed that a new Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP) 2021-25 will be developed. The applicable ESRP was adopted in 2015 and is in force up until the end of 2020. In addition to the development and adoption of a new strategic paper furthering undertaken on-going reforms under the now applicable ESRP, the revision of the reporting matrix on the implementation of ESRP is envisaged to take place in 2020. This revision is to be conducted in cooperation with the Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction and completed by the end of September 2020. To this end, an inter-sectoral working group will be set up in the second half of 2020. **The ESRP structural reform 20 Improvement of social protection and adequacy** of benefits for impoverished persons and families and vulnerable groups, by establishing of IT links among different sectors (preparation of social cards), is in line with above mentioned SDG targets.

2020 is the final year of the envisaged implementation of the current National Employment Strategy 2011-2020 and the accompanying Action Plan for 2020.

New National Employment Strategy is foreseen to be adopted for the period 2021-2026 with and accompanying National Employment Action Plan, 2021-2023.

Adoption of **the Strategy for the Prevention of and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025** is foreseen for Q3 2020. Adoption of the Strategy for Prevention of Violence Against Children 2020-30, and the accompanying Action Plan 2020-21 is foreseen for Q1 2020.

Regarding **ESRP Structural reform 19 - Increased labour activation of social welfare** beneficiaries who are fit for work, hard-to-employ unemployed persons in line with employment legislation and other hard-to-employ persons from particularly vulnerable groups, and strengthened formal employment, Establishment of the legal framework in the area of social entrepreneurship is expected to contribute to the activation of fit-for-work social welfare beneficiaries, hard-to-employ unemployed persons in accordance with employment legislation, and other hard-to-employ persons from particularly vulnerable groups, by performing activities of public interest at the central, regional or local level.

ESRP Structural reform 20 - Improvement of the adequacy, quality and targeting of social protection measures

This structural reform will be implemented through the adoption of the Law on Social Card and amendments to the Social Welfare Law. The Law on Social Card will enable establishment of IT connections between different sectors for the purpose of improving social protection and adequacy of social benefits granted to impoverished persons and families and vulnerable groups of the population.

The only strategy to address this SDG I and this indicator at this moment is **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016–2025**²⁴. The Strategy sets five specific objectives in key areas which can contribute to the attainment of the overall objective, namely education, housing, employment, health care and social welfare. Specific objectives 3 and 5 directly address SDG I and this indicator at the moment.

Target 3: Encouraging the involvement of able-bodied members of the Roma national minority in the formal labor market, improving their employability, employment and economic empowerment, especially of those Roma men and women who belong to categories of unemployed persons who are hard to employ on multiple grounds.

Target 5: Improving access to social security services and availability of financial aid for the purpose of reducing poverty and increasing social involvement of Roma men and women in the local community.

SDG I, with those two indicators, is directly connected with the EU Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers. EU Commission Progress Report 2019 noticed that Serbia is moderately prepared in the area of freedom of movement for workers. Some progress was made regarding the Commission's recommendation from 2018, through the signing of new agreements on electronic exchange of social security data with the EU Member States. Serbia also streamlined the procedure for issuing work permits to third-country nationals. In the coming year, Serbia should in particular:

- continue to enhance cooperation with the EU Member States on coordination of social security systems by improving legislative and technical conditions;
- carry out preparations for joining EURES (the European job mobility portal).²⁵

SDG I, with those two indicators, is also directly connected with the EU Chapter 19 - Social policy and employment. Serbia is moderately prepared in the area of social policy and employment. Some progress was made in further aligning the legislation with the acquis, mainly in the area of working conditions. Regarding last year's Commission recommendations, budget allocations for active labour market policies slightly increased in 2018 albeit with still very limited coverage of training measures for the unemployed.

In the coming period, Serbia should in particular:

- ensure adequate financial and institutional resources for employment and social policies to more systematically target the young, women and long-term unemployed, and improve the adequacy of social benefits for people below the poverty threshold;
- significantly strengthen the bipartite and tripartite social dialogue at all levels;
- ensure consistent implementation of the labour and social welfare legislation throughout the economy.²⁶

SDG I TARGET - Equal rights (I.4) with Indicator 1.4.1. Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

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I. National Strategy for Social Housing for the period 2012-2022 + Action Plan until 2022

25 <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-serbia-report.pdf>

26 <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-serbia-report.pdf>

The overall objective of the Strategy is to provide affordable and healthy housing in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, to households who, for social, economic and other reasons, cannot provide housing on market conditions.

The specific objectives that accompany it and the appropriate measures and programmes are:

- Improved existing and established new social housing instruments, starting with stable funding sources, through effective regulations, until new ones are developed and existing institutions strengthened
- Increased volume and variety of housing supply
- Increased availability of housing costs for low- and middle-income households
- Renewed confidence in the value of rental housing in all forms of ownership
- Standards for the construction improvement of housing units established and fully implemented to existing facilities
- Instruments in place to prevent and reduce homelessness
- Improved housing conditions for residents of sub-standard settlements

2. Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025; Specific objective 2:

Improving housing conditions for Roma men and women in Serbia by ensuring legal certainty of their housing situation, availability of services, materials, facilities, infrastructure, affordability, adequate habitability and accessibility, suitable location and cultural adequacy as defined under international standards governing the right to adequate housing ratified by the Republic of Serbia.²⁷

3. Strategy to Re-Integrate Returnees Based on the Readmission Agreement²⁸

The Strategy relies on existing institution network and aims to coordinate resources in strategically defined areas; to further develop mechanisms, services and programmes in line with determined needs of re-admitted persons, with full respect of human and diversity rights.

Specific goals are:

- Developed and implemented programme for re-admitted persons and programme of urgent support as an integral part of the sustainable re-integration mechanism
- Support to strengthening the communities in implementation of reintegration programmes
- Enable re-admitted persons for independent and equal life, with full respect for social and cultural differences. Support provided needs to be based on the needs assessment

Expected results are:

1. Sustainable integration with full understanding of social and cultural aspect of integration, with creation of conditions for re-admittance and provision of conditions for independent and equal life
2. Active participation of local self-government and development of network of services in line with their needs, which will strengthen their resources for social needs and support decentralisation process
3. Prevention of new poverty
4. Prevention of secondary migrations, migrations control in regular life, with the aim to reduce unemployment rate
5. Prevention of human trafficking
6. Inclusion of physically capable re-admitted individuals in regular life with the aim to lower the unemployment rate
7. Development of rural and depopulated areas
8. Building of trust and inter-ethnic tolerance

EU CHAPTERS relevant for this indicator under SDG 1 are 19 and 23.

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDGs 1 and 2 - ISDACON BASE

Social services for vulnerable groups, 3,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

Strengthening the Social Infrastructure in Communities under Stress due to the Migrant Crisis, 5,431,634.00 EUR, Germany

Support to Improve Social Inclusion in Serbia, phase 3; 4,499,968.60 CHF, Switzerland

EU support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion, 20,000,000.00 EUR, European Union

SOCIAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS - GIZ

The project provides support to local and national-level authorities to improve social welfare services - more efficient, transparent and tailored to respond to the needs of the recipients. In the context of international standards, the project contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, respecting the Leave No One Behind principle, supporting UN SDGs 11 and 16 with its focus on sustainable communities and strengthened institutions.

Donor: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (Germany)

Implementing Agency: German Development Agency - GIZ

Project Partners: Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Republic Institute for Social Welfare, Institute of Social Welfare of the Autonomous Province, Social Welfare Chamber, Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. Total value: EUR 4.000.000.

Duration: 13/12/2018-13/12/2021

27 Other strategic documents relevant for this indicator are not valid after 2020 and we expect that new strategies will be timely adopted by the Government. Those strategies are:

National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016 – 2020

Strategy of Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (Action Plan 2014- 2018)

Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025 + Action Plan 2017-2018

Action Plan for the Exercise of the Rights of National Minorities National Strategy for Resolving Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) for the period 2015 – 2020 (Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations)

28 http://www.rsjp.gov.rs/malodrvo/bazastrategija/17_ljudska_prava_i_gradjansko_drustvo/17_8_strategija_reintegracije_povratnika_na_osnovu_sporazuma_o_readmisiji/17.8_strategija_reintegracije_povratnika_na_osnovu_sporazuma_o_readmisiji.pdf

Enhancing Good Governance and Social Inclusion at Local Level in Serbia Programme – Swiss PRO

The objective is to advance good governance, social inclusion, gender equality and position of vulnerable population by strengthening of local social welfare institutions, mechanisms of assessment of vulnerable groups of population, and support to civil sector for project implementation in line with the UN SDGs.

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Implementing Agency: UNOPS

Project Partners: Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. Total value: EUR: 5.8 mil.

Duration: 01/01/2018-31/12/2021

The UNDP- International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Joint Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Strategies (STAGE 3) - preparation stage

The Programme will have a strong sectoral focus, particularly on: employment, health care, education and social welfare. Also, the Programme will enable strategic inclusion of diaspora and migrant associations and private sector in the development and implementation of action plans for effectiveness and developmental impact. The monitoring and reporting will be conducted against the results-based framework adjusted with the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda (with the focus on the SDGs 1, 8, 5 and 10), and Global Compact for Migration.

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Implementing Agency: International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Fund (UNDP). Participating economies: Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova, Tunisia, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Philippines, Nepal, Senegal and Serbia.

Project Partners in Serbia: Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs. Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and Ministry of Health. Total value: CHF 8.845.563.

Duration: 48 months

IPA 2013 - Support to the National Employment Service (NES) Employment Programme (Direct grant) and Technical Assistance for Capacity Building in Employment Policy – Technical assistance (Service contract) (30/8/2017 - 30/3/2020)

The project Support for the Implementation of Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme in the Republic of Serbia with a Focus on Employment Policy and Increasing Youth Employability (Youth Employment Initiative) is part of a broader programme financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), under the title: From Education to Employability (E2E) – Youth Skills Development and Public Private Partnership in Serbia.

For the purpose of implementation of “Promoting Inclusive Labour Market Solutions in the Western Balkans project, the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the Ministry of Labour,

Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs and National Employment Service has been completed and expected to be signed in the forthcoming period.

Gender Equality

There are no donor funds that are specifically allocated to gender equality. Currently, UN Human Rights Team is providing support through two consultants who are engaged in the drafting of the Proposal for the National Strategy on Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence against Women and in Intimate Partner Relationship (2020-2025), and its Action Plan (2020-2022).

SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Targets: Double agricultural productivity and the incomes of small food producers

(2.3), Sustainable food production systems (2.4) with Indicators:

2.3.1 Volume of production per labor unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size

2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

Increase investment (2.a)

2. a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

2. a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector

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Economic Reform Programme emphasized that agriculture is one of the key sectors in the economy of Serbia, which offers exceptionally favourable conditions for its development. However, obstacles in this sector arise from the unfavourable structure of agricultural holdings (technical and technological obsolescence of small and medium-sized holdings, weak organisation in cooperatives and other forms of association based on common interest), pressures due to increasing demands of standards and regulations in the process of alignment with the EU Common Agricultural Policy, insufficient processing level at agricultural holdings and in the existing food industry, as well as a lack of efficient mechanisms for dealing with unfavourable weather conditions. **Structural reform 5 - Improvement of competitiveness**

of agricultural producers and processors is defined with planned activities, expected impact on competitiveness, estimated costs of activities and funding sources, expected impact on employment and gender.

The most important strategic document of the Republic of Serbia for agricultural sector development, rural development and implementation of SDG 2 is the **Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2014-2024**.²⁹ The Strategy defines the following strategic development goals:

1. production growth and stability of producers' income;
2. increase in competitiveness, accompanied by adjustment to the requirements of the domestic and foreign market, and technical and technological improvement of the agricultural sector;
3. sustainable resource management and environmental protection;
4. improvement of the quality of life in rural areas and poverty reduction;
5. efficient public policy management and enhancement of institutional framework for development of agriculture and rural areas.

IPARD Programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 – 2020 is currently valid, but it is expected to be revised in 2020 for the next six-year period. Potential risks are defined in the newest ERP, namely: unfavourable conditions for pre-financing of IPARD investments; quality of applications for IPARD incentives; quality of implementation affecting cost eligibility; adequate capacity of the Administration for Agrarian Payments (AAP); numerous irregularities in implementation. Also, there could be difficulties in the implementation of laws because of the introduction of new work methods and procedures, which would require additional time for risk mitigation.

Vision of agricultural development of rural areas in Serbia reflects the state of affairs, and as such envisages:

1. In 2024 agriculture in Serbia should be based on knowledge, modern technologies and standards, in order to offer innovative products to domestic and foreign markets and provide sustainable income to producers.
2. Management of natural resources, environment and cultural heritage of rural areas complies with the principles of sustainable development, with the aim of attracting young people to live and work in these areas.

Achievement of this vision implies following certain principles:

1. Sustainable agriculture is the foundation of agricultural policy, which puts multifunctional agriculture in the centre of economy in rural areas. In this context, respect of the principle of sustainable agricultural development implies:
 - Increase of economic efficiency in agriculture, based on technical and technological improvement and innovative products and solutions
 - Responsible management of resources and their preservation for generations to come, with the emphasis on preservation of biodiversity
 - Well-being of rural population, which would stop the current downward demographic trend; understanding for vulnerable position of young people, women in particular in rural areas, as well as social position of other vulnerable groups
2. Polycentric development, based on comprehension of diversity of production system and types of agricultural households, which stem from heterogeneous geographic, natural, socio-economic and other characteristics of rural settlements in the Republic of Serbia. Equal attention will be devoted

²⁹ <http://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/STRATEGIJA-2014-2020-.pdf>

to all producers and other actors included in the production chain who see their perspective in agriculture and other related areas. Special attention will be paid to recognition of specific needs of agricultural producers in rural households, with the potential for further growth, and of young farmers.

Contemporary organisation and implementation of strategic goals is closely linked to the need to modernise the structure for efficient management of public policies. Organisational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and certain aspects of legal framework need to be harmonised and reformed, with the aim to create a systematic approach, ready to efficiently and transparently implement development goals and manage public funds. Particular importance of institutional framework reform should be emphasised, since availability of pre-accession funds is conditioned by harmonisation of national agricultural policy management system with the EU standards.

Stability and consistency of agricultural budget and achievement of set goals require necessary adjustments in the budget support to agriculture. Inconsistent financial support and lack of targeted users is a serious obstacle to competition growth, lower profit risk and more intensive reform of agricultural structure. Budget adjustment implies increased budget funds, changes in the structure of overall support according to pillars and measures, and in implementation mechanisms. Desirable matrix to this end is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) model of support, given that Serbia's goal is to join the EU.

The desired vision can be achieved only with full implementation of the Strategy. It largely depends on number of external factors, such as political stability, rule of law, public sector reform, strengthening of public administration and creation of conditions for market-based economy.

Strategic goals:

The following strategic goals have been determined in line with the suggested vision:

1. Production growth and stability of producers' income
2. Competition growth, with adjustment to the requirements of domestic and foreign markets and technical & technological improvements
3. Environmental protection and sustainable resources management
4. Improvement of life quality in rural settlements and reduction of poverty
5. Efficient management of public policies and improvement of institutional framework for agricultural development and rural areas

Priority areas of strategic reforms:

Interventions in several priority areas of agricultural policy would contribute to the concept of sustainable agricultural development and achievement of set strategic goals. Those are:

1. Stabilisation of agricultural producers' income
2. Financing agriculture, rural development and risk management
3. Efficient land management and increase in availability of land resources
4. Improvement of the state of natural resources
5. Improvement of the knowledge transfer system and development of human resources
6. Adaptation to and reduced influence of climate changes

7. Technological development and modernised production and processing
8. Development of market chains and logistical support to agriculture
9. Protection and improvement of environment and preservation of natural resources
10. Preservation of agriculture and natural & human resources in areas with difficult working conditions
11. Diversification of rural economy and preservation of cultural and natural heritage
12. Improvement of social structure and strengthening of social assets
13. Modernised legal framework and institutions
14. Improved quality and product safety

National Strategy for Improvement of Facilities Storing Food of Animal Origin 2016-2021³⁰

General goals:

1. High level of human health protection, as well as protection of consumers and national economy through sustainable and efficient processing sector
2. Provision of sanitary and hygiene standards so that food meets safety and quality standards
3. Fulfilment of general hygiene EU standards, as well as all specific requests, relating to the food of animal origin and animal well-being
4. Adjustment in line with the EU demands in the area of environmental protection, including protection from adverse effects of production and processing of food of animal origin
5. Preparation of food production sector for the EU market, as well as for accepting the World Trade Organisation rules and procedures

Specific goals:

1. Improvement of hygiene conditions in facilities dealing with food of animal origin
2. Uninterrupted application of EU rules and standards, with consensus and cooperation of all interested parties
3. Improved human and animal health protection; improved environment protection
4. Supported competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets
5. Promotion of equal competitiveness conditions
6. Awareness raising and improved expertise of all interested parties for application and implementation of listed requirements on animal welfare
7. Improved and maintained knowledge and competence of jurisdictions in food safety area
8. Preservation of traditional production methods with food business entities in small-scale facilities

Relevant **EU Chapters are II and 12**. Serbia has some level of preparation in the area of agriculture and rural development. Good progress was made by adopting the action plan for acquis alignment in agriculture and rural development and implementing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for Rural Development Programme (IPARD II). In the coming period, Serbia should in particular:

- continue to implement the measures entrusted under the IPARD II programme and seek entrustment with budget implementation tasks for other measures of the programme
- proceed with implementation of the action plan for acquis alignment in agriculture and rural development³¹

Chapter 12: Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy

EU hygiene rules for foodstuff production ensure a high level of food safety. Animal health and welfare and the safety of food of animal origin are safeguarded together with quality of seeds, plant protection material, protection against harmful organisms and animal nutrition.

Serbia is moderately prepared in the area of food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy. Some progress has been made in implementing recommendations of the previous report, in particular with the accreditation of the reference laboratory for milk testing. However, Serbia has not yet implemented all recommendations of last year. In the coming year, Serbia should in particular:

- develop a comprehensive strategy for transposition, implementation and enforcement of the acquis on food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
- substantially strengthen the administrative capacity of the veterinary, phytosanitary and national reference laboratories directorates and retain highly competent staff
- consistently apply and improve the risk-based approach to sanitary control at borders³²

For the development of the health care sector and for the implementation of SDG 3, and specific targets (3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population, 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population, 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease, 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution)

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDG 2

Agriculture credit line

23,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

Contribution of sustainable forest management to a low emission and resilient development in Serbia (FSP)

130,000.00 USD, United Nations

SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

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Strategy for Public Health in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2026³³

Health 2020 policy is based on 4 priority areas:

1. Investment in health throughout individual lifetime and strengthening of general population
2. Considering contagious and non-contagious diseases, which present realistic threat to European population

30 <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/download/nacionalna-strategija-za-unapredjenje-objekata-u-kojima-se-posluje-hr>

31 <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-serbia-report.pdf>

32 <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-serbia-report.pdf>

3. Strengthening of people-oriented health systems, capacities of public health and readiness for reaction in emergency situations
4. Creation of resistant communities and supportive environment

The Strategy has been updated with 10 Essential Public Health Operations and Services in Europe (10 EPHO's) in line with recommendations of the regional WHO Office for Europe, and relates to:

1. Monitoring general population health and well-being
2. Monitoring and reaction to health risk in emergency situations
3. Health protection, including environmental safety, food safety, etc.
4. Promotion of health, including activities directed to social discrepancies
5. Prevention and eradication of contagious and non-contagious diseases, including early identification
6. Good management of health and well-being
7. Provision of competent public health experts
8. Provision of sustainable organisational infrastructure and financing
9. Advocacy, communication and social mobilisation related to overall health
10. Improvement of public health research, for evidence-based practice

General and Specific Strategy Goals:

Following the mission, vision and principles of public health, the Strategy sets the following general goals, which include specific and operational objectives:

1. Improvement of health and reducing inequality
2. Improvement of environment and working environment
3. Prevention and eradication of diseases and leading health risks
4. Development of health promotion actions in local communities
5. Support to development of available, quality and efficient health protection
6. Development of public health system based on evidence
7. Improvement of management, communication, and partnerships for application of "health in all policies" principle

For SDG 3 and specific goal **Prevention of substance abuse (3.5)** and Indicators:

3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders.

3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol.

Most relevant strategic documents are: **Strategy for Prevention of Drug Abuse 2014-2021** and **National Programme of Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol-Induced Disorders of the Republic of Serbia**³⁴

Overall goal of the Programme is to reduce the extreme consequences of alcohol abuse to individuals and society. Specific goals are:

34 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2017/I/15/I/reg>

1. Significant decrease of diseases and lethal outcome caused by harmful effects of alcohol and other possible social consequences
2. Support to the activities which will protect children and youth against the harmful effects of alcohol consumption
3. Particular attention should be paid to vulnerable social groups – women, pregnant women, socially and economically deprived
4. Promotion of support at local, national and regional level to prevent and reduce harmful effects of alcohol
5. Raising awareness on the characteristics of problems causing alcohol abuse
6. Strengthening and improvement of health system role in reducing harmful effects of alcohol consumption
7. Continuous and systematic work on tracking widespread abuse forms and related consequences; define intervention measures to prevent and reduce consequences
8. Better coordination among decision-makers and better use of resources required to implement agreed actions with the aim to lower alcohol abuse
9. Defined national oversight system and efficient flow of information for the purpose of development and evaluation of new policies
10. Efficient implementation and management of the Programme with expert bodies.

National Programme for Control of Bacteria Resistance to Antibiotics 2019-2021³⁵. The National Antibiotic Resistance Bacterial Control Programme provides support to creating conditions in which people can be healthy and serves as a basis for decision-making on actions to improve the health and quality of life of the population of the Republic of Serbia.

The Programme sets out the objectives, plan of activities and procedures that will be implemented in the Republic of Serbia to stop the spread of bacterial resistance to antibiotics in medicine and veterinary medicine.

The overall objective of the Programme is to improve the health and quality of life of the population of the Republic of Serbia by reducing ABR.

Programme for Improvement of Mental Health Protection 2019-2026³⁶

Mental health reform includes application of efficient and comprehensive methods at several stages:

1. General population level – proactive measures and raised quality of mental health through planning, awareness raising campaigns, permanent education, media campaigns, advisory networks for categories exposed to risk
2. Health service level – contemporary diagnostics and treatments based on evidence; drafting of the individual health treatment plan with combination of pharmacology measures and non-pharmacological interventions; such treatment plans should be produced by a team of health professionals, led by educated experts (on case-management basis)

35 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2019/8/7/reg>

36 https://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/view_file.php?file_id=1199&cache=sr

3. Educational & academic centres at national level – improvement and harmonisation of existing educational curricula for adults, youth and children in the area of clinical psychology and other related areas (basic and master studies, continuous medical education); support to the multicentric research; establishment and maintenance of international expert cooperation

Comprehensive reform of psychiatric services in line with the concept of mental health protection in local community, based on principles of de-institutionalisation, social inclusion of challenged individuals, through custom-made treatment plans also targets the following:

- Improved system for legal protection of mentally challenged individuals, through amended legal framework and implemented control mechanisms in psychiatric services
- Inclusion of patients, patients' associations and family support groups in the planning process, organisation and oversight of institutions for professional treatment of mentally challenged individuals. It is required, therefore, to strengthen the patients' associations and their family support groups.

The existing network of stationary psychiatric offices should be re-organised in the following manner:

1. Establishment of local offices, i.e. creation of alternative support network for mental health
2. Strengthening existing psychiatric services within general hospitals
3. De-institutionalisation of complex psychiatric hospitals and institutions with gradual cut-down of the number of beds. That will be possible only after creation and strengthening of mental health centres in community, with the support of primary medical care
4. Re-organisation and rationalisation of existing institutions
5. Continuous education of selected doctors and other health professionals at the level of primary health protection in the area of mental health
6. Establishment of new and development of existing psychiatric services for children and youth

For SDG 3 specific goals: Maternal mortality (3.1.), deaths of newborns and children (3.2), communicable and other diseases (3.3) and (3.4), reproductive health (3.7) and universal health coverage (3.8), diseases caused by pollution and contamination (3.9) and for the Indicators:

- 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate
- 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate
- 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

For specific goals and indicators: 3.7.1. Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods; 3.7.2. Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group; 3.8.1. average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population;

Most important strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia are:

I. Strategy for Prevention and Control of HIV Infection and AIDS in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2025³⁷

The overall goal of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in Serbia is the prevention of HIV infection and STIs, as well as the provision of treatment and support to the PLWHAs.

Main components of the National Strategy are the following:

1. HIV/AIDS prevention in the general population, among young people and particularly vulnerable groups
2. Treatment, care and support to the PLWHAs
3. Support of the community to the fight against HIV/AIDS; protection of human rights, stigmatisation and discrimination
4. Quality standards
5. Strategic information for acting

Relevant national strategic documents are:

As its specific objectives **the Strategy for encouraging childbirth** states, among others, the moderation of economic cost of raising a child; adjustment of working with parental aspects; strengthening of psychological cost of parental life; promotion of reproductive health of adolescents and fight against infertility. This determines the strategic direction that is in direct correlation with targeted value **3.7 reproductive health. The Birth Support Strategy³⁸** defined its basic goal as achieving the level of 1.85 child/women in the period of 10 to 15 years or increase of minimum 10%. Success indicator for this goal could be the result of census in year 2031, or a targeted research of generations of women out of reproductive period, in analogy with the results of the 2011 analysis.

Successful achievement of this overall goal would mean that measures applied could potentially lead to theoretically more desirable statistical result – 2.1 child/woman.

Achievement of this final goal implies implementation of previous measures:

- Reduced economic cost of raising a child
- Reduced psychological cost of parenthood
- Preservation and improvement of reproductive health
- Resolved infertility issue
- Education of general public
- Proactive local self-government

³⁷ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/61/2/reg>

³⁸ <http://www.mdpp.gov.rs/doc/strategije/Strategija-podsticanja-radjanja-2018.pdf>

National Programme of Support and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Citizens in the Republic of Serbia³⁹

Improvement of the state of sexual and reproductive health of Serbian citizens is possible to achieve by application of the existing legal framework and strategic measures, primarily those in the areas of information, education, counselling, with higher adaptation of health services to the needs of sensitive population groups.

The overall aim is preservation and improvement of sexual and reproductive health of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, with respect for the right to informed choices related to sexuality and reproduction, irrelevant of personal characteristics of individuals such as sex, gender, age, physical capabilities, socio-economic status, cultural identity, sexual orientation, exposure to social deprivation, HIV infection and other similar characteristics. Achievement of the overall goal inevitably requires prior attainment of specific goals.

Specific goals:

Specific goals clearly define directions of health system activities which will enable preservation and improvement of sexual and reproductive health and rights related to family planning and sensitive population groups, including adolescents, marginalised and socially deprived groups, individuals with physical disabilities or HIV infected.

National Programme to Support Breastfeeding and Family Oriented Developmental Care of the Newborns⁴⁰

Overall goals of the Programme:

- Increase the rate of exclusively breastfed babies in the Republic of Serbia in the following three years
- Induced breastfeeding during the 1st hour after delivery from 50.8% to 70%
- Breastfeeding of new-borns in the first 48hrs – 80% of new-borns
- Breastfeeding after the 1st month up to 40%
- Breastfeeding after 3 months from 23% up to 40%
- Breastfeeding after 5 months from 13% up to 20%

To increase the rate of children nourished by combination of breastfeeding and artificial milk formula:

- With completed 3 months up to 60%
- With completed 6 months from 47% up to 60%
- With completed 12 months from 24.6% up to 60%

Application of individualised baby care at all departments where premature born babies are taken care of.

Specific goals of the Programme:

1. To improve knowledge and skills of health professional, volunteers and civil society representatives in line with the breastfeeding support programme
2. To improve breastfeeding practice, with family-oriented care for new-borns, at all levels of health protection
3. Support teams for promotion of breastfeeding located at medical institutions of all levels of governance (state, province, local)
4. Provide various educational materials to expecting women and parents at the level of local self-governments
5. Include indicators for the success of the Programme in regular practice as a consistent part of primary healthcare service for expecting women, mothers and children
6. Build partnership between employees in medical institutions and families
7. Improve cooperation within the local self-governments in order to develop ideas, exchange information and support Programme implementation

National Programme for Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adults⁴¹

In order to improve the general population health, the main goals of the programme are:

1. Promotion of healthy lifestyles and improvement of health of all citizens
2. Reduced obesity rate in children, youth, adults and seniors

Specific Programme Goals:

1. Promotion of healthy nourishment in line with concrete directions with emphasis on consumption of high-fiber food (vegetables, fruit, full grain cereals) and reduction of food rich in fats and sugars
2. Promotion of healthy lifestyles and physical activity
3. Support to development of health culture and informing of importance of balanced nutrition in health preservation
4. Provision of experts who will implement the programme; availability of biologically nutritive food for children and adults, as well as conditions for physical activities
5. Prevention of obesity in population of normal or desirable weight
6. Prevention of obesity and other diseases caused by obesity
7. Support to weight reduction with obese population ($BMI > 25\text{kg}/\text{m}^2$ adults, children $> 1\text{ SD}$)

³⁹ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2017/120/2/reg>

⁴⁰ [http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2018/53/1/reg](https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2018/53/1/reg)

⁴¹ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2018/9/1/reg>

SDG 4 – Goal target: Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy (4.6). Quality primary and secondary education (4.1), pre-primary education (4.2), tertiary education (4.3)

Indicators:

4.1.1. Proportion of children and young people:

(a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

EU Chapters relevant for this SDG 4 are 23 and 28.

In July 2018 the Government adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the RS Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development 2016-2020 – Research for Innovation. Based on the analysis of the state of play and key problems faced by Serbian society, the action plan defines measures for improving excellence and relevance of science and innovation ecosystem based on objectives defined by the Strategy, as well as instruments and guidelines for their achievement.

National Security Strategy emphasised the need to change the model of **primary and secondary education**, as well as to strengthen the educational function of primary school. The accessibility of primary and secondary education to rural residents will be increased. It will also improve the availability and quality of pre-school education, especially in the area of inclusive practice with children from vulnerable social groups. Higher education will improve the quality and accessibility to all categories of population.

EU Commission Progress Report noticed that Serbia is well prepared in the area of science and research. Certain progress has been achieved with regard to innovation policy and participation in the EU research programmes. During 2019, the RS should implement the National Research Strategy and, in particular, promote cooperation between industry and academia. ERP contains the same structural reform with predictions and concrete measures.

For specific SDG 4 Target- Relevant technical and vocational skills (4.4)

Adult Education Strategy⁴² is one of the instruments for resolving key social and economic challenges of the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, this strategy puts emphasis on professional education and training of adults. Serbia needs to restructure and improve its human potential. This would involve:

- Accessible education system to all categories of adults, through institutionalised and planned system
- Decentralisation and partnership approach in management, organisation and implementation of adult education
- Quality of education provided through legal framework and established standards. One of the priorities of the abovementioned Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia is achieving elementary literacy for Roma girls and women of all ages.

⁴² Strategy for Development of Adult Education in the Republic of Serbia

Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma in the Republic of Serbia prioritises programmes dealing with all levels of education, including adult education, affirmative measures for continuing education of Roma girls and women, and a broader range of scholarships for future Roma students, especially girls and women.

The Strategy also recognises the problem of insufficient level of elementary and scientific literacy and numeracy, as well as of computer, cultural and arts literacy of primary students in Serbia.

For the specific goal and indicator **4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill** most relevant strategic documents are:

National Youth Strategy 2015-2025⁴³

Strategic Goals:

The principles of the National Youth Strategy in the next 10 years are the following:

- Support for personal and social empowerment of youth; employment for young men and women
- Respect for human and minority rights, equality and non-discrimination
- Equal opportunities for all
- Importance of young people and their social roles
- Health and well-being of young men and women
- Active youth participation and cooperation, mobility, international cooperation and support to young migrants
- Support to and encouragement of freedom of association, cooperation with peers and intergenerational cooperation at the local, national and international level
- Access to information of young population and relevant information about them
- Social responsibility and solidarity

In defining activities for achieving the strategic goal and specific goals, the National Youth Strategy and Action Plan respect the constitutionally guaranteed independence of local self-government, and international legal standards related to freedom of association. The NYS specifically recognises the groups of young people who are vulnerable, marginalised, at risk of social exclusion and poverty as well as those who are exposed to multiple discrimination and exclusion. All developed goals and activities need to provide support to these groups of young people and better identification of vulnerable young people, while the action plan indicators must separately address and monitor all categories of young people at risk of social exclusion.

In an interview with Assistant Minister of the Ministry for Education, Science and Research we are informed that **Smart Specialisation Strategy in the Republic of Serbia from 2020 to 2027 - Made in smart and creative Serbia** is expected to be adopted by the Government during the first half of 2020. Through the process of smart specialisation, the Strategy is to direct the development of Serbia so that it is recognised as an economy of smart and creative people, highly competitive in the world for its products and services resulting from innovations built on knowledge, creativity and partnerships of local ecosystem in the fields of: sustainable high-tech high value-added food production for the future, sophisticated

⁴³ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/22/l/reg>

software solutions for the global market, production processes and machines for the future, creative solutions, with a high degree of cross-sector integrated industrial and business solutions and innovations.

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDG 4 - ISDACON

21st Century Schools, 275,945.00 GBP, United Kingdom

Embedding Democratic Culture for the benefit of Citizens of The Western Balkans

122,137.00 GBP, United Kingdom

Inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care Project, 47,000,000.00 EUR, World Bank

Sector Reform Contract for Education Reform in Serbia, 27,400,000.00 EUR, European Union Support in Development and Establishment of National Model of Dual Education, 715,100.00 CHF Switzerland

SDG 5 – achievement of gender equality

Combating all forms of discrimination and violence against women (5.1), (5.2), (5.5)

Indicators:

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex **5.2.1** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

National strategic document for preventing and combating violence against women in the family and in intimate partner relationships is in the process of drafting, with Coordination Body for Gender Equality, which is the main inter-ministerial body, in charge of that task.

The most important document for the implementation of SDG 5 is the **National Gender Equality Strategy** 2016-2020. This Strategy defines the following strategic goals: changed gender patterns and improved gender equality culture, higher equality of women and men through the implementation of public policies and equal opportunity measures, and systemic mainstreaming of gender perspective in public policy adoption, implementation and monitoring. During the interview with the Commissioner for equality protection we found out that there is a need to emphasise the difference between national or local strategies and internal strategies of the institution. **The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality** is not responsible, according to the mandate, for development of and/or proposing any (national) strategy. As regards other strategies, one of the most important national strategies for improving the mechanisms for combating discrimination is the National Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (for the period 2014-2018) which expired in 2018. In the Regular Annual Report, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality gave general recommendation regarding urgent adoption of the new National

Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination which has to be based on the evaluation of previously implemented strategy. The Commissioner for the Protection of Equality took part in the promotion of the UN Agenda 2030 during 2015. The achievement of SDGs has been part of the regular CPE activities, since then. Combating all forms of discrimination and achievement of equality in all segments of the society is the Commissioner's mission. "Bearing that in mind, I have to say that all our activities are cross-cutting in achievement of all 17 sustainable development goals", she said in an interview with author of this analyses. But, more specifically, the Commissioner can relate the activities of its projects with goals 4 (with sub-goal 4.7), 5, 10 (with sub-goal 10.3) and 16. The CPE just finished implementation of the two-year long project 'Strengthening Local Anti-Discrimination and Institutional Capacities of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality' funded by the Kingdom of Norway. This project can be related to SDG 16. Also, for many years now, with the support of the Open Society Foundation, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality has been inviting interested students of undergraduate and master studies of law to apply to the Moot Court Simulation Discrimination. Next Moot Court competition will take place in March 2020. We can relate this project to SDG 10 and 16. The Project 'Bridge of Understanding – Intergenerational solidarity' is one of the permanent CPE projects, organised by the Commissioner in cooperation with the Red Cross of Serbia on 1 October - International Day of Older Persons. This project can be related to SDG 4.7. In December 2015 the Republic of Serbia established an Intersectoral Cooperation Working Group at the national level for implementation of the UN Agenda 2030. Planning, implementation and monitoring of strategies are within the mandate of the relevant state institutions. As mentioned above, CPE is an independent state body with no specific activities identified in national strategies. However, CPE can react, according to the law, if such document (or documents) contains any discriminatory article.

In an interview with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Policy we gathered information regarding SDG 5 - gender equality. Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2020 is essential for the achievement of SDG 5. The Strategy identifies the following objectives: transformed gender patterns and strengthened gender equality culture, enhanced equality of women and men as a result of implementation of public policies and equal opportunity measures, and systemic mainstreaming of gender equality. In that context, in November 2019 a public opinion survey on gender equality promotion and prevention and combating domestic and partner violence against women was conducted by the **Anti-Discrimination and Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs**. The results indicate that there is high correlation between the lack of gender equality and violence against women. To the question "In your opinion, has gender equality been achieved in Serbia?", 58% of respondents replied that gender equality was achieved partially, 26% gave negative answer, and 14% positive. 2% of respondents think that there is sound legal framework, but not sufficiently followed in practice to ensure full gender equality. Serbia is the first non-EU member state which has put in place the **Gender Equality Index**. The data show that Serbia is lagging behind in all gender equality areas in comparison to the EU MS average (except for women in power, in which case there is significant representation of women in legislative, judiciary and executive branches), which is coupled with serious gap in relation to employment and labour and finances. In Serbia, gender pay gap is at 11%.

The Anti-Discrimination and Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs is in charge of the development, implementation and monitoring of measures and policies geared to the prevention of all forms of discrimination. It is particularly focused on the achievement of **UN SDGs 1 and 5 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere and Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)**.

The parameters of sustainable development are monitored by **Centre for Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking**, in cooperation with the Statistical Office of Serbia.

Institutional framework, including all the institutions in charge of monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy will be listed in the accompanying Action Plan.

For the purpose of monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the Action Plan, all bodies responsible for its implementation are under reporting obligation, submitting the reports to the **Government Disability Council** - a non-permanent body. The reporting is done through the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs. As a result, a summary report on the implementation is published on the webpage of the MoLEVSA. The reports are submitted every three years upon the adoption, and the final report no later than six months upon the expiry of the Strategy. The results of the AP implementation are reported annually. The purpose of these reports is to serve as a basis for analysis and review of results achieved and for the assessment of needs of persons with disability in order to identify actors who have not performed as required and to take corrective measures.

The implementing institutions will exchange information with civil society organisations on the programmes, projects and activities implemented which contribute to implementation of the measures envisaged under the Gender Equality Strategy and the accompanying Action Plans.

Further, the question of the functioning and social integration of persons with disability needs to be integrated into statistical surveys conducted by the Republic Statistical Office, such as census, income and **Living Standards Survey**, and the results need to be regularly processed, data generated and published.

Among other strategies, it is worth mentioning the **Strategy for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking, in particular of Women and Children, and Victim Protection 2017-2022**, as well as the **Education Strategy**, which includes the principle of equal access to education for boys and girls.

EU Chapters relevant for this SDG are 19, 23 and 24. Action Plans for Chapters 23 and 24 are under revision at this moment.

SDG 6 – Ensure availability of drinking water and sanitation for all

Serbia is implementing SDG 6 through transposition of the two key EU directives. Relative harmonisation with the **Drinking Water Directive** is achieved in a number of fields, but there are big problems in parts of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina where underground waters contain arsenic. Investment needs for the implementation of the **Drinking Water Directive** and especially for the Wastewater Treatment Directive are huge. Key strategic document in this field, specifically aimed at the implementation of **SDG target 6.3:** Improve water quality (UN indicator 6.3.1.), **SDG target 6.4:** Raise the efficiency of water consumption in all sectors (UN indicator 6.4.1.) and **SDG target 6.5:** Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, is the **Water Management Strategy on the territory of Republic of Serbia for the period 2016-2034**. The aim is to achieve integrated water management, i.e. harmonised water regime throughout the Republic of Serbia and to enable water management with

maximum economic and social effect in an equitable and sustainable manner while complying with international agreements (UN indicator 6.5.2.). It is estimated that, for the development and efficient water management (SDG 6, access to safe water and sanitation for all), in the next 20 years, it is necessary to invest 21.7 billion EUR, while 43% of this investment is needed for channelling and water protection (7.7 billion EUR).

SDG Target Access to safe and affordable drinking water (6.1) with indicator 6.1.1

Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services and for specific goals: Improve water quality (6.3), increase water-use efficiency (6.4), implement integrated water resources management at all levels (6.5), and for Indicators 6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated, 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time , 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources, 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100), 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Water Management Strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2016-2034⁴⁴

The water management concept is based on the main natural characteristics of the territory of the Republic of Serbia, the present status of water resources and water management, and the need to meet the water demand, protect water resources and ensure protection against the adverse effects of water, keeping in mind the requirement to align with international standards in this field (particularly with those of the European Union), while honouring international commitments.

The water management approach largely depends on the economic strength of the economy and available water resources. In this regard, Serbia belongs to the group of economies which need to prioritise development in the field of water management.

A proper approach to the selection of the concept needs to ensure the economy's ability to respond to sudden natural events (floods, droughts, etc.) and achieve set objectives, including necessary capital projects. The globally preferred concept is that of integrated water management, defined as "a process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximise the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems". The concept of sustainable development is also endorsed, while adaptive water management is gaining prominence as it aims to adapt water management to changeable natural, social and economic drivers. Serbia has accepted but not yet implemented the integrated water management concept, such that achieving integrated water management, or a harmonised water regime across the economy, and ensuring the kind of water management that will maximise economic and social benefits in an equitable and sustainable manner, while honouring international agreements, constitutes a long-term strategic goal that requires considerable time (more than two decades, with a proper approach) and enormous spending (about one billion € annually).

Before integrated water-management is fully implemented, given the economic strength of the economy and the availability of water resources, Serbia needs to manage water resources in a largely centralised manner and prioritise activities and capital projects. This primarily involves the following:

⁴⁴ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2017/3/l/reg>

- Enactment of missing legislation and optimisation of capital project preparation
- Major capacity strengthening of government agencies, local administrations and other institutions responsible for water management (central and local levels)
- Increased water sector revenues through gradual introduction of economic water prices and service charges, and involvement of the private sector in investment activities
- Increased revenues from water fees and their exclusive use within the water sector
- Improved water management capability, through efficient implementation of day-to-day activities, maintenance and capital projects
- Increased capacity of technical and scientific institutions and their more extensive networking with the administration and other relevant institutions

The water management policy is founded on the following:

- Water is an irreplaceable, renewable resource, a precondition for proper functioning and development of society and a prerequisite for the survival of natural environment and the entire human community, whereby the management of water resources and water infrastructure constitutes a national interest and an obligation;
- Water resources are natural assets owned by the Republic of Serbia and, as such, cannot be removed from public property, but concessions and usage rights over them may be acquired;
- Water resources must be managed in an integrated manner, based on the principle of sustainable development, with Serbia constituting a single territorial entity for the purposes of water management;
- Public water supply is in the public interest and has priority over all other types of water use;
- Protection of water resources and protected areas is in the public interest and a national priority, such that it needs to be implemented under the scrutiny of relevant national institutions;
- The risk of adverse effects of water cannot be eliminated but can be reduced to a socially and economically acceptable level, while the mind-set associated with protection against the adverse effects of water needs to change, in terms of delineation of social and individual responsibilities;
- The institutional framework needs to enable water management with clearly delineated responsibilities of different government agencies and other stakeholders, with mandatory coordination of planning and capital project implementation activities;
- Steady funding (permanent sources, projected extent, procurement, up-to-date payer databases, revenue collection mechanisms, economic pricing of water based on full cost recovery and the "user pays" and "polluter pays" principles, and the like), and self-funded operations, are expected to make the water sector less dependent on government funding;
- Construction of water infrastructure needs to be funded from different sources (water funds, revenues of local administrations, water prices, IPA and other funds, project owner's resources and loans); the proportions will depend on the significance, size and purpose of the project in question;
- Capital projects relevant to the state, region and/or local administration, especially those funded from public revenues, can be implemented more efficiently via specific capital project implementation centres (a new or existing regional development agency, provided that their technical capacity is strengthened);
- Water infrastructure maintenance is an obligation and needs to comply with technical standards and norms;
- Citizens are entitled to information and direct participation in the creation of water management plans for water districts, to which the National Water Conference needs to contribute;

- More effective and prudent water management requires a higher level of cooperation with scientific and research organisations and institutions and ongoing and programmed efforts to improve engineering, construction, service and other capacities at government and local levels, and the creation of a better material and information base for their operations.

Improving water management

Objectives have been defined for each water sector segment, which need to be achieved during the planning period in order to fulfil the main strategic goal of water management.

Water use: Public water supply

- Increased public water supply coverage from the current 81% to 93% at the end of the planning period
- Steady water supply and compliant water quality, along with a reduced risk of interruptions in extreme or emergency situations
- Reduced proportion of unbilled water in public water supply systems to about 25%
- Efficient water use, along with a gradual water price increase to economic levels
- Protection of water supply sources (establishment of sanitary protection zones), exploration, protection and conservation of water resources

Water use: Irrigation

- Sufficient amounts of water for irrigating 250,000 to 350,000 ha of farmland from Development Group I and part of Development Group II by the end of the planning period (revitalisation of existing systems on about 100,000 ha and construction of new systems on 150,000 to 250,000ha)
- Efficient water use ensured by appropriate irrigation depths by crop type and farmer awareness raising about modern irrigation technologies, protection from drought, associations, and market placement of products

Water pollution control (water protection)

- Establishment and implementation oversight of restrictions on wastewater discharges containing pollutants in excess of stipulated levels
- Establishment and implementation of a Water Pollution Control Plan and setting up of surface water and groundwater monitoring based on suitable programmes and applicable regulations
- Development of municipal infrastructures and wastewater treatment plants (reconstruction of existing and building of new plants) in agglomerations greater than 2,000 PE (85% population coverage)
- Reduced pollutant discharges from industrial facilities through wastewater pre-treatment to prescribed levels
- Removal of illegal solid waste dumps, primarily from protected areas, riparian lands with an unfavourable hydrological regime and the like, and rehabilitation of existing and construction of new landfills per applicable strategic and planning documents
- Reduced pollutant discharges from diffuse sources, such as farmland, forest land, roads and agglomerations smaller than 2,000 PE

- Reduced pressures on groundwater quality, through the establishment, monitoring and maintenance of sanitary protection zones of drinking water supply sources
- Conservation and achievement of good quantitative status of groundwater, to ensure sufficient amounts of water of satisfactory quality, to respond to present and future demands of all legitimate users
- Establishment of comprehensive monitoring of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater and systematic observation of pollutants in large rivers (the Sava, the Danube, the Tisa and the Velika Morava), and of groundwater sources of the bank filtration type in the alluvial aquifers of these rivers

National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources⁴⁵

The main, basic goals that are set to be achieved under this National Strategy are:

1. directing and providing the conditions for sustainable use of natural resources and goods, creating the basis for setting plans, programmes and bases for each individual natural resource or good;
2. reducing the negative impact of the use of resources on the economy and the environment, by establishing basic indicators to be monitored;
3. contribution to directing development towards sustainable production (through less and more efficient use of natural resources) and consumption (changing established modes of consumption), as well as greening public procurement.

SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDG 6 - ISDACON

1. Rehabilitation Water Supply / Waste Mid-Sized Municipalities I, Ph. II - GRANT, 23,500,000.00 EUR, Germany
2. Rehabilitation Water Supply / Waste Mid-Sized Municipalities I, Ph. II - MEKI KREDIT, 25,000,000.00, EUR, Germany
3. Water and Sewage Program in Mid-Sized Municipalities in Serbia V - SOFT LOAN, 17,000,000.00 EUR Germany

SDG 7 is implemented in Serbia through a set of strategic documents and institutional arrangements providing coordinated energy growth of South East Europe. The acquis for energy and related environmental acquis set the highest European standards in this field and are implemented under the supervision of the Energy Community for South East Europe. The key goals are: stable regulatory and market framework, integrated energy market, access to energy service (**SDG 7.1**), improvement of current condition of the environment regarding access to energy and promotion of renewable energy sources (**SDG 7.2**) and energy efficiency (**SDG 7.3**). In addition to the policy framework document - **Energy Development Strategy until 2025**, the Ministry of Mining and Energy is obliged to produce, update and report on the

implementation progress of the two types of plans developed in line with the EU methodology. These are **national plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy resources**.

According to **ERP** Serbia has a pronounced need for higher investments in infrastructure and capacity building for the purpose of efficient implementation of reforms in the energy and transport market. The energy sector needs to be transformed – by increasing energy efficiency, environmental sustainability and supply source diversification. The transport sector requires modernisation and better maintenance, coupled with road traffic safety improvement.

Upgrading energy infrastructure (SDG 7.b) at the regional level is supported by priority projects of the European Community which meet the overall and specific criteria for the Trans-European Energy Infrastructure (TEN-E) and whose long-term benefits exceed the expenses, and have a cross-border dimension.

In line with the Strategy, the Spatial Plan and the action plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, the Energy Strategy Implementation Programme will define measures for the transposition of EU directives and Energy Community decisions and recommendations, as well as the obligations set in the Western Balkan Sustainable Charter within the Berlin process.

In an interview with representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy we found out that the Energy Sector Development Strategy until 2025 with projections to 2030 was adopted on 4 December 2015 by Serbian Parliament and published in Official Gazette No 101/15. The Strategy defines the main priorities of the energy sector development: improvement of security of supply, development of energy market and sustainable development (increasing the share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption, 9% of energy saving in final energy consumption by 2018 and environmental protection). The Energy Strategy defines the main priorities and activities in each field of energy (electricity, oil and gas, coal, heat, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources).

The Decree on establishing the Programme for the Implementation of Energy Strategy was adopted in October 2017 by Serbian Government and published in Official Gazette 104/17. The Programme defines all activities, measures and projects to be implemented over the period of 6 years in the energy sector.

The Energy Community (EnC) adopted the Recommendation 2018/01/MC-EnC on preparing for the development of Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (INECPs) by the Contracted Parties of the Energy Community, addressing the five dimensions of the EU Energy Union Strategy. In order to meet the obligations in accordance with the Energy Community Treaty and defined Serbian contribution to the EU targets for 2030 in the field of energy and climate, and in particular to monitor performance of energy policy, **developing strategic documents** is of utmost importance. MoME is in charge of developing, implementing and monitoring energy policy. In accordance with the mentioned EnC Ministerial Council Recommendation, Serbia should prepare Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans for the period from 2021 to 2030. 4th National Energy Efficiency Action Plan should have been adopted during the first half of 2019, but it was not adopted.

The Steering Committee and Working Group, consisted of relevant representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, have been established for the preparation of strategic documents. During the process of the preparation of strategic documents, public consultations and public hearings were held and opinions

⁴⁵ http://www.zzps.rs/novo/kontent/stranicy/propisi_strategije/S_prirodnih%20resursa.pdf

of relevant ministries provided. The Reports on SEA have been prepared and public consultations and public hearings held.

According to the Law on Energy, Article 8, the Ministry is obliged to prepare the annual Report on the Implementation of the Energy Strategy and the Programme for the Implementation Energy Strategy. The first annual Report on implementation of Energy Strategy and Programme for the Implementation of Energy Strategy have been prepared. List of relevant projects supporting energy policy strategic goals in Serbia is attached as an Annex to this document.

I. Strategy for Development of Energy Sector of the Republic of Serbia till 2025 with predictions until 2030⁴⁶

Provision of energy security, energy market development and overall transition towards sustainable energy sector are imposed as key priorities of energy sector development in the Republic of Serbia, i.e. principles based on which the energy sector policy should be developed by 2030.

ENERGY SECURITY

- Reliable, safe, efficient and quality supply of energy and energy products
- Setting up conditions for reliable and safe operation and sustainable development of energy systems and energy sector in general

ENERGY MARKET

- Competitiveness in electricity market based on non-discrimination, publicity and transparency
- Protection of energy and energy product consumers
- Development of electricity and natural gas markets and their connection with the single energy market of the EU
- Stronger connection of energy system of the Republic of Serbia with energy systems of other economies, especially the neighbouring ones

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Provision of conditions for energy efficiency improvement in energy and energy consumption
- Creating economic and financial conditions for increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources and for combined production of electric and heat energy
- Creating institutional, financial and technical preconditions for using new energy sources
- Promotion of environmental conditions and environmental protection system in all fields of energy activities
- Establishing more favourable legal and institutional conditions and logistics for more intensive investment into energy sector

2. Implementation Programme of the Strategy for Development of Energy Sector till 2025 with predictions until 2030 for the period 2017-2030⁴⁷

The Energy Strategy defines the strategic priorities of the energy development of the Republic of Serbia for the mentioned period, namely:

I. Ensuring energy security through:

- reliable, safe, efficient and quality energy and energy supply
- establishment of conditions for reliable and safe operation of all systems within the energy sector and for their sustainable development

In order to ensure a secure, reliable and high-quality energy supply, it is necessary to promote rational use of energy, provide adequate reserves of oil and natural gas and provide various sources of supply to these energy sources, to build new capacities for electricity production (renewable energy sources, as well as conventional energy sources, with high energy efficiency) and capacities for transmission and distribution of electricity and energy products that will ensure secure supply at the lowest total cost.

II. Development of the energy market through:

- Ensuring competitiveness in the energy market on the principles of non-discrimination, publicity and transparency
- protection of customers of energy and energy products
- development of electricity and natural gas markets and their integration into the European Union's single energy market
- Stronger connection of the energy system of the Republic of Serbia with the energy systems of other economies, especially the neighbouring ones

In accordance with the Energy Community Treaty, the Republic of Serbia has set the establishment of a regional energy market as one of its priorities. This market should facilitate integration into the EU energy market, allow more investments in this sector and contribute to its development.

III. Transition to sustainable energy through:

- provision of conditions for improvement of energy efficiency in carrying out energy activities and energy consumption
- creation of economic and financial conditions for increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources and for combined production of electricity and heat
- creation of institutional, financial and technical conditions for the use of new energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, biogas, etc.)
- improvement of the state and system of environmental protection in all fields of energy activities;
- establishment of favourable legal and institutional conditions and logistics for more intensive investment in energy

EU Chapter 15: Energy is most relevant for this SDG and for other targets. EC Progress Report for Serbia 2019 emphasises⁴⁸:

EU energy policy covers energy supply, infrastructure, the internal energy market, consumers, renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, nuclear safety and radiation protection.

Serbia is moderately prepared in this field. Limited progress was made in a number of areas. However, as regards energy market reforms in particular, the shortcomings have not been properly addressed.

⁴⁶ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2015/I01/l/reg>

⁴⁷ <https://www.mre.gov.rs/doc/efikasnost-izvori/UREDJA%20O%20UTVRDJIVANJU%20PROGRAMA%20OSTVARIVANJA%20STRATEGIJE%20RAZVOJA%20ENERGETIKE%20ZA%20PERIOD%20OD%202017%20DO%202023.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-serbia-report.pdf>

In the coming year, Serbia should in particular:

- fully unbundle and certify Srbijagas and Yugorosgaz and develop competition in the gas market as well as implement the conditions requested by the Energy Community Secretariat on the exemption of Gastrans, in particular the measures that increase liquidity on the gas market and ensure third-party access to parts of the new capacity
- fully implement the connectivity reform measures as committed to under the Connectivity Agenda
- strengthen human resources capacity and promote investment in energy efficiency including through establishing a sustainable financing system and initiate reforms to introduce cost-reflective electricity tariffs fully taking into account investment needs, climate change commitments and social security implications as well as reform electricity price regulation accordingly

ERP Structural reform I - Energy market development coupled with energy infrastructure construction

The construction of the Niš-Dimitrovgrad trunk gas pipeline, 108 km in length, will provide the diversification of supply routes and sources, as well as improved security of supply for Serbia, Bulgaria and the entire region, while significantly reducing the burden on the northern part of the gas pipeline system.

ERP Structural reform 2 - Improvement of conditions for increasing energy efficiency and improvement of the existing infrastructure in energy consumption sectors

Within this reform, further efforts will be invested in improving the regulatory energy efficiency framework, as well as its further alignment with the EU legislation in this area. The reform is aligned with the RS Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with projections until 2030, the Programme of Implementation of the RS Energy Development Strategy until 2025 with Projections until 2030, for the period from 2017 to 2023, the Third Action Plan for Energy Efficiency in the RS, as well as the National Programme for EU Acquis Adoption (NPAA).

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure is planning to develop the Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investment in the Renovation of the National Building Stock in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. There are ongoing activities on drafting this strategy. With the technical support of GIZ Project and engagement of experts from the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, the Terms of Reference for the Strategy drafting were completed in 2019. The public call was published, expert team selected and agreement signed. The Strategy should be finalised by the end of 2020 as per the presented dynamics.

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDG 7 - ISDACON

[Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings II grant](#)

1,500,000.00 EUR, Germany

[EU support to the Energy sector](#)

49,600,000.00 EUR, European Union

[Modernisation of the Ash Handling System in TPP Nikola Tesla A](#)

45,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

[Promotion of renewable energy: developing the biomass market in the Republic of Serbia](#)

5,200,000.00 CHF, Switzerland

[Promotion of Renewable Energy: Developing the Biomass Market in the Republic of Serbia \(first component\)](#)

20,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

[Regional Programme for EE in the Transmission System II](#)

60,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

[Rehabilitation of district heating - phase 4 - GRANT](#)

4,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

[Rehabilitation of District Heating Systems Phase V](#)

30,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

[Rehabilitation of District Heating Systems Phase-GRANT](#)

2,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

[SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all](#)

Target: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances (8.1)

is reflected in many strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia. Ministry of Finance has several strategic documents crucial for the achievement of sustainable economic growth valid after 2020. The most important are: **the Revised Fiscal Strategy for 2020, with projections for 2021 and 2022, and the Economic Reform Programme 2019-2021. Both are covering different aspects of the 2030 Agenda.**

The Fiscal Strategy defines the focus of economic and fiscal policies of the Republic of Serbia, namely sustaining macroeconomic stability coupled with further reducing the public debt and restoring it to a sustainable level, as well as continuing the implementation of structural reforms, especially with regard to public enterprises, and raising public sector efficiency. The Economic Reform Programme prioritises structural reforms already included in sector-specific strategies and facilitates centralised monitoring of their implementation, as well as measurement of their social impact and impact on competitiveness. In an interview with representatives of the Ministry of Finance we find out that preparation of new documents are planned. The Fiscal Strategy and the ERP are rolling documents, prepared each year for the next 3-year period. Preparation of ERP 2020-2022 is in the final phases and will be adopted by the end of January 2020, and the next cycle will start in June. In 2020 Ministry of Finance envisaged preparation and adoption of the new strategic document -

Public Financial Management Reform Programme for the period after 2020. It has already started with preparatory activities, with special emphasis on relation to the Public Administration Reform (PAR). There are several SDGs related to MoF. But the most important role of MoF in relation to the 2030 Agenda, recognised by donor community, is horizontal one - in securing funds for public financial management, and therefore financing of 2030 Agenda in general. MoF is a beneficiary of the Project Public Finance Reform – Financing 2030 Agenda, implemented by GIZ and financed by the German and the Swiss governments.⁴⁹

ERP Structural reform 7 - Tax Administration transformation

The Tax Administration transformation and its goals are based on the need to establish a modern and efficient administration, creating room for easier and fairer operating conditions for taxpayers and better communication of taxpayers with the Tax Administration. Reform areas have been divided into three interconnected and interdependent groups, which present an additional challenge and require great commitment and synchronisation.

In December 2017, the **Action Plan to the Transformation Programme for 2018-2023** was adopted, as well as the Decision on Core and Non-core Activities of the Tax Administration, focusing the Tax Administration on the core tax activities and the first phase of organisational unit consolidation. During 2020, the Tax Administration plans to reengineer business processes for the introduction of international good practices in its operational functions and further consolidation of key functions of core tax administration in a few organisational units in the business network.

The Strategy on Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period of 2016-2020 (Research for Innovation) only partially encompasses the elements defined under SDG 8 – Target: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation (focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors) (8.2). The Strategy is set to enhance the excellence and relevance of scientific research in the Republic of Serbia, as well as to strengthen the links amongst science, business sector and society to spark innovation. The focus is on how to improve the public science and research system in Serbia and how this sector can contribute to economic growth through its better linkages with the business sector. Preparation of new strategy for post-2020 period is in the final phase. The strategic framework for upgrading the overall technological level of Serbia's industry will be further improved by the Smart Specialisation Strategy and the Industrial Development Strategy, which are under preparation. **Smart Specialisation Strategy from 2020 to 2027 - Made in smart and creative Serbia is aimed to direct the development of Serbia** so that it is recognised as an economy of smart and creative people, highly competitive in the world for its products and services resulting from innovations built on knowledge, creativity and partnerships of the local ecosystem in the fields of:

- sustainable high-tech high value-added food production for the future
- sophisticated software solutions for the global market
- production processes and machines for the future
- creative solutions

with a high degree of cross-sector integrated industrial and business solutions and innovations.

In the past, Serbia's industrial policies were not focused on the economy's key comparative advantages. A new **Industrial Development Strategy** for Serbia is under preparation; it will be focused on the selected manufacturing sectors: food industry, wood processing and furniture industry, rubber and plastics industry, and machine and equipment industry. This Strategy will also include environmental protection as a cross-cutting principle, thus achieving better link to **SDG 8 – Target: Improve progressively global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation (8.4)**, which is currently not directly covered by the existing strategic framework.

Creative industries (especially film and audio-visual) feature prominently in Serbia, recording a steady growth. Creative industry development in Serbia is among the five priorities of the **Culture Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period of 2017-2027⁵⁰**. National strategy which will cover creative industries is under preparation.

Also, the **Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025** has the overall objective to use artificial intelligence for economic growth, employment and a better quality of life.

The specific objectives of the Strategy are:

1. Development of education geared to the needs of modern society and economy conditioned by the advancement of artificial intelligence
2. The development of science and innovation in the field of artificial intelligence and its applications
3. Developing an economy based on artificial intelligence (where this is a key competence and where it is used in various industries)
4. Improvement of assumptions for the development of artificial intelligence and public sector services through the application of artificial intelligence
5. Ethical and secure application of artificial intelligence

Many activities geared towards the achievement of **SDG 8 – Target: Full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value (8.5)** are defined in the **National Employment Strategy for the period of 2011-2020**. The new strategy document is under preparation.

SDG 8 – Target: Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (8.6) is one of the key priorities of the **National Youth Strategy 2015-2025**. The nine strategic goals of this document include youth employability and employment, and quality of and opportunities for acquiring qualifications and youth competency and innovativeness development. Youth employment is recognised as a priority in the National Employment Strategy as well. In addition, very important are the initiatives launched under the Strategy for Education Development in Serbia until 2020, which, *inter alia*, aims to improve the quality of and access to all education levels, as well as their linkage to employers' needs in Serbia.

An elaborate strategic framework is in place with regard to **SDG 8 – Target: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers (8.8)**. This topic is addressed by the National Employment Strategy, as well as the **Occupational Health and Safety Strategy for the period of 2018-2022⁵¹**. The strategic vision is to improve the area of occupational safety, raise awareness of the importance of this topic, improve knowledge, establish occupational culture and create prerequisites for occupational well-being through joint efforts by employers and employees. Working environment in the Republic of Serbia is constantly changing due to number of factors, primarily demographic and technological, which creates new challenges in occupational risk, requires constant adaptation, but is also an opportunity to improve overall working conditions.

⁵⁰ <http://www.kultura.gov.rs/docs/dokumenti/nacrt-strategije-razvoja-kulture-republike-srbije-od-2017--do-2027/-nacrt-strategije-razvoja-kulture-republike-srbije-od-2017--do-2027-.pdf>

⁵¹ <http://www.kultura.gov.rs/docs/dokumenti/nacrt-strategije-razvoja-kulture-republike-srbije-od-2017--do-2027/-nacrt-strategije-razvoja-kulture-republike-srbije-od-2017--do-2027-.pdf>

Proactive measures in occupational safety are always considered a smart investment, since employers' biggest loss is in a case of employee's death or serious injury. Provision of decent working conditions also increases productivity. The Occupational Safety Strategy, valid until 2022, gives a general framework of the prevention policy, with the aim to:

1. Prevent and reduce the number of injury cases and professional diseases
2. Improve health and well-being of employees and preserve their working abilities
3. Support innovation, quality and efficiency

Efficient and effective professional risk prevention system also influences safety conditions, occupational health and employees' productivity.

Overall goal of the Strategy is to improve work safety and preserve general health of working population, also with the aim to prevent work injuries, occupational diseases, or their reducing. Strategy aims to reduce the number of total work-caused injuries in the Republic of Serbia by 5%, as compared to the previous 5-year period of strategy implementation.

All relevant entities in the safety and public health system need to take part in implementation of activities and full integration of safety regulations.

Specific Goals

Specific strategic goals are:

1. Improvement of occupational safety and health
2. Prevention of work-caused injuries and professional diseases
3. Improvement of track-records of work-caused injuries

Key indicators of general and specific goals are presented in the Action Plan for Strategy Implementation 2018-2022.

The primary goal of the recently adopted **Tourism Development Strategy 2016 – 2025**⁵² is sustainable economic, environmental and social development of tourism in the Republic of Serbia. The sustainable tourism principle permeates all activities proposed by the Strategy; thus, the Strategy provides a sound framework for the achievement of **SDG 8 – Target: Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism (8.9) (with UN Indicators: 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate, 8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs)**.

National strategic developmental goals until 2025 are:

1. Increasing the share of hotels and similar catering facilities in total accommodation capacities to 50%;
2. Reaching a total occupancy of accommodation capacities (accommodation units) of 30%;
3. Increasing tourist influx by up to three times, or at least by 50%, by 2025;
4. Increasing unit expenditure of tourists (per night) by 50%;

⁵² <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/96/l/reg>

5. Increasing the share of inbound tourists' overnights to 45% by 2020 and to 55% by 2025;
6. Increasing the direct share of tourism in the GDP of the Republic of Serbia twice over;
7. Increasing the amount of direct employment in the tourism industry by at least 50% and increasing employment in tourism and complementary activities by up to three times;
8. Growth of direct investments.

It is also necessary to achieve the following objectives:

1. Establish an efficient system of tourism development management coupled with a strengthening of PPP;
2. Improve and align methodologies and procedures for collection and processing of statistical data with international standards and practices.
3. Establish the National Touristic Register with the aim to reduce non-registered tourist facilities
4. Reduce the grey economy in tourism.

SDG 8 – Target: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all (8.10) is not comprehensively covered by the existing strategic framework, although improving access to finance is one of the priorities of the SME Strategy, and different programmes are being implemented by the National Bank of Serbia and the Ministry of Economy to improve financial literacy of all people or improve access to banking services for SMEs. A crucial future step that will contribute to the achievement of this goal will be the establishment of an institutional and legal framework for microfinance, which is anticipated in the forthcoming period.

For specific goals: Sustainable economic growth (8.1), entrepreneurship (8.3) with UN Indicator
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Both Strategy for Supporting the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness for the period 2015 – 2020 (Ministry of Economy) and new Strategy and Policy of the Industrial Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period after 2020 are in the process of drafting.

Free Zones Development Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period of, 2018-2022⁵³ is valid and corresponds with SDG 8. Free zones of the Republic of Serbia are dedicated to economic progress through the creation of the most favourable locations for business in accordance with the socio-economic strategies of the Government. The vision of free zones is to become a leading economic instrument for attracting direct investment, which contributes fully to the sustainable development of the Republic of Serbia through socio-economic growth and transformation of the country into a global centre for investment, trade and logistics. The mission of the free zones is to provide added value to the economy by creating the most favourable investment and business locations in the Republic of Serbia in order to attract domestic and foreign companies engaged in high-tech production intended for export.

The development of free zones encourages:

1. Effective attraction of direct investments through a combination of state financial support programmes and free zone benefits;
2. Improvement of tax relief policy in free zones in accordance with national regional development policy;
3. Expansion of areas of existing zones, especially in devastated areas;
4. Increase in traffic in free zones by at least 5% per year;

⁵³ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/48/l/reg>

5. Encouraging investment in new technologies;
6. Construction of facilities for incubation of production activities;
7. Infrastructure equipment of land intended for incubation of production activities;
8. Increasing the role of local governments through the system of municipal benefits;
9. Introduction of new services in free zones;
10. Encouraging small companies and individuals to cooperate with large companies in order to supply them with products and services;
11. Creating the best conditions for doing business in free zones after joining the European Union;
12. Improvement of cooperation with state institutions engaged in encouraging the development of entrepreneurship.

SDG 8 Specific goal: Resource efficiency in consumption and production (8.4) with

Indicators:

- 8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP
- 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

The aims of the Strategy for Implementing the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – **Aarhus Convention**⁵⁴ are:

- Identification of precise state of affairs in the areas most important for the application of the Convention
- Identification of discrepancies and inconsistencies between the implementation system and Serbian legal framework
- Suggestion of activities to harmonise the law with obligations set by the Aarhus Convention and other related conventions
- Provision of conditions for further improvement and introduction of good practices related to the Aarhus Convention and other related conventions
- Establishment of the foundation for tracking mechanisms

The relevant strategic document for the specific goal **8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities** is National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period post-2020 which is under preparation, as already mentioned.

The relevant strategic document for the specific goal **Unemployment of youth (8.6)** with Indicator: **8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training** is National Youth Strategy for the period 2015 - 2025.

The relevant strategic document for the specific goal: Labour rights, safe and secure working environments (8.8) with UN Indicator 8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status is Strategy for the Occupational Safety in the Republic of Serbia 2018-2022⁵⁵. Provision of decent working conditions also increases productivity. The Occupational Safety Strategy, valid until 2022, gives a general framework of the prevention policy, with the aim to:

1. Prevent and reduce the number of injury cases and professional diseases
2. Improve health and well-being of employees and preserve their working abilities
3. Support innovation, quality and efficiency

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDG 8

- Cooperation for Growth, 949,952.00, USD, United States
- Private Sector Development in South-West Serbia, Phase 3 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Mandate project agreement with Zlatibor PSD d.o.o. 5,350,000.00, CHF, Switzerland
- Enhancing Infrastructure Efficiency and Sustainability Program, 100,000,000.00 EUR, World Bank
- Government Debt and Risk Management Program (GDRM II), 640,000.00 CHF, Switzerland
- Competitive Economy Project 11,950,000.00 USD, United States
- EU support to Competitiveness and Innovation, 3,700,000.00 EUR, European Union
- Hellenic plan for Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans- part for supporting the private investments in production, 46,500,000.00 EUR, Greece
- Public Private Dialogue for Growth Activity, 1,437,704.00 USD, United States
- EU support to Competitiveness sector, 39,800,000.00 EUR, European Union

SDG 9 - Promote sustainable industrialization

Although a revision of the framework strategy for industrial development in Serbia is only in the preparation stage, many existing strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia are linked to the elements essential for the achievement of SDG 9. There is a strong linkage between this goal, which primarily concerns sustainable industrialisation, and the areas of sustainable economic growth, science and innovation, environmental protection, sustainable resource management and other areas. **The newest Economic Reform Programme** emphasised that industrial sector growth was achieved in Serbia in the past few years through the growth of manufacturing output and stronger investment and exports. However, the manufacturing output structure is dominated by low value-added upstream products (due to insufficient investment in knowledge and innovation), connections among the industrial, education and R&D policy are insufficient, while industrial policy measures do not specifically target the promotion of industrial development, and in the software industry proprietary product development is missing. **Structural reform 6 - Increasing the competitiveness of industry** will help create a focused and better coordinated policy for the development of industry, and contribute to improving the efficiency of the instruments for its implementation. The reform also includes the prioritisation of areas in which there is already economic, technological and innovative competitiveness in line with the smart specialisation principle and is based on the postulates of the New Industrial Strategy and Smart Specialisation Strategy, which are under preparation. These strategies will ensure the mutual connection between innovation, research and development and education, as well as other areas such as environmental protection and IT development.

54 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/103/l/reg>

55 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/96/l/reg>

With regard to the achievement of **SDG 9 – Target: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure (9.1)**, sector-specific strategies in the areas of transport and energy are highly relevant. A new **Transport Strategy until 2025** is under preparation and will cover all modes of transport. Currently, the **Railway, Road, Waterway, Air and Intermodal Transport Development Plan until 2020**, the **National Programme for Public Railway Infrastructure** and the **Waterway Transport Development Strategy** provide the strategic basis for transport infrastructure development in Serbia.

According to the newest **ERP** Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) have not been developed in Serbia, with the exception of the River Information System (RIS) implemented on the Danube and the Sava rivers. One of Serbia's priorities in the area of transport is the ITS development, with the definition of the strategic framework, and the provision of capacity and necessary measures for its use. A framework for introducing an ITS for road and railway transport has been defined as part of the process of designing the Transport Strategy 2016-2025, which is currently being drafted and updated. A national strategy for ITS development and use, accompanied by an action plan, is supported by the WBIF (EUR 1.9 million), but the ITS implementation is facing delays.

The most important strategic framework document in the area of energy is the **Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia** until 2025, with projections until 2030. A fundamental principle of the Strategy is sustainable energy with focus on enhancing energy efficiency, increasing the share of energy from renewable sources, improving environmental protection in all areas of energy and providing prerequisites for more intensive investment in energy.

SDG 9 – Target: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities and encourage innovation (9.5) is covered by the **Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development** of the Republic of Serbia until 2020, which is expected to be adopted by the Government until the end of 2019. With regard to target 9.5, the relevant elements of the Strategy are those concerned with increasing investment in science and research, introducing a new science funding model, strengthening links between science and business sector, and science and research staff development. The achievement of this target will also be supported by the Smart Specialisation Strategy, currently under preparation, which will provide a framework for upgrading technology and innovation in the priority sectors.

Newest **ERP Structural reform 15 - Set of measures providing financial support to research and innovation contributing to the development of the knowledge-based economy:**

Apart from support to innovation and technological development projects in R&D organisations and business sector, this reform also involves support to technology transfer, implementation of joint projects by public R&D organisations and private companies, as well as the introduction of research result-based management system. The RS Science Fund is an instrument which will improve and regulate the area of support to R&D activities, build on the institutional framework and, with the existing financing of innovation projects in the private sector (through the Fund for Innovation Activity), will have significant effect on the progress of knowledge-based society. During 2019 an independent international evaluation of Serbian public research and development institutes will be conducted in order to enhance their efficiency and capacities for collaboration with the private sector through technological projects. The Action Plan to the Strategy, which was adopted in July 2018, defines the measures and instruments which contribute to the improvement of this structural reform.

Target **Infrastructure (9.1) with Indicators:**

- 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road
- 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport

National Programme for the Public Railway Infrastructure for the period 2017 – 2021 (23/02/2017)⁵⁶ sets goals to maintain and improve the level of technical reliability and functionality of the railway infrastructure which are to be achieved by investing in:

1. Maintenance of railway infrastructure for safe and reliable operation of railway traffic, and
2. Development of railway infrastructure through:
 - Elimination of light runs and bottlenecks by renovating existing lines to restore them to the projected level
 - Modern two-track electrified track for mixed passenger and freight traffic and intermodal transport along the entire length of Corridor 10 in accordance with EU security and interoperability standards
 - Design speed of 160 km/h or 200 km/h on Corridor 10, in sections on which it is economically justified
 - Electrification of Corridor 10c Nis-Border of Bulgaria and Route 4 Pancevo-Vrsac
 - Reconstruction and rehabilitation of regional and local railways by staged use of track material obtained from the reconstruction of trunk lines

In accordance with ERP Structural reform 4: Reform of railways the ultimate goal of the railway sector reform is to create a sound and open railway market, where the prices of transport service will be dictated exclusively by supply and demand. As part of the reform implemented so far, three new railway enterprises have been established and operate separately. Further efforts are invested in increasing their efficiency in order to put them on a solid footing and support an increase in their competitiveness. Investments in capital railway infrastructure projects have an impact on industrial output growth, engagement of domestic businesses, reduction in unemployment and, finally, GDP growth.

Waterway Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2015 – 2025 + AP until 2020⁵⁷

Strategic goals:

1. Increased traffic (internal traffic, export, import) in Serbian inland waterways, on domestic and foreign vessels until 2025 by 35%, as compared to 2012
2. Modern national fleet
3. Profitable domestic nautical companies
4. Creating jobs for domestic nautical and shipping workers
5. Harmonised legislation and administrative procedures, simple customs and border procedures, according to the best practices of other Danubian EU countries
6. Full monitoring of all waterway traffic in the Republic of Serbia

56 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/odluka/2017/53/l/reg>

57 <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/strategija-razvoja-vodnog-saobratshaja-republike-srbije-od-2015-do-2025-godine>

New Road Transport Development Strategy for the period until 2025 and Air Transport Development Strategy for the period until 2025 are planned and possibly in the process of being drafting.

Relevant EU Chapters are 14, 15 and 21.

The most relevant documents for Specific Goal: Efficiency and clean technologies (9.4) and UN Indicator

9.4.1 CO₂ emission per unit of value added are **National Energy Efficiency Action Plan valid until 2020** and **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources** (does not have an action plan) as well as **Energy Sector Development Strategy**. EU Chapter 15 is relevant for this specific goal.

Smart Specialisation Strategy and EU Chapter 25 are relevant documents for specific goal - **Scientific research for sustainable industrial development (9.5)** Indicators: 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP, and 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million.

Implementation of several projects in the area of inland waterway transport is foreseen in the period from 2018 to 2022 (port construction, training on critical sections on navigable routes of the Danube and the Sava, Djerdap I and Djerdap 2 lock reconstruction, pulling a sunken WW2 fleet out of the water near Prahovo, as well as several ITS projects in this transport mode) in the total amount of EUR 200 million to be funded partly by the proceeds of the Framework Loan for the Development of River Transport Infrastructure, financed by the EIB in 2018, and partly by grants from available funds (IPA, WBIF, CEF, etc.).

SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries

National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia⁵⁸

National Security Strategy is the high-level strategic document whose implementation protects national values and interests of the Republic of Serbia from security challenges, risks and threats in all areas of social life. Its starting points are: preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, military neutrality, care for Serbian people outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia, European integration and an effective rule of law.

The definitions contained in this document specifically express the readiness of the Republic of Serbia to actively participate in the cooperation processes and joint actions with other economies and international stakeholder in the development and improvement of national, regional and global security.

Economic development and overall prosperity

Economic development and overall prosperity of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens is achieved through the following goals:

- improving the standard of living of citizens
- economic progress
- promotion of education, scientific and technological development
- improving economic and energy security

Improving citizens' standard of living is one of the main goals of the economic development of the Republic of Serbia. In order to achieve this, conditions will be created for job creation and to reduce unemployment rate and create conditions for reducing the outflow of young and educated residents. In this regard, the incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship will be used to increase the number of employees.

In order to stimulate entrepreneurship and self-employment, administrative and legal procedures will be simplified and additional financial incentives and mentoring support introduced.

It will also enable more accessible and quality education, as well as adjusting education to the labour market. Immediate support for the poor will stimulate their own efforts to overcome poverty and provide them with a dignified life. Road infrastructure in rural areas will be improved to better connect with urban areas.

The Republic of Serbia will carry out activities aimed at increasing the availability and quality of health care, especially in the area of maternal and reproductive health, women's health care and support for family planning. Particular attention will be paid to the prevention and control of infectious diseases, as well as their eradication. Also, the level of social protection of vulnerable groups will be increased and activities undertaken to reform the provision of health and social welfare services in line with the trend of population aging.

Economic progress is essential for the overall development of the Republic of Serbia. The economic reform programme will restructure the economy, and strengthen and diversify its sources of economic growth.

All measures will be taken to maintain macroeconomic stability and improve competitiveness of economy, ensuring investment attraction and increasing exports of goods and services. Investing in the economy and infrastructure will create conditions for foreign and domestic investment in economic development. Bearing in mind the dependence on global market trends and the possibility of major global crises, it will be sought to protect and minimise the consequences of these developments on national economy.

Industrial policy will be reviewed by adopting new strategies for priority industries with the highest development potential in order to increase exports of industrial sector, especially of higher added value products. The introduction of corporate governance in public companies will improve their profitability.

Establishing economic development priorities will create conditions for balanced regional development and rural regeneration. In order to facilitate economic progress, the Republic of Serbia will actively cooperate with international financial institutions, other economies, credit institutions and creditors, in accordance with its interests. Long-term economic measures and prioritisation of economic development will ensure gradual reduction of public debt. The Republic of Serbia is committed to regional and global economic integration while ensuring a balanced foreign trade balance.

Great importance is attached to the implementation of sustainable development, based on the belief that it is an essential element of global efforts that should ensure sustainability of the planet and a prosperous future for generations to come.

Revised Fiscal Strategy for 2020 with projections for 2021 and 2022⁵⁹ predicted that economic growth and good fiscal results, with established fiscal discipline and significantly strengthened Serbia's investor credibility, and more favourable borrowing conditions in international financial market, will ensure continuation of accelerated pace of public debt reduction in GDP. The overall government public debt is estimated to be at 48.3% of GDP at the end of 2022. On average, Serbian economy will grow at a rate of 4% annually. The increase in private consumption is projected at a lower rate than the acceleration of economic activity and will average 3.7%. This increase does not in itself contain the disruptive elements of the established equilibria. Investment is expected to grow steadily, averaging around 6% annually, which will gradually increase its share of GDP, which should be close to 25% at the end of the projection period. Exports will grow at an average annual rate of 8.3%, faster than expected average annual import growth of 7.2%. Such dynamics of foreign trade flows will improve the balance of payments current account and ensure a positive impact of net exports on the medium-term economic growth rate. Also, an ever-growing export of services should contribute to improving the current account deficit. In the period from 2020 to 2022 it is expected to have a steady inflow of FDI of € 3.0 billion annually. In addition, the effect of FDI from the previous period will increase competition and affect the efficiency of domestic producers, while on the other hand, new sales channels and new niches will be opened.

National Youth Strategy 2015-2025⁶⁰

The principles of the National Youth Strategy over the next 10 years are the following:

- Support for personal and social empowerment of youth; employment for young men and women
- Respect for human and minority rights, equality and non-discrimination
- Equal opportunities for all
- Importance of young people and their social roles
- Health and well-being of young men and women
- Active youth participation and cooperation, mobility, international cooperation and support to young migrants
- Support to and encouragement of freedom of association, cooperation with peers and intergenerational cooperation at local, national and international level
- Access to information of young population and relevant information about them
- Social responsibility and solidarity

In defining activities for achieving the strategic goal and specific goals, the National Youth Strategy and Action Plan respect the constitutionally guaranteed independence of local self-government, and international legal standards related to freedom of association. The NYS specifically recognises the groups of young people who are vulnerable, marginalised, at risk of social exclusion and poverty as well as those who are exposed to multiple discrimination and exclusion. All developed goals and activities need to provide support to these groups of young people and better identification of vulnerable young people, while the action plan indicators must separately address and monitor all categories of young people at risk of social exclusion.

Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Population in the Republic of Serbia 2016-2025

The Strategy sets five specific objectives in key areas which can contribute to the attainment of the overall objective, namely education, housing, employment, health care and social welfare:

Specific objective 1: Ensuring full inclusion of children and youth from Roma community in quality preschool, primary and secondary education, greater coverage of Roma men and women in student population and provision of support to the education of youth and adults who have not attended school or have dropped out, along with the introduction of effective and efficient mechanisms to combat discrimination, and creation of conditions in which Roma can exercise all minority rights in the education system.

Specific objective 2: Improving housing conditions for Roma men and women in Serbia by ensuring legal certainty of their housing situation, availability of services, materials, facilities, infrastructure, affordability, adequate habitability and accessibility, suitable location and cultural adequacy as defined under international standards governing the right to adequate housing ratified by the Republic of Serbia.

Specific objective 3: Encouraging the involvement of able-bodied members of the Roma national minority in the formal labour market, improving their employability, employment and economic empowerment, especially of those Roma men and women who belong to categories of unemployed persons who are hard to employ on multiple grounds.

Specific objective 4: Improving the health of Roma population, advance access to healthcare services and facilitate full exercise of the right to health in the health care system of the Republic of Serbia.

Specific objective 5: Improving access to social security services and availability of financial aid for the purpose of reducing poverty and increasing social involvement of Roma men and women in the local community.

Strategy for Development of Free Legal Assistance System in the Republic of Serbia⁶¹

A possibility for an efficient protection of violated or threatened rights in democratic societies is a fundamental prerequisite for the establishment of the legal order and the principle of the rule of law. Legal aid being provided must meet specific standards originating from the right to a fair trial, the fundamental human right guaranteed by international documents on human rights and the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. A fair trial entails equality of individuals in their respective access to justice as well as that they may protect and exercise their rights effectively, under the same conditions and without discrimination, before a court of law and any other public body. To this effect, each and every individual must have access to legal aid, which entails a duty of the state to ensure the provision of legal aid of satisfactory quality, free of charge or at a reduced cost, when a person in need of legal aid cannot afford it or when, for reasons of fairness, the provision of legal aid is required.

The free legal aid system should be based on the following principles:

- Accessibility of free legal aid services
- Focus on the needs of free legal aid service beneficiaries

⁵⁹ <https://www.mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/strategije/2019/REVIDIRANA%20FISKALNA%20STRATEGIJA%202020-2022.pdf>

⁶⁰ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/22/l/reg>

- Equality in utilisation of free legal aid and prohibition of discrimination of free legal aid service beneficiaries
- Providing incentives for general dissemination of legal information and for counselling on the part of the body providing free legal aid
- Providing incentives for amicable dispute resolution
- Efficiency and sustainability of the free legal aid system
- Maintenance and advancement of the existing resources in the field of provision of free legal aid
- Providing incentives for partnerships and coordination of activities of free legal aid service providers
- Creating conditions for specialisation of free legal aid service providers for specific legal matters;
- Transparency of all forms of activities regarding management and decision-making in the free legal aid system
- Efficient monitoring, control and improvement of free legal aid service quality

Overall goal:

Effective, efficient and sustainable free legal aid system in the Republic of Serbia, which ensures equal access to justice, thus achieving equality of citizens before the law and the rule of law.

Specific objectives and measures

a. Establish forms and types of free legal aid

In order to achieve successful functioning of the system of free legal aid, it is necessary to precisely define forms of free legal aid (free legal aid, primary and secondary legal aid) and specify types of free legal aid to be offered.

Measures:

- Define all types of free legal aid: general legal information, initial legal advice, legal advice, legal aid in writing submissions and representation before courts, state administration bodies and other institutions
- Define the category of primary legal aid so that it includes the following: general legal information and initial legal advice (information about the legal status of an individual, advice on possibility of solving the dispute by mutual agreement, information related to court proceedings, the manner of implementation of verdict and possibilities of exercises of the right to free legal aid); legal aid in writing submissions and other legal documents
- Define the category of secondary legal aid so that it includes the following: legal advice; legal aid in writing submissions and representation before courts, state administration bodies and other institutions

Strategy to Support and Strengthen Home Country and Diaspora & Home Country of the Serbs in the Region⁶²

The Republic of Serbia has substantial diaspora. It is not, in absolute terms, as large as the diasporas of some far more numerous nations, but it is still very numerous. Moreover, it is very significant in relative terms, in

62 http://dijaspora.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/strategija_mvd2011.pdf

that it represents a large part of Serbian people. There are no absolutely accurate data on the number of Diaspora members, because the census has never been conducted. However there are indications of about 4 million, which means that almost a third of population lives outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia.

Relations with the Diaspora and Serbs in the region are based on Article 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, according to which Republic of Serbia protects the rights and interests of its citizens abroad and develops and promotes relations of Serbs living abroad with their country of origin.

With this strategy, the Republic of Serbia seeks to provide adequate material, social and political conditions for development and preservation of Serbian language, Cyrillic alphabet, culture and identity of our citizens and compatriots living and working outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia.

The main objective of this document is to establish and maintain continuity in preserving and strengthening the relations of the mother country and the Diaspora, as well as the mother country and Serbs in the region.

PROJECTS SUPPORTING SDG 10 AND 16 - ISDACON

EU support to justice 26,652,470.00 EUR, European Union

EU support to Justice sector, 5,000,000.00 EUR, European Union

Government Accountability Initiative, 3,350,000.00 USD, United States

Rule of Law Project, 3,471,000.00 USD, United States

SDG 11 - Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure points to the need for an urban development policy in Serbia in order to address the multi-decennial stagnation or fall back, as well as numerous inadequate responses to transition challenges with serious implications on the development of towns and settlements and the quality of life in them. The existing legal framework reflects the principles of sustainable development but is not yet fully aligned and coherent with the EU urban policies and the UN Urban Agenda.

The Review of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2010-2020 has been planned, which is why the Government of the Republic of Serbia made a decision in July 2019 to draft the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2035. The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure is planning to adopt the Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investment in the Renovation of the National Building Stock in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. There are ongoing activities related to the drafting of this strategy. With the technical support of GIZ Project and engagement of experts from the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, the Terms of Reference for the Strategy drafting were completed in 2019. The public call was published, expert team selected and agreement signed. The Strategy should be finalised by the end of 2020 as per the presented dynamics.

SDG II, especially **SDG II.1** relating to **adequate housing**, is implemented through the policies defined in the **Social Housing Strategy**. The biggest problem from the perspective of social housing arose after mass and unrealistically cheap privatisation of apartments in early 1990s, when the public housing fund almost completely disappeared, and simultaneously, privatisation failed to provide expected financial return necessary to provide for the housing needs of the population with lower incomes. Another big problem is poor housing conditions in terms of housing infrastructure, mainly referring to connection to sewage and remote heating systems, as well as informal settlements lacking adequate utility services.

SDG II.3: Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation is the subject matter of the **Strategy of Sustainable and Integral Urban Development of Serbia** adopted in 2019, by the Government.

The European Union adopted a large number of policies and declarations by which the framework for a sustainable urban development is set and implemented in member states. Key documents are: the Leipzig charter on sustainable European cities (2007); Declaration on urban development from Toledo (2010); EU 2020 Territorial Agenda (2011); Riga Declaration (2015); and EU Urban agenda (2016). There is a clear consensus on the character and the principles upon which the ideal future European town should be based on (EC 2011, 2014). **The Review of the Spatial Plan** of the Republic of Serbia 2010-2020 has been planned, which is why the Government of the Republic of Serbia made a decision in July 2019 to draft the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2035.

The new UN Urban Agenda was adopted at the UN HABITAT III Conference on housing and sustainable urban development in Quito, 2016. The agenda sets new standards for an integral and sustainable urban development and provides guidelines for the signatories for development of feasible and participative urban policies at national and sub-national level (UN indicator II.3.2). **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning – IGUTP** is the first global document in the field of spatial and urban planning adopted by the UN HABITAT Governing Council.

The Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia up to 2030 was elaborated through the Project of Strengthening Municipal Land Management in Serbia supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure in January 2017.

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure is planning to develop the Long-Term Strategy for **Mobilising Investment in the Renovation of the National Building Stock** in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. There are ongoing activities related to the drafting of this strategy. With the technical support of the GIZ Project and engagement of experts from the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, the Terms of Reference for the Strategy drafting were completed in 2019. The public call was published, expert team selected and agreement signed. The Strategy should be finalised by the end of 2020 as per the presented dynamics.

Newest ERP Structural reform I4 - Improvement of the geospatial sector as support to investment decision-making process defines the main objectives. The strategic **Digital Geosector Platform** has been created by establishing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and improving the address register and the mass real estate appraisal system, through which the cadastre will play an important role in most systems. The combined datasets available through web services, and their efficient, fast and high-quality exchange will enable citizens, economic operators

and education institutions to easily identify and comfortably access the desired data, thus obtaining information that is crucial for quality investment decision-making at all strategic levels.

National Programme for Natural Disaster Risk Management supports the Government efforts to align with the EU acquis, primarily the Water Management Directive, Flood Directive, Climate Change Directive relating to adaptation to climate changes, as well as the Civil Protection Directive. The programme also promotes fortification of regional cooperation platforms in managing cross-border waters, which is particularly important for managing waters and torrents, controlled by the Republic of Serbia in only one part of its territory (Danube, Sava, Drina, Tisza etc.). This contributes to achieving **SDG II.5** target referring to the reduction of mortality rate in natural disasters.

Air quality and waste management at municipal level – SDG II.6 is addressed by the **Waste Management Strategy for the period of 2010-2019**. According to the NPAA, a new strategy is envisaged for the period from 2019 to 2025, as well as Air Quality Protection Strategy, planned for 2018-2020.

TARGET (II.1) - Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and upgraded basic services

I. National Social Housing Strategy of Serbia 2012-2022 sets the specific objectives and appropriate measures and programmes:

1. Improved existing and established new social housing instruments, starting with stable funding sources, through effective regulations, until new ones are developed and existing institutions strengthened
2. Increased volume and variety of housing supply
3. Increased availability of housing costs for low- and middle-income households income
4. Renewed confidence in the value of rental housing in all forms of ownership
5. Standards for the construction improvement of housing units established
6. Instruments in place to prevent and reduce homelessness
7. Improved housing conditions for residents of sub-standard settlements

2. Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025

Specific objective 2: Improving housing conditions for Roma men and women in Serbia by ensuring legal certainty of their housing situation, availability of services, materials, facilities, infrastructure, affordability, adequate habitability and accessibility, suitable location and cultural adequacy as defined under international standards governing the right to adequate housing ratified by the Republic of Serbia.

Specific objective 3: Encouraging the involvement of able-bodied members of the Roma national minority in the formal labour market, improving their employability, employment and economic empowerment, especially of those Roma men and women who belong to categories of unemployed persons who are hard to employ on multiple grounds.

The relevant strategic document for specific goals: **Reduced number of deaths caused by disasters (II.5)** and **Air quality and municipal waste management (II.6)** is **National Disaster Risk Management Programme** which is adopted with the aim of providing a general framework for the development of a

comprehensive programme of protection against natural disasters, and for coordination, directing of funds and implementation of activities related to risk reduction, as well as management.

The National programme will be funded through a variety of funding mechanisms, including the Multi-Donor Fund, specifically prepared for this purpose. One of the main objectives of the National Programme will be to build a system of natural disaster risk management at the national level with clearly defined necessary resources and competencies of programme participants, with the aim of reducing existing risks, preventing future risk creation and responding more effectively to disasters.

Structural measures:

- Reconstruction, rehabilitation and modernisation of existing structures
- New structures in line with EU Flood Directives and flood management plans
- Construction of structures for flood protection, primarily levees; works on the arrangement of watercourses for the purpose of improving throughput capacity
- Investments in active flood prevention, especially flood zones and temporary water retention zones, as well as dry and wet reservoirs
- Stabilisation of priority landslides
- Equipment for monitoring and operational monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure

Non-structural measures:

- Integration of systems to adequately integrate risk aspects into new public ones
- Investments
- Incorporating risk studies into land use planning and urban planning
- Planning at national and local level
- Revision and improvement of building codes and practices
- Strengthening the mechanism for sharing and disseminating risk information

3. National Strategy for Protection and Rescuing in Emergency⁶³

The National Strategy defines five strategic areas that form the framework for disaster management and disaster risk reduction in Serbia and are consistent with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The Hyogo Framework for Action is a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards adopted by 168 Member States of the United Nations in 2005 at the World Disaster Reduction Conference.

- Strategic goal 1 -Ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction becomes a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- Strategic goal 2- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning
- Strategic goal 3 -Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Strategic goal 4 -Reduce the underlying risk factors
- Strategic goal 5 -Strengthen disaster preparedness or disaster response at all levels

63 http://arhiva.mup.gov.rs/cms_lat/sadrzaj.nsf/Nacionalna_strategija_zastite_i_spasavanja_u_vanrednim_situacijama_lat.pdf

4. National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia⁶⁴

Flood and fire protection are conditioned by the fact that due to hydrological changes and impacts, a significant increase in the number of torrential and other large-scale floods can be expected, which would result in significant material damage and loss of human lives. Based on the assessments made, in order to prevent such consequences, it is necessary to intensify the construction of anti-storm structures, implementation of preventive measures for fire protection and environmental protection measures.

Effective management of hazardous waste will be continuously implemented through preventive and operational protection against technical and technological accidents, especially in facilities for processing and production of special purpose materials and in hazardous waste storage facilities. Also, demining of land and water surfaces contaminated with unexploded ordnance will be implemented. A system for the complete destruction and elimination of hazardous waste of all kinds, and in particular the radionuclide content of residues from the previous period, will be improved during the exploitation of agents containing such substances.

In this regard, legal and institutional mechanisms for protection against permanent alienation of natural resources and goods of general interest, as property of the Republic of Serbia, will be significantly improved and their sustainable exploitation, use and care will be ensured in accordance with the law.

5. Defence Strategy of the Republic of Serbia⁶⁵

The Defence Strategy analyses the security environment of the Republic of Serbia, identifies security challenges, risks and threats of importance for defence, formulates defence interests and goals, determines the defence policy, and structure, management and principles of functioning of the defence system of the Republic of Serbia.

SDG 12 - Advancing sustainable production and consumption patterns

SDG 12, especially the targets referring to sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2), environmentally sound management of chemicals (12.4), substantially reduced waste generation and its recycling (12.5) and finally sustainable public procurement practices (12.7), have been addressed through a number of measures and activities being currently implemented. Every local self-government unit is obliged to develop their local waste management plan, while each region needs to develop regional waste management plan. On the local level, almost 84% of the municipalities have adopted such plans.

The key policy documents in this field include **National Strategy of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Wealth**, with no Action Plan so its implementation is impossible to monitor, and **Waste Management Strategy for 2010-2019**, which also deals with hazardous waste. **National Environmental Protection Programme and Strategy for Sustainable Use of Resources** are the two key valid policy documents that deal with sustainable management of natural resources and

64 http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2206-19%20Lat..pdf

65 http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/cir/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2207-19.pdf

contribute to the fulfilment of **SDG target 15.1 Sustainable use of ecosystems, especially forests, wetlands and mountains.**

SDG 12. Target: Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (I2.2) and Indicator:
I2.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP; specific goal - Environmentally sound management of chemicals (I2.4) and Indicator: I2.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment ; specific goal Reduce waste generation (I2.5) and Indicator: I2.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.

Along with the **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets**, another document important for the achievement of **SDG target 15.2 of sustainable forest management is the Forestry Development Strategy**. The main goal of the Strategy is to preserve and develop forests and support the development of forestry as a branch of economy. The key element to support the implementation of the Strategy is the **National Forestry Programme (NFP)** which offers framework of actions for development of forestry sector. Forestry planning system has two levels: the level of general planning of forestry development, i.e. planning the purpose and function of forests within larger areas, regardless of their ownership status, and the level of special planning of forest management with the emphasis on ownership, where the owners or beneficiaries of forests are held responsible for their management.

The Ministry of Environment is in the process of planning/drafting or has already adopted the following strategic documents for the period after 2020:

- National strategies for environmental protection for the period after 2020 - start of preparation is expected by the end of 2019
- Waste Management Strategy with National Waste Management Plan 2019-2024 - in the final phase and expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Low-carbon Development Strategy with action plan for 2030 (Climate Change Strategy with action plan) - in the process of public debate
- Biodiversity Strategy - in the final phase, it is expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Air Protection Strategy - Strategic development through IPA 2014 project - in progress
- Sludge Management Strategy - at the final stage, expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Circular Economy Programme - planned production by the end of 2020
- Programme of introduction of cleaner production - in the final phase, it is expected to be adopted in the coming period
- National Environmental Protection Strategy (after the expiry of the National Environmental Protection Programme 2010-2019)
- Waste Management Strategy with National Waste Management Plan 2019-2024 - in final stage (after expiry of Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019)

The drafting of all strategic documents, as well as their validity periods, is in accordance with the provisions of the Planning System Law (Official Gazette 30/2018).

Regarding the objectives under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, there are currently no ongoing projects that support the implementation of Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda, but there

are more projects funded through IPA and other bilateral donors (UNDP, UNEP, GIZ), which contribute directly or indirectly to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals within this Ministry jurisdiction.

The Ministry of Environment has two representatives in the Interagency Working Group for the Coordination of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Republic of Serbia, which are in charge of monitoring activities at the national level, as well as of coordinating activities within the Ministry, bearing in mind that the objectives are the responsibility of several sectors/organisational units. Also, on behalf of the MoSW, a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency is in charge of coordinating the work on setting up environmental indicators relevant for monitoring the implementation of COR 2030 AGENDA.

In addition, planning, implementation and monitoring of all strategic documents (which certainly include sustainable development goals) is implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Planning System Law (Official Gazette 30/2018), which establishes a mechanism for the preparation and adoption of all planning documents in the Republic of Serbia.

Another important document is the **Programme for Development of Public Procurement Procedure in the Republic of Serbia** which identifies priority fields, one of which refers to the improved efficiency and sustainability of the public procurement system, and is thus directly related to **SDG target I2.7**. The key goal is to promote and stimulate environmental and social aspects of public procurement processes. Specific goal: **Public procurement practices in accordance with principles of sustainability (I2.7) with Indicator: I2.7.1 Implementation of sustainable public procurement policies and action plans** is relevant for Public Procurement Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia and for EU Chapter 5.

Public Procurement Development Programme 2019-2023.⁶⁶

This Programme determines the following overall goal: further development of modern and efficient public procurement system.

Expected indicator of achievement is further modernisation of public procurement procedures, with full application of electronic communication, with increased efficiency, transparency and reduced irregularity risk. The plan is also to support closing of the Negotiation Chapter 5 by fulfilling closing criteria.

Achievement of the overall goal is envisaged through 4 individual objectives:

1. Improved efficiency of the procedure
2. Supported competition at the public procurement market
3. Reduced risk of irregular procedure
4. Support to the promotion of ecological and social aspect in public procurement and innovations

Education for sustainable development (I2.8) with UN Indicator:I2.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship, education, development change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment education and (ii) for sustainable (including climate change)

⁶⁶ <http://www.ujn.gov.rs/vesti/program-razvoja-javnih-nabavki-u-republici-srbiji-za-period-2019-2023-godine/>

Strategy for Development of Adult Education in the Republic of Serbia⁶⁷ and EU Chapter

26. Adult Education Strategy is one of the instruments for resolving key social and economic challenges of the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, this Strategy puts emphasis on professional education and training of adults. Serbia needs to restructure and improve its human potential. This would involve:

- Accessible education system to all categories of adults, through institutionalised and planned system
- Decentralisation and partnership approach in management, organisation and implementation of adult education
- Quality of education provided through legal framework and established standards

SDG 13 - Promotion of action at all levels to combat climate change

For specific goal - **Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change (I3.1) with Indicators:**

I3.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

I3.1.2 Adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

I3.1.3 Proportion governments that implement local reduction strategies in line with national disaster

The Republic of Serbia has adopted a set of strategic documents dealing with climate change-related risk management that put into operation the **SDG 13 – Resilience to climate-related hazards (I3.1)**.

A document worth noting is the **Draft Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency**

Management, which is foreseen to be adopted in 2020. The draft strategy will contain following elements: institution building and development; disaster risk identification and monitoring; structural and non-structural risk reduction; early warning systems and preparedness; risk financing strategies and resilient recovery.

The 2019 Disaster Risk Financing Programme for the Republic of Serbia defines goals at the national, local and individual level.

National Emergency Protection and Rescue Strategy is implemented through strategic areas in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action: making disaster risk reduction a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; reduce the underlying risk factors; and strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. It is worth mentioning, however, that the Strategy lacks an Action Plan, making its implementation and monitoring impossible.

NGDI Strategies – National Geospatial Data Infrastructure 2017-2021 is important for the transposition of the INSPIRE Directive (Directive 2007/2/EZ) which is bound to require a transitional period.

67 http://www.mnp.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Strategija-razvoja-OO-Slgl_-I-07.pdf

Waste Management Strategy 2019-2024, with an integrated plan for the hazardous waste management, as part of the national plan for waste management complementary to the Strategy.

Energy Development Strategy until 2025 + (AP prepared, pending adoption by the Government) sets three priorities: overall transition towards sustainable energy (achievable through energy efficiency enhancement in performance of energy activities and energy consumption); increased share of energy from renewable sources; and upgrade of the current condition of the environment and the system of environmental protection in all fields of energy activities.

National Strategy for Protection and Rescuing in Emergency⁶⁸ defines five strategic areas that form the framework for disaster management and disaster risk reduction in Serbia and are consistent with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The Hyogo Framework for Action is a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards adopted by 168 Member States of the United Nations in 2005 at the World Disaster Reduction Conference.

- Strategic goal 1 - Ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction becomes a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- Strategic goal 2 - Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning
- Strategic goal 3 - Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Strategic goal 4 - Reduce the underlying risk factors
- Strategic goal 5 - Strengthen disaster preparedness or disaster response at all levels

National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia⁶⁹

The National Security Strategy is based on the implementation of a comprehensive approach that involves the joint engagement of all entities and potentials of society and the state in countering the security challenges, risks and threats and protecting and pursuing the national interests of the Republic of Serbia. It analyses the strategic environment of the Republic of Serbia, assesses the challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia, formulates national interests and goals, determines the national security policy, structure and principles of functioning of the national security system, as well as the way of its implementation.

The National Security Strategy is the starting point for the preparation of other strategic and doctrinal documents, public policy documents and normative-legal acts in all areas of social life and functioning of state bodies and institutions in order to preserve and protect the security of citizens, society and the state.

Great importance is attached to the implementation of sustainable development, based on the belief that it is an essential element of global efforts that should ensure sustainability of the planet and a prosperous future for generations to come.

Advancement of education, scientific and technological development is the basic prerequisite for economic development and overall progress of the Republic of Serbia. In this regard, the introduction

68 http://arhiva.mup.gov.rs/cms_lat/sadrzaj.nsf/Nacionalna_strategija_zastite_i_spasavanja_u_vanrednim_situacijama_lat.pdf

69 http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2206-19%20-%20Lat..pdf

of dual education, as well as entrepreneurial modules and content, will enable the adjustment of education to the development of economy and the labour market. It will also provide incentives for scientific and research work in order to acquire and apply modern technologies, as well as to increase the reputation and status of scientific and teaching staff.

Protection of **environment** and resources of the Republic of Serbia, which involves a responsible attitude towards the environment in terms of soil quality, ground and surface water resources and atmosphere, biodiversity, as well as the use of natural resources and the management of hazardous waste, is of utmost importance for the security of the Republic of Serbia. Active monitoring of the situation and taking measures to protect against irreversible environmental changes caused by climate, geophysical and technological impacts is one of the conditions for sustainable development.

Improving economic and energy security is important for the economic development and overall progress and security of the Republic of Serbia. It will reduce dependency and increase the resilience of national economy to global economic distortions and the unpredictability of the world financial system. Economic security will be ensured by maintaining the macroeconomic balance and reducing social stratification.

Conservation of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia

Conservation of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia is achieved by attaining the following goals:

- monitoring, assessing, planning and taking measures to mitigate the impact of climate change;
- flood and fire protection;
- improving the quality of the environment;
- effective management of hazardous waste;
- enhancing the ability and capacity to manage resources.

Monitoring, assessing and taking measures to mitigate the impact of climate change in the Republic of Serbia is of primary importance for sustainable development in all areas of social life. In this regard, the organisational capacities and technical and technological systems for weather monitoring, as well as for the assessment of climate and hydrological impacts on the territory, biodiversity and population of the Republic of Serbia will be improved. To mitigate the effects of climate change, preventive measures will be planned and implemented, as well as measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Flood and fire protection are conditioned by the fact that due to hydrological changes and impacts, a significant increase in the number of torrential and other large-scale floods can be expected, which would result in significant material damage and loss of human lives. Based on the assessments made, in order to prevent such consequences, it is necessary to intensify the construction of anti-storm structures, implementation of preventive measures for fire protection and environmental protection measures.

Improving the **quality of environment** will be achieved, first of all, through the improvement of legal and institutional mechanisms, which will enable the increase of quality of land, water resources, atmosphere and biodiversity. The Republic of Serbia is committed to the implementation of European Union and internationally accepted standards in the field of environmental protection and improvement, as well as to increasing subsidies for the use of environmental technologies.

Effective management of hazardous waste will be continuously implemented through preventive and operational protection against technical and technological accidents, especially in facilities for processing and production of special purpose materials and in hazardous waste storage facilities. Also, demining of land and water surfaces contaminated with unexploded ordnance will be implemented. A system for the complete destruction and elimination of hazardous waste of all kinds, and in particular the radionuclide content of residues from the previous period, will be improved during the exploitation of agents containing such substances.

In this regard, legal and institutional mechanisms for protection against permanent alienation of natural resources and goods of general interest, as property of the Republic of Serbia, will be significantly improved and their sustainable exploitation, use and care will be ensured in accordance with the law.

Defence Strategy of the Republic of Serbia⁷⁰

The Defence Strategy analyses the security environment of the Republic of Serbia, identifies security challenges, risks and threats of importance for defence, formulates defence interests and goals, determines the defence policy, and structure, management and principles of functioning of the defence system of the Republic of Serbia.

The aim of the **Strategy for Sustainable Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia till 2030⁷¹** is to improve the quality of life, environment, health and safety of urban settlement citizens. One of the main goals is high level of adaptability to climate changes by:

1. Reducing the effect of climate changes through improved environmental parameters, waste management and energy efficiency
2. Adaptation to climate changes and establishment of rapid response system in crisis situations
3. Strengthening of institutional capacities and implementation of strategic and planned documents in urban development planning, with the aim to protect natural environment and overall safety of life.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED SDG 13- ISDACON

[Climate Smart Urban Development](#)

2,164,676.00 USD, United Nations

[EU support to Environment and climate change sector](#)

61,915,000.00 EUR, European Union

[EU support to the Environment sector](#)

28,600,000.00 EUR, European Union

[Facility for Project preparation EISP 227,000,000.00 SEK Sweden](#)

[Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#)

1,005,000.00 USD, United Nations

[Preparations for negotiations related to Serbia's EU accession process, Phase 3, Environment Accession Programme \(ENVAP3\)](#)

28,000,000.00 SEK, Sweden

⁷⁰ http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/cir/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2207-19.pdf

⁷¹ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/47/l/reg>

Programme “Biodiversity and Water Protection Lake Palic and Lake Ludas”

6,500,000.00 EUR, Germany

Support to Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia 2

1,883,762.00 USD United Nations

Third National Communication UNFCCC

226,178.00 USD, United Nations

Twinning Facility

5,000,000.00 EUR, European Union

Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment in Medium-Sized Municipalities in Serbia II-II GRANT

10,000,000.00 EUR, Germany

Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment in Medium-Sized Municipalities in Serbia II-II SOFT**LOAN**

18,500,000.00 EUR, Germany

IFC Sustainable Cities Program

1,000,000.00 CHF, Switzerland

SDG 15 - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and land degradation and biodiversity loss

Along with the **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Assets**, another document important for the achievement of SDG target 15.1 - Sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular forests, wetlands and mountains and 15.2 of sustainable forest management is the **Forestry Development Strategy**. The main goal of the Strategy is to preserve and develop forests and support the development of forestry as a branch of economy. The key element to support the implementation of the Strategy is the National Forestry Programme (NFP) which offers framework of actions for development of forestry sector. Forestry planning system has two levels: the level of general planning of forestry development, i.e. planning the purpose and function of forests within larger areas, regardless of their ownership status, and the level of special planning of forest management with the emphasis on ownership, where the owners or beneficiaries of forests are held responsible for their management.

The most relevant document for SDG target Sustainable management of forests (15.2) is **Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia**⁷² (has no defined duration period or an AP). This Strategy is based on the following relevant EU strategic documents pertaining to forestry: .the EU Forestry Strategy, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the EU Sustainable Use of EU Natural Resources and Resources.

The main objective of the Strategy is to preserve and improve forests and to develop forestry as an industry branch. In addition to this goal, there are a number of specific goals such as:

- increasing the area under forests by encouraging activities and providing assistance to afforestation of land where it is economically and environmentally justifiable to cultivate the forest;

⁷² http://www.rsjp.gov.rs/mapa/8.%20Zastita%20zivotne%20sredine/r_strategija_sumarstvo.pdf

- increasing productivity by maximising and rationally utilising total production potential of forest areas;
- establishing an effective forest protection system;
- establishing and adopting a methodology for evaluating all forest products and functions;
- raising and maintaining optimum quality and density of forest roads, as well as ancillary infrastructure to implement sustainable forest management and security;
- social and cultural needs of society;
- support for the establishment and development of small and medium-sized forestry businesses;
- and other forestry and other activities.

A key element in supporting the implementation of the Strategy is the National Forest Programme (NFP), which provides an action framework for development of forestry sector. The forestry planning system will take place on two levels:

1. general forest development planning, that is, planning of the purposes and functions of forests in larger areas, regardless of ownership, and
2. special forest management planning at the level of management units is a responsibility of owners or forest users.

Specific target - **Combat land degradation (15.3)** is connected with the National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (does not have an action plan).

Specific target - **Halt biodiversity loss (15.5)** is connected with Biodiversity Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period from 2010 to 2019 which has expired and drafting of the new one is in the final phase. It is expected to be adopted in the coming period.

SDG 16 - Peace, justice and effective institutions

Police Community Strategy deals with the introduction of policing models based on the close connections with local communities and the joint action by the police and communities to tackle security issues. The Strategy envisages activities of violence prevention as part of the general development of citizens' security culture, however it is not specifically dedicated to such activities.

Target 16.2 End Abuse of Children, UN indicator 16.2.1

Serbia does not have a strategy specifically dedicated to child protection and children related issues are dealt with by other documents relevant for general population. The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 stipulates development of the new policy framework for the protection of children against violence. Specialised training for judges, prosecutors and police officials is being continuously implemented in order to efficiently apply new legislative arrangements and decrease the number of children suffering violence at the hands of their caregivers. Ministry of the Interior, General Police Directorate and Criminal Police Directorate participated in the development of the Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Serbia 2019 (SitAn), which will serve as a source of information about children and youth in Serbia and also as a basis for the next programme of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF for the period from 2021 to 2025. This document is a starting point for improving the rights of a child, which will relate to a number of Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategy for Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims 2017-2022 is also related to target 16.2, especially the UN indicator 16.2.2 (number of human trafficking victims). This document envisages a series of measures aimed at preventing and sanctioning trafficking in human beings. Particular consideration has been given to the protection of victims, which is in line with international conventions. The Action Plan for Chapter 24 envisages a series of measures which Serbia is obliged to implement in order to build up its capacities to combat trafficking in human beings.

The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 has a separate sub-chapter dedicated to judiciary, envisaging a series of activities serving the same purpose as the National Strategy for Judicial Reform. To facilitate these activities in the domain of independent judiciary, some constitutional amendments are necessary.

National Strategy for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism 2017-2021⁷³

The Strategy defines strategic goals which protect fundamental values, classified into 4 priority areas:

1. Measures to prevent terrorism, violent extremism and possible radicalization leading to terrorism
2. Monitoring, protective measures and terrorism threat annulation in the overall protection system
3. Criminal investigation of terrorists, with due respect of their human rights, rule of law and democratic principles
4. Systemic response to a terrorist attack

Strategy for Combat Cyber-Crime 2019-2023

General Strategic Goal

Republic of Serbia has efficient and sustainable system of common response of all entities in the fight against cyber-crime in place. Such defined general strategic goal should have better connection of all entities involved in Strategy implementation, as well as better use of all resources in problem-solving.

Specific Strategic Goals

Specific goals are focused on solving unfamiliar issues in fighting cyber-crime. Analysis recognised four specific goals and measures defined within them as follows:

- I. Serbian legal system advanced and synchronised with the EU standards in the fight of cyber-crime**
 - I.I. In order to achieve that, amendments of Serbian legislation need to be drafted in accordance with the EU legal tradition
- 2. Organisational, personnel, technical and operational capacities for fight against cyber-crime need to be significantly improved**
 - 2.1 Cyber-crime unit needs to be re-organised
 - 2.2. Separate organisational units need to be established, within the state system, in line with their respective jurisdiction and needs

⁷³ http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/4e85c9e8-6b07-42ed-9224-01573alf0d61/strategija-terorizam+i_LAT.pdf?MOD=A-JPERES&CVID=mfqgT.n

2.3. Personnel, expert, technical and organisational capacities of state institutions for exchange of data and response to incidents need to be improved
 2.4. Relevant training of different levels needs to be organised
 2.5. Advanced electronic equipment and software tools need to be provided
 2.6. Common protocol of standard operational procedures needs to be devised for the cyber-crime area

3. Proactive approach to fighting cyber-crime needs to be improved

- 3.1. Raising the general population awareness level
- 3.2. Raising the public state bodies awareness level

4. Improved national, regional and international cooperation

- 4.1. Improve cooperation among private, public sector and civil society
- 4.2. Improve cooperation on prevention of sexual exploitation of children and minors
- 4.3. Improve international and regional police cooperation

Strategy for Small Arms and Light Weapons Control 2019-2024⁷⁴: Overall aim of this document is to decrease abuse of weapons, i.e. armed violence. One of the key measures in this Strategy is to improve the use of international instruments to trace illegal weapons. This is particularly important for Serbia, because the economy is one of the sources for arms used by terrorists in the EU. This topic is directly related to the target **16.4. Reduce illicit financial and arms flow**.

The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 24 addresses the issues related to organised crime and money laundering at length, dedicating a separate chapter to these issues. The Plan envisages the activities of introducing criminal information system, interconnecting prosecution authorities, undertaking complex financial investigations, increasing confiscation of the proceeds of crime, as well as the stricter control of firearms.

Anti-corruption measures are also integrated in the **Strategy for Public Administration Reform in the Republic of Serbia and the Public Procurement Process Development Strategy**. The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 includes a separate sub-chapter dedicated to anti-corruption efforts. It is fully compatible with both strategies and envisages a number of activities to support its implementation.

SDG target Effective and Transparent Institutions 16.6. is dealt with by the **Public Administration Reform Strategy (PAR)** as the public policy framework document which should secure continuation of the previous reform efforts and widen their scope to cover the entire public sector, not only public administration. The overall aim of this Strategy is to secure high quality of services provided to citizens and businesses in line with the principles of European administration. Specific aims refer to institution building, improved service provision and increased transparency of public administration. This Strategy also envisages development of e-administration and intensified anti-corruption activities. **Public Financial Management Reform Programme is expected to be** adopted based on the Public Administration Reform Strategy with the aim to improve macroeconomic stability, services provided by state administration and transparency, as well as to fulfil the conditions required in the process of EU accession.

Serbian Electronic Government Development Strategy until 2018 secures technical support to the Public Administration Reform Strategy and the two strategies are closely related.

⁷⁴ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/44/I/reg>

Other instruments serving to support the Public Administration Reform Strategy in the Republic of Serbia include the **Strategy for Professional Development of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia and the Strategy for Professional Development of the Employees in Local Self-Government Units**. Their general purpose is to contribute to an increased efficiency and economy of public administration, as well as its effectiveness in the context of enabling the citizens, businesses and other holders of rights and obligations to exercise their rights and pursue interests, by creating the conditions for the continuous and comprehensive improvement of civil servants' competences, thereby having a direct impact on target **16.6. and UN indicator 16.6.2 (share of the citizens satisfied with their latest experience with public authorities)**.

Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration addresses the problem which in Serbia mostly influences Roma population. **The Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women** does not address this issue, though this document envisages measures preconditioned by having birth certificate (school enrolment, employment). In practice, members of Roma national minority are allowed to be entered in the birth register in administrative proceedings, while effective legal protection has been secured when it comes to determining one's place and time of birth. This resulted in a significant reduction of the number of persons who have not realised this right.

The targets: Reduce violence/combat crime (16.1) with Indicators:

- 16.1.1** Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age
- 16.1.2** Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause
- 16.1.3** Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months as well as target **Combat abuse of children (16.2)** with Indicators:

 - 16.2.1** Proportion of children aged 1- 17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
 - 16.2.2** Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
 - 16.2.3** Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by the age 18 are connected with

Action Plan for implementation of the Partnership for Open Administration initiative in the Republic of Serbia for 2016/17 aimed at promoting integrity, transparency, efficiency and responsibility of public authorities, through building trust of the public, cooperation with CSOs, strengthening of civil participation in administration and government, anti-corruption efforts, access to information, utilisation of modern technologies, all this serving to facilitate more efficient and responsible operation of public authorities. Furthermore, the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance is, according to general estimates, quite lenient, and the process of its amendment and harmonisation with European standards is underway. These activities pertain to target **16.10: Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms**.

National Strategy to Fight Organised Crime⁷⁵

The main objectives of the Strategy are to develop a proactive approach to the fight against organised crime, to increase efficiency through appropriate implementation of preventive and repressive action, and to confiscate proceeds of crime. Its goals also include harmonisation of national legislation with international standards, strengthening the capacities of all state bodies involved in the implementation of

the Strategy, strengthening cooperation at national, regional and international levels, and strengthening cooperation amongst state authorities, the private sector and civil society.

Community Policing Strategy⁷⁶

Strategic goals and leading elements:

Development of the police will be directed at achieving the following strategic goals:

1. Contemporary policing standards,
2. Strengthening the trust of citizens and of the community in the police,
3. Cooperation and partnership between the police and the community,
4. Efficient safety prevention,
5. Problem oriented approach to safety prevention, and
6. Commitment to ethical principles and respect for diversity.

In practice, the strategic goals of community policing will be achieved through the implementation of four leading elements - key development areas, which serve as a basis for community policing in the Republic of Serbia.

1. Safety prevention refers to activities aimed at reducing the roots of crime, unrest, fear of violence and other safety threats.

The police shall be more proactive than reactive through cooperation and joint activities with the community.

2. Community oriented policing is an adequate response to the citizens' priority and other needs, as well as to distinctive features of local communities, ethnic, religious and other social groups.

The police shall focus their community policing activities according to the consensuses on safety priorities, with equal treatment and respect for uniqueness and identity of members belonging to various communities.

3. Problem oriented policing is a method based on sources of information, which are used for identifying patterns of crime and tensions within communities.

Besides reacting to consequences, the police will focus their activities on roots of crime and on implementing preventive strategies.

4. Safety partnerships refer to agreed actions of the police and of the community in preventive safety, resolving safety issues and developing safety strategies involving representatives and capacities of other state authorities, local self-governments and the civil society.

The target by 2030 Effective and transparent institutions (16.6) with Indicators:

- 16.6.1** Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

75 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2009/23/l/reg>

16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

In fulfilling public interests, the police must develop programmes tailored to specific local communities, since different communities have different problems which cannot be resolved by uniform responses.

Bearing in mind the nature of this concept as being open to developing new ideas aimed at improving proactive work, this Strategy is more of a framework than a final list of initiatives for its further development. Namely, this Strategy provides guidelines, but not limitations, to activities based on principles and values of community policing development.

In order to ensure sustained development of community policing, the following approaches should be taken into consideration when implementing activities:

1. Problems should be solved where they appear – local approach.
2. Problems should be solved by analysing structural causes, by considering all factors and available resources for creating a safe environment, not just those related to traditional policing – problem-oriented approach.
3. Problems should be solved together with others; the police have to cooperate with all individuals, institutions and groups in a community; especially with other agencies and organisations which have greater competency or more appropriate means for resolving particular issues. A comprehensive strategic cooperation is required with others – community and citizens–partnership approach.
4. The police should be perceived as part of the community – cooperation approach.
5. The police shall take initiatives and should not limit themselves to reactive measures after a crime has been committed or a call for help received – proactive approach.

Strategy for Professional Development of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia⁷⁷

This strategic document emphasises the need to manage and coordinate public administration tasks related to professional development of civil servants from one place, and thus precisely define preparation, identification and supervision of the implementation of professional development programme for civil servants, which would be carried out within a ministry.

The Strategy for Professional Development of Local Self-Administration Employees⁷⁸

Overall strategic goal is to establish permanent, harmonised and sustainable system of professional training for employees in local self-governments. This will contribute to raised general knowledge level and skills required for implementation of basic standards of contemporary local self-government. Local self-government operates on principles of the European Administrative Space and should be able to implement obligations stemming from Serbian membership in the EU.

Specific strategic goals are:

- Determine roles and tasks related to professional training
- Draft training curriculum and compulsory modules and conditions to be fulfilled; draft annual training plans for ministry employees

⁷⁷ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/56/l/reg>

⁷⁸ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/27/l/reg>

- Capacity building of the ministry in charge of local self-government and other ministries and local self-government units in line with obligations and procedures for quality and efficient work in all stages of professional training

Personal Data Protection Strategy⁷⁹

Relying on the experience of other EU MS and the Council of Europe, Republic of Serbia has determined the priority goals to protect personal data. They are divided in 2 groups:

Overall goals:

- Transparency of public and private sector
- Availability of data of a person in process
- Protection of privacy and other human rights and basic freedoms in processing personal data
- Strengthening public trust in public institutions and private sector, which have citizens' personal information at their disposal
- Development of an institution in charge of oversight and control of personal information
- Strengthening and improvement of information technology

Specific goals:

- Harmonisation of the Law on Personal Data Protection with the EU legislation
- Harmonisation of other laws and bylaws from other areas with the Law on Personal Data Protection
- Establishment of independent body for oversight and protection of rights
- Introducing the concept of personal data protection to the broadest public
- Additional training of personnel in charge of personal data protection

The target by 2030 Combat money laundry and organized crime (16.4) with Indicators:

- 16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)
- 16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

National Strategy for Fight against Organised Crime does formally exist, but is not implemented in practice. The main objectives of the Strategy are to develop a proactive approach to the fight against organised crime, to increase efficiency through appropriate implementation of preventive and repressive action, and to confiscate proceeds of crime. Strategy goals also include harmonisation of national legislation with international standards, strengthening the capacities of all state bodies involved in the implementation of the Strategy, strengthening cooperation at national, regional and international levels, as well as strengthening cooperation amongst state authorities, the private sector and civil society.

Target Combat corruption (16.5) with Indicators:

- 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

⁷⁹ <https://www.poverenik.rs/sr-yu/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%B84/942-strategija-zatite-podataka-o-linosti.html>

16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

Strategy for Professional Development of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia⁸⁰: This strategic document emphasises the need to manage and coordinate public administration tasks related to professional development of civil servants from one place, and thus precisely define preparation, identification and supervision of the implementation of professional development programme for civil servants, which would be carried out within a ministry.

The target by 2030 **Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (I6.10)** with Indicators: **I6.10.1** Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months and **I6.10.2** Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.

Public Information System Development Strategy 2020-2025⁸¹

Overall goal

- Improved public information system through a harmonised positive legal framework guaranteeing freedom of expression, freedom of the media, security of journalists, media pluralism, developed media market, strengthened journalistic profession, educated citizens and institutions capable of implementing regulations

Specific objectives:

- improved security, socio-economic and professional working conditions for journalists and media professionals;
- an established functional, sustainable and fair media market protected from political influence;
- functional, competent, professional and open institutions have mechanisms in place to protect against external pressures and consistently apply public policies and regulations;
- quality, pluralistic and diverse media content meets information needs of different social groups;
- advanced professional knowledge and developed digital competencies of citizens, institutions, media, journalists and media workers.

Personal Data Protection Strategy⁸²

110

Relying on the experience of other EU MS and the Council of Europe, Republic of Serbia has determined the priority goals to protect personal data. They are divided into 2 groups:

Overall goals:

- Transparency of public and private sector
- Availability of data of a person in process

⁸⁰ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/56/l/reg>

⁸¹ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/75/l/reg>

⁸² <https://www.poverenik.rs/sr-yu/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%B84/942-strategija-zatite-podataka-o-linosti.html>

- Protection of privacy and other human rights and basic freedoms in processing personal data
- Strengthening public trust in public institutions and private sector, which have citizens' personal information at their disposal
- Development of an institution in charge of oversight and control of personal information
- Strengthening and improvement of information technology

Specific goals:

- Harmonisation of the Law on Personal Data Protection with the EU legislation
- Harmonisation of other laws and bylaws from other areas with the Law on Personal Data Protection
- Establishment of independent body for oversight and protection of rights
- Introducing the concept of personal data protection to the broadest public
- Additional training of personnel in charge of personal data protection

SDG 17 - Partnership for achieving

The Action Plan for Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP) stems from the commitments undertaken under the South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE 2020) and the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) which is based on the principles of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The Plan contains four thematic priorities. The **Trade** envisages the adoption of additional protocols within the CEFTA Agreement relating to key services such as finance, insurance and transport. This also includes provisions on e-commerce and external customs tariffs. In terms of the **Investments**, an agreement was reached to establish a Regional Investment Plan which should include the exchange of information and best practices in the implementation of investment policies.

Mobility refers to removing obstacles to mobility of professionals through recognition of professional qualifications and removing obstacles to mobility of students and researchers in higher education. **Digital dimension** covers roaming and broadband internet access, cyber-security and data protection, as well as the improvement of digital skills across the region. The topic **Data, Monitoring and Accountability** aims at the improvement of support in capacity building in order to enable the availability of high-quality, updated, reliable and appropriate disaggregated data. Initiatives for measuring the progress of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals are already being implemented at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia through development of databases and platforms for a set of sustainable development indicators.

Fully in line with 2030 Agenda, covering almost all of the Sustainable Development Goals, is the **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** comprising four connected areas: environment, connecting and strengthening the region and building a prosperous society. Topics covered by these areas are: mobility (all transport modes), sustainable energy, culture and tourism, environmental risks, biodiversity and air and soil quality, water quality, knowledge society, people and skills, competitiveness, institutional capacity and cooperation and security. According to MCTI actively participates in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). In the area of inland waterways, the main international treaties have been ratified and bilateral agreements with the neighbouring economies signed and ratified. In the area of inland navigable waterway transport, Serbia is highly aligned with the EU standards. The river information service system is operational and highly interoperable with

SDG 17 - Targets	Strategies supported SDG 17 Targets
Regional and international cooperation in the area of science, technology and innovation (17.6)	EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region
Enhancement and use of innovative technologies and ICT (17.8)	Strategy for Development of Information Society in the Republic of Serbia until 2020 Strategy for Electronic Communications Development in the Republic of Serbia from 2010 to 2020
International support for capacity- building in drafting and implementing national plans (17.9)	South East Europe 2020 Strategy European Union Strategy for the Danube Region EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region
Increased export (17.11)	Public Financial Management Reform Programme Fiscal Strategy
Macroeconomic stability through policy coordination (17.13)	PFM - Public Financial Management Reform Programme ERP – Economic Reform Programme
Enhance the global partnership for achieving sustainable development (17.16)	South East Europe 2020 Strategy EU Strategy for the Danube Region EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region

Support for increased availability of high-quality, reliable and disaggregated data for reporting (17.18)

Chapter 18 – Statistics is relevant for this target with particular emphasis on enhancing national statistics and harmonisation with the EU system.

Economic Reform Programme (ERP) 2019-2021 emphasised that the improvement of national statistics quality and transparency is ensured through the improvement of comprehensive, timely and automated data exchange among competent institutions. In April 2018, the list of institutions comprising the general government sector, as well as other sectors, was released in line with the European System of Accounts (ESA) 2010 and GFSM 2014, on the basis of which the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the NBS) will regularly deliver data to the Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS). As part of the international project for enhancing the system of national accounts and GDP calculation, SORS adopted recommendations and positive experiences of European statistical offices with regard to the calculation of the most important macroeconomic aggregates.

Key findings

- *Mapping results show that, under its existing strategic framework, Serbia is already committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.*
- *Serbia declared all 17 goals with 244 indicators included all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.*
- *Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established and composed of high-ranking representatives of 27 line ministries and Government offices, chaired by the Minister for Demography and Population Policy.*
- *Institutional mechanism to coordinate, follow and report on the implementation of 2030 Agenda was established.*
- *The National Statistical Office enabled quantification of key national targets. All data relevant for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on implementation of 2030 Agenda national priorities are publicly available. Indicators are also available.*
- *Serbia has stated its intention to work on fulfilling all 17 SDGs according to 244 indicators. The biggest number of indicators and activities was selected within the areas covered by SDG 3 (27) and SDG 16 (25). Other SDGs contain between 10 and 15 indicators.*
- *An institutional mechanism for M&E and reporting was set up. The first report is expected in 2020. After that it will be possible to evaluate the effectiveness of this mechanism.*
- *Institutional capacity of the Statistical Office has been significantly improved. Quantification of the fulfilment of national targets is enabled and all data are regularly updated and made publicly available.*
- *A new strategic framework is envisaged for 2020, which should fill the gaps in several areas: economy, transport, environment, education, health and social policy, protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. National priorities in the new strategic documents and plans should be defined in a way to contribute directly to achieving SDGs.*
- *Meeting the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda is inseparable from Serbia's EU integration process. These two processes are fully compatible and interdependent. It is therefore necessary to establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms that will allow for better communication, exchange of information and greater involvement of civil society in order to ensure maximum effectiveness and complementarity of planned measures and resources.*
- *EU integration process made a significant contribution to the development of strategic planning and budgeting mechanisms. The EU Annual Progress Reports represent a significant source of information*

on the state of play in each of the 35 negotiating chapters, as well as assessing the fulfilment of national objectives of the EU interest.

- In the absence of a strategy for the development of Serbia, ERP is the most important strategic document in the field of economy. With 22 structural measures in eight areas, it is the starting point for strategic planning in these areas. EU reports on the fulfilment of these criteria are important for evaluating the success of the measures.
- It is required to continuously raise awareness among the national stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, for the importance of 2030 Agenda and SDGs that should strategically prepare the society at large for challenges within the reform process.

2.5. CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY PARTNERS

In line with this methodological principle, ten interviews were conducted with relevant decision-makers during January. The interlocutors were Assistant Ministers in charge of international cooperation. A special interview was held with Minister without portfolio Slavica Djukic Dejanovic, who is in charge of demography. She is the coordinator for the implementation of 2030 Agenda in Serbia. She presented the institutional mechanism for the implementation of 2030 Agenda in Serbia and emphasized the importance of implementing SDGs at local level, decentralisation and inclusiveness of citizens in this process. The IMWG and the UN Team in Serbia helped in 2018 with organising the necessary workshops for mapping the sources of SDG indicators (by using the 5p schematic for their outcomes). Opening of the negotiation process Chapter 18 Statistics in December 2018 enables intensified improvement of national statistics on SDGs. SORS provided data for this report, for trends visibility, from 2010 onwards wherever it was possible or for years for which data are available. To provide data for global and/or national indicators, it monitors all EU and UN recommendations on conducting regular and ad hoc statistical annual and multi-year studies, communicating and working closely with other producers of official statistics that are potential sources of SDG indicators.

Assessments and recommendations of the civil society organisations for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and reaching of sustainable development goals in the Republic of Serbia

The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, whose representatives are members of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, published a public call for civil society organisations (CSO) to contribute to the development of the first Voluntary National Report of the Republic of Serbia (VNR), for the presentation at the High Level Political Forum in July 2019. This call pointed out that "civil society organisations applying the principles of SDGs in their functioning or in some way contribute to the implementation of 2030 Agenda" should provide their assessments of Government practices applied in SDGs implementation, identify the issues of national application and outline recommendations for implementing improvements, share knowledge and experience, all of which would be an invaluable input to the Government to integrate into VNR, and use in the planning of next steps in implementing 2030 Agenda and reaching SDGs for the whole society. The methodological instrument used to obtain these

contributions from civil society organisations was a questionnaire with open-end questions. The public call was open from 8 April to 25 April 2019 and 21 civil society organisations applied. These CSOs were those dedicated and/or directly contributing to achievement of specific SDGs, and those focusing on advocating and promoting 2030 Agenda and its goals as a whole.

The supervisory monitoring, review, and evaluation of the coordination by the Ministry of European Integration and supervisory monitoring of NPAA and NAD implementation is also carried out by the National Convention on the European Union, as an unique CSOs Platform in Serbia, and the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia. Further, the outputs of MEI's coordination, monitoring, review, and evaluation processes, its regular quarterly reports, reviews, and evaluations of the fulfilment of planned assignments by line ministries, agencies, and services, are to be discussed and adopted by the appropriate committees of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia within the national framework for monitoring and supervision of the implementation of a coherent development policy; and are a benchmark in the continuous reporting to the EC about Serbia's progress in the EU accession process, as well as in the comprehensive supervisory monitoring of the coherence of international and bilateral development assistance and the implementation of national priorities for international assistance (NAD) 2014-2017 with projections until 2020 (NAD) coordinated by MEI.

Four key questions for the purpose of this analysis were raised in written and oral interviews with decision-makers.

1. Does your Ministry or Institution have the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?
2. Have you planned reviewing or enacting new strategic documents under your area of competence which have expired or are to expire in 2020? When will this happen?
3. Is there a donor support to the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in your areas of competence? State the projects, donors and implementation timeframe?
4. Describe the institutional mechanism for planning, execution and monitoring of the implementation of strategies containing UN Sustainable Development Goals under your area of competence.

The answers were used for previous chapters of the analysis. The answers reveal which strategies are current, which are planned for the period 2020 to 2030, and at what stage the development or revision of strategies for post-2020 period is. The answers to the first question served to cross-check the strategy database available on the websites of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policy and relevant ministries. The response data significantly complemented the results of the desk research.

The interlocutors were Assistant Ministers in charge of international cooperation. They are most often in charge of both European Integration and the 2030 Agenda and, together with the strategic planning departments, participate in the drafting and implementation of strategic documents, reporting and coordination with other ministries. Each ministry has its own representative in the IMWG who has undergone training and workshops to participate in the reporting mechanism on the implementation of national goals.

In their written submissions, all ministries have provided a list of projects they are currently implementing that contribute to the implementation of strategies and directly or indirectly to the realisation of the SDGs. The general conclusion is that a large number of qualified civil servants in executive positions are missing

and that the outflow of civil servants is a major problem. Another obstacle to building strategic planning capacity is the government-mandated ban on hiring new civil servants. The lack of analytical capacity in ministries is often bridged by using CSO analyses and involving international experts and consultants through projects.

The full text of interviews with individual ministries is attached as Annex 2.

At the beginning of each stakeholder interview, the purpose of this analysis was presented as well as a plan to develop a regional strategy. This idea has been welcomed and there is a high level of interest in both the results of these analyses and the development of a future strategy.

Key findings

- *There is a need for such a comprehensive analysis linking national priorities with the EU and the UN SDG.*
- *There is a need for regional strategy and its consistent implementation in coordination with the EU and other interested donors at all stages.*
- *Consultations and additional debates need to be organised before the strategy is adopted with the involvement of civil society.*
- *Regional strategy should be promoted in all the economies of the region, in the EU member states and EU institutions.*
- *It is required to develop a communication and advocacy plan both at national and regional level to address main goals and obstacles in the implementation of key strategic goals that have direct impact on living conditions and everyday life of the WB citizens.*

2.6. REVIEW OF DONOR COORDINATION MECHANISM

In addition to the fact that the achievement of each SDG is pursued within one or more sectoral policies, albeit in an integrated and coherent way incorporated into Serbia's coherent sustainable development policy as part of the economy's EU accession process, and in line with the transition to sustainability of the European Union as a global leader in this process, and is funded from the budget, financing for SDGs has explicitly received its own first-ever line in 2019 national budget. It is now part of the budget allocation to the Office of the Minister without portfolio responsible for demography and population policy. According to the Republic of Serbia Budget Law for 2019 (RS Official Gazette No. 95/2018) these funds, in the amount of RSD 20 million, are the seed of the national SDG budgeting.

The bulk of financial resources for SDG implementation in Serbia is provided through the use of the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). The Ministry of European Integration coordinates national IPA and the Minister of European Integration, in her capacity as the National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC), is the European Commission's key counterpart for the overall process: strategic planning, coordination of programming, monitoring of implementation, evaluation and reporting on IPA II assistance.

Recognising the importance of EU funds for the development of the Republic of Serbia, the Ministry of European Integration for the first time ever established the Group for the Establishment and Development of the System for Management of the European Union Structural and Cohesion Funds, as well as the Group for Cooperation with the Bodies and Organisations at the Regional and Local Level, in order to make the use of EU funds more efficient. This allows for the systematic preparations for future EU pre-accession funds, which are expected to contribute not only to the overall development of the Republic of Serbia, but also to overcoming significant regional and local disparities.

According to the European Commission Indicative Strategy Paper for Serbia for the period 2014-2020, EUR 1.5 billion have been indicatively allocated for support to the Republic of Serbia through annual action programmes. Out of this amount, some 36% of the funds are planned for reforms in the areas of rule of law, democracy and public administration, 50% for enhancing socio-economic development and investment into human resources and 14% for agriculture and rural development.

Five programming cycles have been successfully completed to date, and the programming for IPA 2019 and 2020 is underway. The so-far approved EU support amounts to slightly over EUR 1 billion.

In a written interview with representative of the EU Delegation in Serbia, we received answers which clearly indicate the relation between the SDGs and negotiation chapters. The full version of the written interview is attached along with this document.

The reference for EU-Serbia financial cooperation in the framework of the Enlargement policy is the Indicative Strategy Paper for the period 2014-2020, as revised on 10 August 2018 (Strategy Paper)⁸³. The Strategy Paper sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance to support Serbia on its path to accession, and translates the political priorities set out in the Enlargement policy framework into key areas where financial assistance is most useful to meet the accession criteria.

The indicative bilateral allocation for 2014-2020 is EUR 1.539 billion. The indicative bilateral allocation for 2018-2020 is EUR 722.2 million. The indicative breakdown by sector for 2018-2020 is the following:

Sectors of intervention under the revised Indicative Strategy Paper for Serbia 2018-2020 and corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sector I – Democracy and rule of law (35%)

Democracy and governance

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

⁸³ <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180817-revised-indicative-strategy-paper-2014-2020-for-serbia.pdf>

Rule of law and fundamental rights

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development

Sector 2 – Competitiveness and growth (65%)

Environment, climate change and energy

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Employment, education and social policies

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG focus of EU-Serbia Partnership

Listing EU interventions in Serbia along SDG numbers, the *Annual Action Programmes (AAPs)* for the period 2019 - 2020 contribute primarily to the achievement of the following SDGs (sometimes simultaneously):

SDG 1 (No poverty); SDG 3 (Good health and well-being); SDG 4 (Quality education); SDG 5 (Gender equality); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities)

ISP Sector 2 - Employment, education and social policies

The 2020 AAP intends to capitalise on the achievements of the 2014, 2016 and 2018 AAPs, and provide further support to “Education, employment and social policies” (~ EUR 30 million). In the area of education, support to the ongoing sector reform continues in 2019, and the 2020 AAP will possibly support its follow-up actions. Another possible area for future intervention – if the weak capacity of the Ministry allows it - may be dual education. Another one is equal access to pre-primary school at local level, to strengthen social and educational inclusion, employability of women and gender equality. On social policies, health and employment, in spite of the clear and comprehensive needs assessment, the lack of a proper strategic framework poses a challenge to structured sector support. Preparatory work to establish an operational programme beyond 2021 could be envisaged. Support to disadvantaged groups, including Roma, may focus on active inclusion policies at local level, and on extended social service delivery - social services not being adequate to respond to the wide variety of needs of disadvantaged groups in Serbia.

SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 4 (Quality education); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production)

ISP Sector 2 - Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development

The 2019 AAP continues to provide support – under the sector “Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development” (~ EUR 25 million) – to the programmes implemented from 2016 to 2018. The AAP also continues to support local development, building on the previous interventions (EU Progress) and on a new programme supporting Serbian strategy on tourism. The 2019 AAP also aims at fostering progress in the light of Chapter 22 of the EU acquis - Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments.

The 2020 AAP also keeps supporting “Competitiveness, innovation, agriculture and rural development” (~ EUR 55 million). In particular, in addition to the continued support to the Innovation Fund, further support to the digital agenda may be provided through a new Science Fund. Support under this sector may also cover business development, including measures for administrative simplification and market access.

It is worth recalling that in the period 2015-2018 the EU granted Serbia EUR 231.6 million under the Connectivity agenda, leveraging further 546.1 million in investments.

Under the 2019 and 2020 AAPs, respectively EUR 45.0 million and 48.5 million have been earmarked for the Instrument for pre-accession assistance for rural development (IPARD), and for the Civil Society Facility (CSF)(see infra, SDG 17).

SDG 4 (Quality education)

ISP Sector 1 – Democracy and governance

The 2019 AAP provides continued support to co-finance Serbia’s participation in EU programmes (see infra, SDG 16), including a new entry ticket for the programme ERASMUS +.

SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation); SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy); SDG 13 (Climate action)**ISP Sector 2 – Environment, climate action and energy**

The 2019 AAP supports primarily – under the sector “Environment, climate action and energy” (~ EUR 60.5 million) – energy efficiency, waste and wastewater management. On energy efficiency the AAP may provide continued support to the EBRD Green city initiative in Belgrade, for which a pilot project has been funded under the 2018 AAP. Support may also include the Waste for Energy project in Vinča. On waste and wastewater management, the support aims at aligning the current legislation and structures to the relevant EU acquis and standards (Chapter 27 - Environment). In the environment sector, the main challenges supported under the 2019 AAP cover investment planning (incl. pipelines); capacity building at ministerial and local level; coordination and cooperation (in particular with Sweden and Germany). Environmental investment projects have preliminarily been selected from a list of projects under development through a Project Preparation Facility (PPF). A total of eight infrastructure projects are being prepared, the most mature being a waste water treatment plant in Loznica, and a plant in Cacak. For projects which are not yet ready, support may be funded under the 2020 AAP.

SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)**ISP Sector 1 – Democracy and governance; Rule of Law and fundamental rights**

The 2019 AAP – under the sector “Democracy and governance” – provides continued support to harmonise Serbian legislation with the EU acquis, to assume future obligations and prepare for future investments and access to EU programmes (EUR 52.5 million). This support continues through a flexible approach – namely the EU Integration facility - which may cover alignment to the EU acquis and capacity building in the area of foreign security and defence policy, and capacity building of the Parliament. Support may also continue co-financing Serbia’s participation in EU Programmes, including the new entry ticket for Erasmus + (see SDG 4 above on quality education). Support may also cover e-governance - if the Government strategy is mature enough - while ensuring complementarity with the upcoming World Bank’s policy loan, and ongoing IPA support.

The 2020 AAP will provide further support to “Democracy and governance” in Serbia, along the lines of the 2019 AAP (~ EUR 29.5 million). While articulating the interventions according to their degree of preparedness, the 2020 AAP will further support e-governance, capacity building in the area of foreign, security, and defence policy, as well as capacity building of the Parliament.

The 2019 AAP supports – under the sector “Rule of Law and fundamental rights” – initiatives in the field of migration and border management (~ EUR 28 million). On migration, the programme covers the costs incurred by Serbia to host migrants and refugees (thus also contributing to the achievement of SDG 10 “Reducing inequality within and among countries”)[2]. On border management, the 2019 AAP intends to support the implementation of the Schengen action plan and the establishment of National Coordination Centres (NCCs). Such support aims at rendering national centres operational, in order to better exchange data with EU Members States and FRONTEX, in line with the European Border Surveillance system (EUROSUR). The 2019 AAP may also support the bodies in charge of the implementation of Chapter 23, as well as transitional justice, following the architecture of the EURALIUS programmes.

The 2020 AAP may possibly support – under the sector “Rule of Law and fundamental rights” (~ EUR 55 million) – the Justice sector reform, and a sector budget support. This shall also aim at strengthening

monitoring and coordination systems across the ministries involved in the Justice reform process, which has been critical so far. In addition to the Justice sector reform, the 2020 AAP may further support the institutions and bodies involved in the implementation of Chapter 23 related to Fundamental Rights, and Chapter 24 of the EU acquis - Justice, freedom and security, following the architecture of the PAMECA programmes.

SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals)**Other programmes**

Under the 2019 and 2020 AAPs, respectively EUR 45.0 million and 48.5 million have been earmarked for the Instrument for pre-accession assistance for rural development (IPARD), and for the Civil Society Facility (CSF)(see above, SDG 2).

In the previous period 2015-2018, support under the Civil Society Facility for Serbia amounted to EUR 18 million.

Other donor contribution to the achievement of SDGs

GIZ: total grants awarded to Serbia reached USD 234 million, and can be linked to many SDGs, including SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG 13 (Climate change) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals). German international cooperation with the Republic of Serbia began immediately after the economy's democratic transition in the year 2000. Since then GIZ has maintained a County Office in Belgrade and several Project Offices. Today, there are 156 people working for GIZ in Serbia, 30 of whom are seconded staff and 126 national personnel. There are additionally 10 CIM experts working in Serbian partner institutions.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ supports Serbia's efforts to achieve convergence with the EU, to strengthen economic performance and to consolidate democratic structures.

To this end we are implementing programmes and projects in the following priority areas:

- Sustainable Economic Development and Employment
- Good Governance
- Environment

Serbia also benefits from GIZ projects at the regional level. The Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe supports activities in the fields of legal reform, foreign trade advisory services, modernisation of municipal services, energy efficiency, biodiversity and EU integration.

Projects in Serbia:

- Rural development through integrated forest and water resources management in Southeast Europe

- Waste management, circular economy and green job opportunities
- Energy efficiency in public buildings
- Development of a sustainable bioenergy market
- Social rights for vulnerable groups
- Public administration reform
- Social services for disadvantaged population groups
- Open regional funds for South-East Europe – promotion of EU integration through regional cooperation
- Open regional funds for South-East Europe – legal reform
- Open regional funds for South-East Europe – modernisation of municipal services
- Public finance reform
- Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Biodiversity
- Open regional funds for South-East Europe – Energy Efficiency
- Economic Diversification of Rural Areas
- Zoran Djindjic Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans
- Programme “Migration for Development”
- Private sector development in disadvantaged regions
- Sustainable recruitment of nurses
- Youth employment promotion – Programme Sustainable Growth and Employment in Serbia
- Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Foreign Trade
- Reforming vocational education

USAID: USAID's budget portfolio in Serbia is USD 64 million. One third is related to SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

Current programmes that contribute to Serbia's overall economic development include:

USAID Competitive Economy Project

The USAID Competitive Economy Project is a four-year, \$11.95 million activity to strengthen the competitiveness of the Serbian food processing industry, particularly fruit and vegetable value chains, with the goal to increase sales and exports of Serbian food products on domestic and international markets.

Public Private Dialogue Project

The Public Private Dialogue project is a four-year, \$1.43 million initiative to help build sustainable, effective public-private collaborations between the Government, private sector and civil society in order to improve the business enabling environment and generate more dynamic and sustainable economic growth.

Current programmes that contribute to the process of democratisation include:

USAID Rule of Law project

The USAID Rule of Law (ROL) project is a four-year, \$9.8 million project supporting justice sector reforms that enhance the timely delivery of justice for Serbian citizens. The project works with the courts, public enforcement agents and the State Attorney's Office to increase increased judicial efficiency, transparency and access to justice.

USAID Government Accountability Initiative

The Serbia Government Accountability Initiative (GAI) is a four-year, \$8.5 million activity that works with key Serbian stakeholders to increase government accountability at the national and local levels.

SIDA - Swedish International Development Assistance:

A USD 56 million portfolio is linked to SDG 16, SDG 17, as well as SDGs 5, 6, 8 and 12.

Sweden's aid to Serbia in 2019 is divided into sectors: Government and Civil Society (USD 7.6m); General environmental protection (2.2m), Water supply and sanitation (USD 650k); Industry (USD 464k); Other Social Infrastructure (USD460k);

ADA: the portfolio amounts to USD 27.5 million and all projects relate to various SDGs. They can be linked to SDGs 2, 8, 10, 12 and 13.

DFID (Department for International Development): funds worth USD 26.2 million, through projects, half of this amount is linked to SDG 16, and the other half to SDG 17. An additional project addresses SDG 10.

○ Good Governance Fund - Supporting Economic and Governance Reform in Serbia

To deliver a portfolio of technical assistance and capacity building projects to promote Serbia's reform process through the following initiatives: Firstly, a gender responsive governance project aims to unlock the change in unpaid care work, to challenge current social norms and to advocate and push for the policies and investments needed to reduce and redistribute women's care work. Gender analysis of the economic value of unpaid care work will also be conducted and results will be used for advocacy and stakeholder engagement. Secondly a pilot to improve citizens' engagement on issues of public interest will focus on supporting at least 30 civil society organisations and grassroot initiatives active in 10 to 20 local communities. The aim is to improve their capabilities to engage citizens more actively in holding authorities to account. The support will focus on new and emerging initiatives as well as civil society organisations with a clear need for capacity development support. (Start Date: 04-09-2019, Total Budget: £2,768,506)

NORAD -Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation: the total amount of NORAD's portfolio in Serbia is \$10 million. The portfolio can be linked to SDGs 16, 8, 1 and 17.

Norway's development policy is based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted by all UN member states in 2015. These goals provide the global framework for efforts to promote sustainable development, peace and justice by 2030.

Five areas are given priority in Norway's development policy:

- Education
- Health
- Climate change, the environment and the oceans
- Private sector development, agriculture and renewable energy
- Humanitarian aid

Human rights, gender equality, climate change and the environment, and anti-corruption are cross-cutting issues.

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC): the current SDC subsidy portfolio in Serbia stands at USD 10 million, and is mainly linked to SDGs 16, 17, 1 and 8.¹⁶⁶

Strategic orientation and Swiss priorities for 2018–2021

Overall goal

The overall goal of the new Cooperation Strategy is for Switzerland to contribute to efficient and effective democratic institutions and processes as well as inclusive and sustainable growth by supporting Serbia's reforms and path to European integration for the benefit of all citizens.

Governance

In the domain of governance, support from SDC and SECO for local governments, for legislative powers at national and local levels, and for civil society will contribute to bringing decision-making processes closer to the people.

Overall objective for this domain: Democratic, efficient and effective governance for the benefit of all people in Serbia.

Swiss engagement in economic development and employment will increase given the great need for this and interest from the Serbian government. In this domain, SDC and SECO cooperation aims to improve macro-economic institutions and framework conditions, and promote dynamic entrepreneurship, enhanced competitiveness, sustainable trade and market oriented skills development. These interventions will contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and quality employment for all, in particular in rural areas. **Overall objective for this domain: Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and increased quality employment for all.**

Sustainable energy and resilient cities

Enabling and piloting the use of renewable energy, supporting the implementation of energy efficiency measures and strengthening the capacities of selected municipalities to manage and plan their infrastructure will contribute to reaching national energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, thus further reducing CO₂ emissions and improving the living conditions for Serbian citizens.

Overall objective in this domain: Increased energy sustainability and improved resilience of cities.

Cross cutting themes

Given their importance in the Serbian context and Switzerland's domains of intervention, the understanding of and work on good governance principles (in line with SDG 16) and gender equality (SDG 5) will be deepened and joint learning fostered.

Besides mainstreaming gender considerations throughout Swiss cooperation, gender gaps will be closed by way of targeted interventions – e.g., targeted vocational education and training for women, in particular young women, and support for women's leadership in sustainable energy.

All domains will address systemic governance gaps (including in economic governance) at multiple levels and in collaboration with multiple actors – e.g. improving regulatory and institutional conditions; promoting adherence to good governance principles; and contributing to the balanced distribution of the division of labour between different government levels. Importantly, Swiss interventions will contribute to the fight against corruption. Among other things, Switzerland will support local anti-corruption plans and the work of the Serbian chapter of the Global Organisation of Parliamentarians against Corruption.

Migration Partnership

Furthermore, inclusion and migration are important contextual issues. Inclusion will be mainstreamed, as appropriate, as part of the non-discrimination good governance principle in response to stagnating reforms and increasingly disillusioned citizens. Within the framework of the Migration Partnership Strategy Western Balkans 2016–19, Switzerland will promote mainstreaming migration into development planning, including access to quality services and basic rights. It will support migration governance and management, prevention of irregular migration and reintegration of returnees, in addition to improving the efficiency of remittances payments. The SCO will continue to collaborate closely with the SDC Global Programme on Migration and Development.

Good example of the donor coordination mechanism is the [Western Balkans Investment Framework \(WBIF\)](#) which supports socio-economic development and EU accession across the Western Balkans through the provision of finance and technical assistance for strategic investments. It is a joint initiative of the EU, financial institutions, bilateral donors and the governments of the Western Balkans.

The WBIF provides financing and technical assistance to strategic investments in [energy](#), [environment](#), [social](#), [transport](#), and [digital infrastructure](#) sectors. It also supports [private sector development initiatives](#).

The Framework awards, based on competitive procedures, grants for infrastructure project preparation activities as well as for investments. Calls for proposals are launched by the WBIF Steering Committee. Generally, there are two calls for technical assistance and only one call for investment grants per year. [Guidelines](#) are published for each call for proposals setting out eligibility criteria, including any specific requirements, as well as the pre-notification and submission deadlines.

Applications are assessed by the WBIF's Project Financiers' Group, which recommends selected applications for approval to the Steering Committee. Approved grants are then implemented by the Infrastructure Project Facility teams and/or the IFIs themselves.

The WBIF is a coordinated blending platform financing the preparation and implementation of priority infrastructure projects through:

- grants from the European Commission's [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA\)](#) and 20 [Bilateral Donors](#); with
- loans from the participating financial institutions; and
- national finance.

At inception, the CEB, the EBRD and the EIB contributed to the WBIF's grant activities.

A further joint initiative, with the same partners and the [European Investment Fund \(EIF\)](#), is the [Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility \(WB EDIF\)](#), launched in December 2012. This aims to improve access to finance for SMEs in the region, helping to develop the local economy and regional venture capital markets, while promoting policy reforms to support access to finance through financial engineering instruments. The initial capital of the WB EDIF was EUR 145 million, which will effectively translate into over EUR 300 million of direct financing for high growth and innovative SMEs in the Western Balkans.

Key findings

- *The EU is the largest donor in Serbia. Plans for the post-2020 period take into account the need to link national priorities and strategies to the SDGs. The structure of strategic support areas is linked to the SDGs.*
- *Bilateral donors also recognise the need to link national priorities with the SDGs and EU requirements and strategic priorities.*
- *The NAD document is the starting point for the analysis and monitoring of donor support in Serbia, and the consultation mechanism established to develop this document needs to be further strengthened.*
- *Donor coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened both in the planning and monitoring and evaluation phases.*
- *Coordination between the Regional Cooperation Council and donor community needs to be established, to support the region and involve the donor community in the process of drafting of the new regional strategy.*

3. Conclusions and recommendations

For the purpose of this analysis, strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia were analysed and strategies valid after 2020 identified. Serbia has 32 long-term strategic documents with or without Action Plans that are in force in post-2020 period. There are 23 strategies without a timeframe. 34 Strategies, Action Plans and Programmes that are relevant for post-2020 period are under preparation. Some of them are already drafted, some are in the public debate phase and some are adopted by the Government or under way to be adopted in the Parliament. Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia harmonises the process of planning, drafting and adoption of public policy regulations and documents at all levels. By adopting this regulation, mechanisms have been put in place to systematically prevent the adoption of ineffective regulations and documents that do not meet the prescribed standards and criteria but also to set goals in line with national, EU and UN priorities. Further strengthening of capacities of the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies as well as capacities of the Statistical Office is required in terms of coordination of overall strategic planning, policy making and budgeting process in Serbia.

2020 will be "strategic planning year" for Serbia, having in mind that many strategic documents will expire after 2020. EU integration process firmly contributes to development and regulation of strategic planning and policy making process in Serbia. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established, as well as consultation process which involves non-governmental actors both in preparatory and reporting phases. Transparency of the process is improved with Government bodies and ministries being obliged to conduct public debate, publish draft strategies and laws before public debate and publish report on public debate results. National Convention on EU, as a representative of more than 750 civil society organizations, is in a position to give feedback on the process, both to the Serbian Government and the EU. Through analytical approach, scientific-based research, open discussions and informing the public, the National Convention has carved unique space for public dialogue for every party interested in supporting Serbia's accession toward modern economy, based on European values.

The new European Commission in 2020 should operationalise strategic objectives in priority areas and harmonise its own strategic framework with the UN 2030 Agenda. The UN SDGs should be considered and transferred to both Member States and candidate countries national strategies. Clear and functional order and relation among the EU and national strategies need to be set up as a precondition for the use of financial and other sources of support. The new European budgetary framework should respond to the objectives of both Member States and candidate countries. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms need to be strengthened.

It is necessary to define common priorities of the Western Balkans region in the strategic framework of the EU with the financial framework and instruments. Continuous capacity building of candidate countries is needed to make more effective and efficient use of financial assistance instruments, funds and programmes which are already available. Better Communication Strategy needs to be created and implemented to achieve a higher level of enthusiasm for the EU enlargement to the Western Balkans

among Member States. Civil society knowledge and resources need to be more involved and used, both in the strategic planning and policy-making process as in the monitoring and evaluation process.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia has directly participated in development and writing of the Sustainable Development Agenda by involving citizens in the process through Post 2015 Development Agenda consultations and by direct participation of the state representatives in the global forums where Sustainable Development Goals were defined.

Mapping results show that, under its existing strategic framework, Serbia is already committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Serbia declared all 17 goals with 244 indicators included all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established and composed of high-ranking representatives of 27 line ministries and Government offices, chaired by the Minister for Demography and Population Policy. Institutional mechanism to coordinate, follow and report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was established. The National Statistical Office enabled quantification of key national targets. All data relevant for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on implementation of the 2030 Agenda national priorities are publicly available. Indicators are also available. An institutional mechanism for M&E and reporting was set up. The first report is expected in 2020. After that it will be possible to evaluate the effectiveness of this mechanism.

A new strategic framework is envisaged for 2020, which should fill the gaps in several areas: economy, transport, environment, education, health and social policy, protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. In the absence of a strategy for the development of Serbia, ERP is the most important strategic document in the field of economy. With 22 structural measures in eight areas, it is the starting point for strategic planning in these areas. EU reports on the fulfilment of these criteria are important for evaluating the success of the measures. It is required to continuously raise awareness among the national stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental, for the importance of 2030 Agenda and SDGs that should strategically prepare the society at large for challenges within the reform process.

The EU has played an active role throughout the process and is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs within the EU and in development cooperation with partner economies. The Agenda reflects many of the EU's priorities for sustainable development, as set out in our recent Communications and Council Conclusions.

The European Council granted Serbia the status of candidate country in 2012. The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) between Serbia and the EU entered into force in September 2013. Meetings of the joint bodies under the agreement took place at regular intervals. Serbia continued to implement the SAA, although a number of compliance issues remain. Since the opening of Serbia's accession negotiations in January 2014, 18 out of 35 chapters have been opened, two of which were provisionally closed.

The EU is the largest donor in Serbia. Plans for the post-2020 period take into account the need to link national priorities and strategies to the SDGs. The structure of strategic support areas is linked to the SDGs. Bilateral donors also recognise the need to link national priorities with the SDGs and EU

requirements and strategic priorities. Donor coordination mechanisms need to be strengthened both in the planning and monitoring and evaluation phases.

There is a clear intention of the new EC to "work on speeding up structural and institutional reforms, with a strong focus on the fundamentals of the rule of law, economic development and public administration reforms. EU should also support all efforts in the fight against corruption across the region and support all efforts towards good neighbourly relations and the resolution of bilateral disputes."⁸⁴ There is also a need for a regional strategy and its consistent implementation in coordination with the EU and other interested donors at all stages. Consultations and additional debates need to be organised before the strategy is adopted with the involvement of civil society. Regional strategy should be promoted in all economies of the region, in the EU member states and EU institutions. It is required to develop a communication and advocacy plan both at national and regional level to address main goals and obstacles in the implementation of key strategic goals that have direct impact on living conditions and everyday life of the WB citizens. Coordination between the Regional Cooperation Council and donor community needs to be established, to support the region and involve the donor community in the process of drafting of the new regional strategy with post-2020 financial and investment framework.

⁸⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/president-elect_von_der_leyens_mission_letter_to_oliver_varhelyi.pdf

ANNEX I

Existing and planned mid and long-term strategies of the Republic of Serbia with key priorities

STRATEGIES VALID AFTER 2020

1. National Strategy for Prevention and Combating Terrorism, 2017-2021⁸⁵

The strategy defines strategic goals which protect fundamental values, classified into 4 priority areas:

- Measures to prevent terrorism, violent extremism and possible radicalization leading to terrorism
- Monitoring, protective measures and terrorism threat annulation in the overall protection system.
- Criminal investigation of terrorists, with due respect of their human rights, rule of law and democratic principles
- Systemic response to a terrorist attack.

2. Strategy for Fight against Cyber-Crime, 2019-2023⁸⁶

General Strategic Goal

Republic of Serbia possesses efficient and sustainable system of common reaction of all entities in the fight against cyber-crime.

Such defined general strategic goal should have in effect better connection of all entities involved in Strategy implementation, as well as better use of all resources in problem-solving.

Specific Strategic Goals

Specific goals are directed to solving unfamiliar issues in fighting cyber-crime. Analysis recognized four specific goals and measures defined within them are:

1. Serbian legal system advanced and synchronized with the EU standards in the fight of cyber-crime.
 - 1.1. In order to achieve that, amendments of Serbian legislative needs to be drafted in accordance with the EU legal tradition.
2. Organizational, personnel, technical and operational capacities for fight against cyber-crime need to be significantly improved.
 - 2.1. Cyber-crime unite needs to be re-organized.
 - 2.2. Separate organizational units need to be established, within the state system, in line with their respective jurisdiction and needs.

⁸⁵ http://www.mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/4e85c9e8-6b07-42ed-9224-01573af0d61/strategija-terorizam+i_LAT.pdf?MOD=A-JPERES&CVID=mfqgT.n

⁸⁶ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/71/I/reg>

- 2.3. Personnel, expert, technical and organizational capacities of state institutions for exchange of data and response to incidents need to be improved.
- 2.4. Relevant training of different levels needs to be organized.
- 2.5. Advanced electronic equipment and software tools need to be provided.
- 2.6. Unique protocol of standard operational procedures needs to be devised, for the cyber-crime area.

3. Proactive approach to fighting cyber-crime needs to be improved

- 3.1. Raising the general population awareness level
- 3.2. Raising the public state bodies awareness level

4. Improved national, regional and international cooperation

- 4.1. To improve cooperation among private, public sector and civil society
- 4.2. To improve cooperation on prevention of sexual exploitation of children and minors
- 4.3. To improve international and regional police cooperation

3. Strategy for Control of Small and Light Arms, 2019-2024⁸⁷

General strategic goal is to reduce threat of illegal possession and misuse of small and light weapons, ammunition and explosives for civilian use.

The strategy defines 5 individual goals to improve control of small and light weapons:

1. Legal framework in the area of control of small and light weapons and explosives for civilian use, improved
2. Improved national mechanism to reduce small and light weapons, ammunition and explosives for civilian use in illegal possession
3. Improved national capacity to manage supplies of small and light weapons, ammunition and explosives for civilian use
4. Improved national capacity to control, examine, mark and track small and light weapons, as well as record keeping
5. Better international, regional and national cooperation, as well as improved cooperation with the civil society.

4. Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022

OVERAL GOAL

- A systematically strengthened partnership in responding to trafficking locally, nationally and internationally
- Improved prevention and reduced impact of the causes of trafficking in line with the dynamics of new challenges, risks and threats

SPECIFIC GOALS

- Improved proactive system for detecting cases of trafficking in human beings, efficient processing of natural and legal persons and legal protection of victims of trafficking in human beings
- Improved identification, protection, assistance and support system for victims of trafficking through long-term and sustainable social inclusion programs
- Children are protected from trafficking and exploitation in pornography and prostitution and their consequences, through special participatory programs implemented in their best interests

5. Development Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior 2018-2023⁸⁸

For the identification and later for the development of strategic areas in the directions of action, the BSC (Balanced Score Card) methodology was applied, which enables a balanced representation of strategic development goals from different perspectives, namely:

- Internal processes that imply continuous capacity development with the aim of the most efficient, effective and economical realization of rights and security within the competence of the Ministry
- Further investing in human resources through the development of organizational and human resources, the acquisition of knowledge and skills and the development of competences in line with new trends
- Development of a safety culture through continuous education of stakeholders by the Ministry.
- Continuous provision of the necessary financial resources for further development of organizational, human and technical-technological capacities that will improve internal processes and enable better results in the realization of citizens' rights and security

6. Program for Public Procurement Development, 2019-2023⁸⁹

This program aims to determine the following general goal: further development of modern and efficient public procurement system.

Expected indicator of achievement is further modernization of public procurement procedures, with full application of electronic communication, with raised efficiency, transparency and lowered irregularity risk. The plan is also to support closing of the Negotiation Chapter 5, by fulfilling closing criteria.

Achievement of the general goal is envisaged through 4 determined individual objectives:

1. Improved efficiency of the procedure
2. Supported competition at the public procurement market
3. Lowered risk of irregular procedure
4. Support to the promotion of ecological and social aspect in public procurement and innovations

7. Strategy for Sustainable Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia, till 2030⁹⁰**Strategic directions of urban planning**

Taking into consideration key issues and the relevant SWOT analysis, as well as the vision of the urban planning, following strategic directions have been determined:

1. Sustainable economic development
2. Regulation of urban settlements
3. Societal prosperity
4. Quality of environment
5. Management of urban development

Sustainable economic development of urban settlements and management of urban development are basic support for realization of other three mentioned strategic directions. Management of urban planning is the integral part of all four mentioned strategic directions. With enhanced management, support to other four strategic directions is provided; those are key issues for extracting urban development management into a separate strategic direction.

Strategic directions of urban development are a general frame for:

- General and specific urban development goals
- Measures to achieve urban development goals
- Identification of priority areas for intervention
- Criteria for selection of priority programs and project in urban development
- Key indicators for monitoring efficiency and productivity of the Strategy

GENERAL & SPECIFIC URBAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS

General urban development goal is achieved sustainable development of urban settlements, provided through advanced economic, social and cultural development, and the quality of ambience of urban settlement, environmental protection and accommodation to climate changes, raised social wealth (quality of life, public health & safety), affordable and quality housing, preservation and affirmation of architectural heritage and urban identity.

Following specific goals for strategic directions of urban development have been determined:

1. Sustainable economic development
Advanced and integrated strategic urban framework for sustainable, innovative and inclusive local economic development, employment, support of competition and life standard in urban settlements.
2. Regulation of urban settlements
Improved and synchronized quality of regulation and availability of urban space
3. Social wealth
Improved quality and availability of social services, lowered poverty risk, provided housing for all citizens, provided social inclusion and demographic restoration of urban settlements

⁸⁸ http://mup.gov.rs/wps/wcm/connect/71fdf00f-7eb3-455f-9421-02ee6a190e17/PDF_Strategija+razvoja+MUP-a+2018-2023.pdf?MOD=AJPRES&CVID=mtlzhL9

⁸⁹ <http://www.ujn.gov.rs/vesti/program-razvoja-javnih-nabavki-u-republici-srbiji-za-period-2019-2023-godine/>

⁹⁰ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/47/l/reg>

4. Quality of environment
Improved quality of environment, health and safety of citizens in urban settlements and high degree of adaptivity of urban settlements to climate changes
5. Management of urban development
More efficient management of urban development

Measures to achieve urban development goals

In order to achieve specific goals, set in the paragraph 5.3 of this Strategy, following sets of measures are determined, which are key issues and related activities which contribute to the sustainable urban development in the Republic of Serbia until 2030, as follows:

1. Improved and integrated strategic urban framework for sustainable, innovative and inclusive local economic development, employment, support to the competition and life standard in urban settlements.
 - 1.1 Improved conditions for local sustainable economic and urban development
2. Improved efficiency of use, financing and management of construction sites, communal economy and services
3. Restoration, new use and management of brownfield locations
4. Business and innovative infrastructure (free zones, business incubators, improved business zones, innovation centers, etc.) and commercial zones
5. Improved and synchronized quality of regulation and availability of urban space
 - 5.1 Quality of regulation and identity of central urban zones and public spaces
 - 5.2 Heritage and culture
 - 5.3 Availability, traffic and urban mobility
 - 5.4 Quality, capacity and level of service for technical infrastructure
 - 5.5 Strengthening and improving of rural-urban connectivity
6. Improved quality and availability of social services, lowered risk of poverty, provided housing for all citizens, achieved social inclusion and demographic restoration of urban settlements
 - 6.1 Quality and availability of public services in urban settlements (educational objects, health, social protection, culture, sports & recreation)
 - 6.2 Social inclusion and lowered risk of poverty in urban settlements
 - 6.3 Quality of regulation and availability of urban planning by providing sustainable housing for all citizens; recovery of "wild" communities, built without permit and suburban settlements
 - 6.4 Raised transparency in decision-making process of urban development, through broad participation of citizens and stakeholders
7. Improved quality of life, environment, health and safety of urban settlements citizens; high level of adaptivity to climate changes
 - 7.1 Reducing the effect of climate changes through improved environmental parameters, waste management and energy efficiency
 - 7.2 Adaptation to climate changes and establishment of rapid reaction system in crisis situations
 - 7.3 Strengthening of institutional capacities and implementation of strategic and planned documents in urban development planning, with the aim to protect natural environment and overall life safety
8. More efficient management of urban development
 - 8.1 Improvement of institutional framework of urban development management
 - 8.2 Improvement of public finances management for sustainable urban development

- 8.3 Integral planning of sustainable urban development and improvement of urban planning
- 8.4 Digitalization and introduction of electronic services in urban development management

8. Strategy for Tourism Development of the Republic of Serbia, 2016 – 2025⁹¹

Therefore, taking into consideration above mentioned aspects, is it necessary to define developmental goals until 2025.

1. Raising the share of hotels and similar catering facilities in total accommodation capacities to 50%;
2. Reaching a total occupancy of accommodation capacities (accommodation units) of 30%;
3. Increasing tourist influx by up to three times, or at least by 50%, by 2025;
4. Increasing unit expenditure of tourists (per night) by 50%;
5. Increasing the share of inbound tourists' overnights to 45% by 2020 and to 55% by 2025;
6. Increasing the direct share of tourism in the GDP of the Republic of Serbia twice over;
7. Increasing the amount of direct employment in the tourism industry by at least 50% and increasing employment in tourism and complementary activities by up to three times;
8. Growth of direct investments

It is also necessary to achieve the following objectives:

1. Establish an efficient system of tourism development management coupled with a strengthening of the PPP;
2. Improve and align the methodologies and procedures for the collection and processing of statistical data with international standards and practices;
3. Establish the Register of tourism on legal grounds;
4. Reduce the "grey economy" in tourism.

9. Strategy for Development of Free Investment Zones in the Republic of Serbia, 2018-2022

Free zones of the Republic of Serbia are dedicated to economic progress through the creation of the most favorable locations for business in accordance with the socio-economic strategies of the Government.

The vision of free zones is to become a leading economic instrument for attracting direct investment, which contributes fully to the sustainable development of the Republic of Serbia through socio-economic growth and transformation of the Republic of Serbia into a global center for investment, trade and logistics.

The mission of the free zones is to provide added value to the economy by creating the most favorable investment and business locations in the Republic of Serbia in order to attract domestic and foreign companies engaged in high-tech production intended for export.

The development of free zones encourages:

1. Effective attraction of direct investments through a combination of state financial support programs and free zone benefits;
2. Improvement of tax relief policy in free zones in accordance with national regional development policy;
3. Expansion of areas of existing zones, especially in devastated areas;
4. Increase in traffic in free zones by at least 5% per year;
5. Encouraging investment in new technologies;
6. Construction of facilities for incubation of production activities;
7. Infrastructure equipment of land intended for incubation of production activities;
8. Increasing the role of local governments through the system of municipal benefits
9. Introduction of new services in free zones;
10. Encouraging small companies and individuals to cooperate with large companies in order to supply them with products and services;
11. Creating the best conditions for doing business in free zones after joining the European Union;
12. Improvement of cooperation with state institutions engaged in encouraging the development of entrepreneurship.

10. Strategy for Development of Intellectual Property, 2018-2022⁹²

11. Strategy for Development of Energetics of the Republic of Serbia, till 2025, with predictions until 2030⁹³

Provision of energy security, energy market development and overall transition towards sustainable energy sector are imposed as key priorities of energy sector development in the Republic of Serbia, i.e. principles based on which the energy sector policy by 2030 should be developed.

ENERGY SECURITY

- Reliable, safe, efficient and quality supply of energy and energy products
- Setting up conditions for reliable and safe operation and sustainable development of energy systems and energy sector in general

ENERGY MARKET

- Competitiveness on electricity market based on non-discrimination, publicity and transparency
- Protection of energy and energy products consumers
- Development of electricity and natural gas market and their connection with the unique energy market of EU
- More intense connection of energy system of the Republic of Serbia with energy systems of other economies, especially the neighbouring ones

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- Provision of conditions for energy efficiency improvement in energy and energy consumption
- Creating economical financial conditions for increase of share of energy from renewable energy sources, as well as for combined production of electric and heat energy
- Creating institutional, financial and technical assumptions for using new energy sources
- Promotion of condition and environmental protection system in all fields of energy activities
- Establishing more favourable legal, institutional and logistic conditions for more dynamical investment into energy sector

12. Implementation Program of the Strategy for Development of Energetics, till 2025 with predictions until 2030, for the period 2017-2030⁹⁴

The Energy Strategy defines the strategic priorities of the energy development of the Republic of Serbia for the mentioned period, namely:

- Ensuring energy security through
 - Reliable, safe, efficient and quality energy and energy supply
 - Establishment of conditions for reliable and safe operation of all systems within the energy sector and for their sustainable development

In order to ensure a secure, reliable and high-quality energy supply, it is necessary to promote rational use of energy, to provide adequate reserves of oil and natural gas, to provide various sources of supply to these energy sources, then to build new capacity for electricity production (with renewable energy sources, as well as with conventional energy sources, with high energy efficiency) and capacity for transmission and distribution of electricity and energy products that will ensure a secure supply at the lowest total cost.

- Development of the energy market through:
 - Ensuring competitiveness in the energy market on the principles of non-discrimination, publicity and transparency
 - Protection of customers of energy and energy products
 - Development of electricity and natural gas markets and their integration with the European Union's single energy market (hereinafter: the EU)
 - Intensification of the energy system of the Republic of Serbia with the energy systems of other economies, especially those from the immediate environment

In accordance with the Energy Community Treaty, the Republic of Serbia has set the establishment of a regional energy market as one of its priorities. This market should integrate into the EU energy market and allow more investment in this sector and contribute to its development.

- Transition to sustainable energy through:
 - Provision of conditions for improvement of energy efficiency in performing energy activities and energy consumption
 - Creation of economic, economic and financial conditions for increasing the share of energy from renewable energy sources, as well as for combined production of electricity and heat

92 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/78/2/reg>

93 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2015/101/l/reg>

94 <https://www.mre.gov.rs/doc/efikasnost-izvori/UREDJA%20O%20UTVRDJIVANJU%20PROGRAMA%20OSTVARIVANJA%20STRATEGIJE%20RAZVOJA%20ENERGETIKE%20ZA%20PERIOD%20OD%202017%20DO%202023.pdf>

- Creation of institutional, financial and technical conditions for the use of new energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, biogas, etc.)
- Improvement of the state and system of environmental protection in all fields of energy activities;
- Establishment of favorable legal, institutional and logistical conditions for more dynamic investment in energy

13. Strategy for Water Management in the Republic of Serbia, 2016-2034⁹⁵

The water management concept is based on the main natural characteristics of the territory of the Republic of Serbia, the present status of water resources and water management, and the need to meet the water demand, protect water resources and ensure protection against the adverse effects of water, keeping in mind the requirement to align with international standards in this field (particularly with those of the European Union), while honouring international commitments.

The water management approach largely depends on the economic strength of the economy and available water resources. In this regard, Serbia belongs to the group of economies where development in the field of water management needs to be prioritized.

A proper approach to the selection of the concept needs to ensure the economy's ability to respond to sudden natural events (floods, droughts, etc.) and achieve set objectives, including necessary capital projects. The globally preferred concept is that of integrated water management, defined as "a process which promotes the co-ordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems". The concept of sustainable development is also endorsed, while adaptive water management is gaining prominence as it aims to adapt water management to changeable natural, social and economic drivers. Serbia has accepted but not yet implemented the integrated water management concept, such that achieving integrated water management, or a harmonized water regime across Serbia's territory, and ensuring the kind of water management that will maximize economic and social benefits in an equitable and sustainable manner, while honouring international agreements, constitutes a long-term strategic goal that requires considerable time (more than two decades, with a proper approach) and enormous spending (about one billion € annually).

Before integrated water-management is fully implemented, given the economic strength of the economy and the availability of water resources, Serbia needs to manage water resources in a largely centralized manner and prioritize activities and capital projects. This primarily involves the following:

- Enactment of missing legislation and optimization of capital project preparation
- Major capacity strengthening of government agencies, local administrations and other institutions responsible for water management (centralized and local levels)
- Increased water sector revenues through gradual introduction of economic water prices and service charges, and involvement of the private sector in investment activities
- Increased revenues from water fees and their exclusive use within the water sector
- Improved water management capability, through efficient implementation of day-to-day activities, maintenance and capital projects

- Increased capacity of technical and scientific institutions and their more extensive networking with the administration and other relevant institutions

The water management policy is founded upon the following:

- Water is an irreplaceable, renewable resource, a precondition for proper functioning and development of society and a prerequisite for the survival of the natural environment and the entire human community, whereby the management of water resources and water infrastructure constitutes a national interest and an obligation
- Water resources are natural assets owned by the Republic of Serbia and, as such, cannot be removed from public property, but concessions and usage rights over them may be acquired
- Water resources must be managed in an integrated manner, based on the principle of sustainable development, with Serbia constituting a single territorial entity for the purposes of water management
- Public water supply is in the public interest and has priority over all other types of water use
- Protection of water resources and protected areas is in the public interest and a national priority, such that it needs to be implemented under the scrutiny of relevant national institutions
- The risk of adverse effects of water cannot be eliminated but can be reduced to a socially and economically acceptable level, while the mindset associated with protection against the adverse effects of water needs to change, in terms of delineation of social and individual responsibilities
- The institutional framework needs to enable water management with clearly delineated responsibilities of different government agencies and other stakeholders, with mandatory coordination of planning and capital project implementation activities
- Steady funding (permanent sources, projected extent, procurement, up-to-date payer databases, revenue collection mechanisms, economic pricing of water based on full cost recovery and the "user pays" and "polluter pays" principles, and the like), and self-funded operations, are expected to make the water sector less dependent on government funding
- Construction of water infrastructure needs to be funded from different sources (water funds, revenues of local administrations, water prices, IPA and other funds, project owner's resources and loans); the proportions will depend on the significance, size and purpose of the project in question
- Capital projects relevant to the state, region and/or local administration, especially those funded from public revenues, can be implemented more efficiently via special capital project implementation centers (a new or existing regional development agency, provided that their technical capacity is strengthened)
- Water infrastructure maintenance is an obligation and needs to comply with technical standards and norms
- Citizens are entitled to information and direct participation in the creation of water management plans for water districts, to which the National Water Conference needs to contribute
- More effective and prudent water management requires a higher level of cooperation with scientific and research organizations and institutions and ongoing and programmed efforts to improve engineering, construction, service and other capacities at government and local levels, and the creation of a better material and information base for their operations

Improving water management

Objectives have been defined for each water sector segment, which need to be achieved during the planning period in order to fulfil the main strategic goal of water management.

Water use: Public water supply

- Increased public water supply coverage from the current 81% to 93% at the end of the planning period
- Steady water supply and compliant water quality, along with a reduced risk of interruptions in extreme or emergency situations
- Reduced proportion of unbilled water in public water supply systems to about 25%
- Efficient water use, along with a gradual water price increase to economic levels
- Protection of water supply sources (establishment of sanitary protection zones), exploration, protection and conservation of water resources

Water use: Irrigation

- Sufficient amounts of water for irrigating 250,000 to 350,000 ha of farmland from Development Group I and part of Development Group II by the end of the planning period (revitalization of existing systems on about 100,000 ha and construction of new systems on 150,000 to 250,000ha)
- Efficient water use ensured by appropriate irrigation depths by crop type and farmer awareness raising about modern irrigation technologies, protection from drought, associations, and market placement of products

Water pollution control (water protection)

- Establishment and implementation oversight of restrictions on wastewater discharges containing pollutants in excess of stipulated levels
- Establishment and implementation of a Water Pollution Control Plan and setting up of surface water and groundwater monitoring based on suitable programs and applicable regulations
- Development of municipal infrastructures and wastewater treatment plants (reconstruction of existing and building of new plants) in agglomerations greater than 2,000 PE (85% population coverage)
- Reduced pollutant discharges from industrial facilities through wastewater pre-treatment to prescribed levels
- Removal of illegal solid waste dumps, primarily from protected areas, riparian lands with an unfavourable hydrological regime and the like, and rehabilitation of existing and construction of new landfills per applicable strategic and planning documents
- Reduced pollutant discharges from diffuse sources, such as farmland, forest land, roads and agglomerations smaller than 2,000 PE
- Reduced pressures on groundwater quality, through the establishment, monitoring and maintenance of sanitary protection zones of drinking water supply sources
- Conservation and achievement of good quantitative status of groundwater, to ensure sufficient amounts of water of satisfactory quality, to respond to present and future demands of all legitimate users

- Establishment of comprehensive monitoring of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater and systematic observation of pollutants in large rivers (the Sava, the Danube, the Tisa and the Velika Morava), and of groundwater sources of the bank filtration type in the alluvial aquifers of these rivers

14. National Program for the Public Railway Infrastructure, 2017-2021⁹⁶

15. Strategy for the Development of the Waterborne Traffic of the Republic of Serbia, 2015-2025⁹⁷

Strategic goals

1. Increased traffic (internal traffic, export, import) in Serbian inland waterways, on domestic and foreign vessels until 2025 for 35%, as compared to year 2012
2. Modern national fleet of the Republic of Serbia
3. Profitable domestic nautical companies
4. Opening of jobs for domestic nautical and shipping workers
5. Harmonized legislation and administrative procedures, simple customs and border procedures, according to the best practices of other Danubian EU countries
6. Full monitoring of all waterway traffic in the Republic of Serbia

16. Strategy for the Occupational Safety in the Republic of Serbia, 2018-2022⁹⁸

General Strategic Goal

Working environment in the Republic of Serbia is constantly changing due to number of factors, primarily demographic and technological; that creates new challenges in occupational risk, requires constant adaptation, but is also an opportunity to improve overall working conditions.

Proactive measures in occupational safety is always considered a smart investment, since employers' biggest loss is in a case of employee's death or serious injury. Provision of decent working conditions also raises productivity. The Occupational Safety Strategy, valid until 2022, gives a general framework of the prevention policy, with the aim to:

1. Prevent and lower number of injury cases and professional diseases
2. Improve health and well-being of employees and preserve their working abilities
3. Support innovation, quality and efficiency

Efficient and effective prevention system of professional risk also influences safety conditions, occupational health and employees' productivity.

General goal of the Strategy is to improve work safety and preserve general health of working population, also with the aim to prevent work injuries, occupational diseases, or their reducing. Strategy aims to

⁹⁶ http://rsjp.gov.rs/mapa/9.%20Saobracaj%20i%20komunikacije/program_zeleznicke_infrastrukture.pdf

⁹⁷ <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/strategija-razvoja-vodnog-saobratshaja-republike-srbije-od-2015-do-2025-godine>

⁹⁸ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/96/1/reg>

reduce the number of total work-caused injuries in the Republic of Serbia for 5%, as compared to the previous 5-year period of strategy implementation.

All relevant entities in the safety and public health system need to take part in implementation activities and full integration of safety regulations.

Specific Strategic goals are:

1. Improvement of occupational safety and health
2. Prevention of work-caused injuries and professional diseases
3. Improvement of track-records of work-caused injuries

Key indicators of general and specific goals are presented in the Action Plan for Strategy Implementation, for the period 2018-2022.

17. National Strategy for Social Housing, 2012-2022⁹⁹

Enabled access to affordable and healthy housing, in line with principles of sustainable development, in particular, to economically deprived families. The overall objective of the Strategy is to provide affordable and healthy housing in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, to households who, for social, economic and other reasons, cannot provide housing on market conditions.

The specific objectives that accompany it and the appropriate measures and programs are:

1. Improved existing and established new social housing instruments, starting with stable funding sources, through effective regulations, until new ones are formed and strengthened existing institutions
2. Increased volume and variety of housing supply
3. Increased availability of housing costs for low- and middle-income households income
4. Renewed confidence in the value of rental housing in all forms of ownership
5. Standards for housing construction and housing improvement established and fully implemented existing housing stock
6. Instruments in place to prevent and reduce homelessness
7. Improved housing conditions for residents of sub-standard settlements

18. Strategy for Public Health in the Republic of Serbia, 2018-2026¹⁰⁰

Policy "Health 2020" is founded on 4 priority areas:

1. Investment into health throughout individual lifetime and strengthening of general population
2. Taking into account contagious and non-contagious diseases, which present realistic threat to European population
3. Strengthening of people-oriented health systems, capacities of public health and readiness for reaction in emergency situations
4. Creation of resistant communities and supportive environment

The Strategy has been updated with 10 Essential Public Health Operations and Services in Europe/10 EPHO's), in line with recommendations of the regional WHO office for Europe, and relates to:

1. Monitoring general population health and well-being
2. Monitoring and reaction to health risk in emergency situations
3. Health protection, including environmental safety, food safety, etc.
4. Promotion of health, including activities directed to social discrepancies
5. Prevention and eradication of contagious and non-contagious diseases, including early identification
6. Good management of health and well-being
7. Provision of competent public health experts
8. Provision of sustainable organizational infrastructure and financing
9. Advocacy, communication and social mobilization related to overall health
10. Improvement of public health research, for evidence-based practice

General and Specific Strategy Goals

Following the mission, vision and principles of public health, the Strategy has following general goals, containing specific and operational objectives:

1. Improvement of health and lowering of inequality
2. Improvement of environment and working environment
3. Prevention and eradication of disease and leading health risks
4. Development of health promotion actions in local communities
5. Support to development of available, quality and efficient health protection
6. Development of the public health system based on evidence
7. Improvement of management, communication, partnerships for application of "health in all policies" principle

19. Strategy for Prevention of Drug Abuse, 2014-2021¹⁰¹

20. Strategy for Prevention and Control of HIV infection and AIDS in the Republic of Serbia, 2018-2025¹⁰²

The general goal of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in Serbia is the prevention of HIV infection and STIs, as well as the provision of treatment and support to the PLWHAs.

Main components of the National Strategy are the following:

1. HIV/AIDS prevention in the general population, among young people and particularly vulnerable populations;
2. Treatment, care and support to the PLWHAs;
3. Support of the community to the fight against HIV/AIDS; protection of human rights, stigmatization and discrimination

⁹⁹ <https://www.mgsi.gov.rs/lat/dokumenti/nacionalna-strategija-socijalnog-stanovanja>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/61/1/reg>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortaI/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/1/2/reg>

4. Quality standards
5. Strategic information for acting

21. Program for Improvement of Mental Health Protection 2019-2026¹⁰³

Mental health reform includes application of efficient and comprehensive methods at several stages:

1. General population level – proactive measures and raised quality of mental health through planning, awareness raising campaigns, permanent education, media campaigns, advisory networks for categories exposed to risk
2. Health service level – contemporary diagnostics and treatments based on evidence; drafting of the individual health treatment plan with combination of pharmacology measures and non-pharmacological interventions; such treatment plans should be produced by a team of health professionals, led by educated experts (on case-management base)
3. Educational & academic centers at national level – improvement and harmonization of existing educational curricula for adults, children and youth in the area of clinical psychology and other related areas (basic and master studies, continuous medical education); support to the multicentric research. Establishment and maintenance of international expert cooperation

Comprehensive reform of psychiatric services in line with the concept of mental health protection in local community, based on principles of de-institutionalization, social inclusion of challenged individuals, through custom-made treatment plans also targets the following:

- Improved system for legal protection of mentally challenged individuals, by amended legal framework and implemented control mechanisms in psychiatric services
- Inclusion of patients, patients' associations and family support groups in the planning process, organization and oversight of institutions for professional treatment of mentally challenged individuals. It is required, therefore, to strengthen the patients' associations and their family support groups

Organization services

Existing network of stationary psychiatric offices should be re-organized, in the following manner:

1. Establishment of local offices, i.e. creation of alternative support network for mental health
2. Strengthening existing psychiatric services with general hospitals
3. De-institutionalization of complex psychiatric hospitals and institutions with gradual cut-down of the number of beds. That will be possible only after creation and strengthening of mental health centers in community, with the support of primary medical care
4. Re-organization and rationalization of existing institutions
5. Continuous education of selected doctors and other health professionals at the level of primary health protection in the area of mental health
6. Establishment of new and development of existing psychiatric services for children and youth

¹⁰³ https://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/view_file.php?file_id=1199&cache=sr

22. National Program for Control of Bacteria Resistance to Antibiotics, 2019-2021¹⁰⁴

The National Antibiotic Resistance Bacterial Control Program represents support for providing conditions in which people can be healthy and forms the basis for deciding on actions to improve the health and quality of life of the population of the Republic of Serbia.

The Program sets out the objectives, plan of activities and procedures that will be implemented in the Republic of Serbia to stop the spread of bacterial resistance to antibiotics in medicine and veterinary medicine.

The overall objective of the Program is to improve the health and quality of life of the population of the Republic of Serbia by reducing ABR.

23. National Youth Strategy, 2015-2025¹⁰⁵

The principles of the National Youth Strategy in the next 10 years are the following:

- Support for personal and social empowerment of youth; employment for young men and women
- Respect for human and minority rights, equality and non-discrimination
- Equal opportunities for all
- Importance of young people and their social roles
- Health and well-being of young men and women
- Active youth participation and cooperation, mobility, international cooperation and support to young migrants
- Freedom of association, cooperation with peers and intergenerational cooperation at the local, national and international level shall be supported and encouraged
- Access of information to young population and relevant information on them
- Social responsibility and solidarity

In defining activities for achieving the strategic goal and specific goals, the National Youth Strategy and Action Plan respect the constitutionally guaranteed independence of local self-government, and international legal standards related to freedom of association. The NYS specifically recognises the groups of young people who are vulnerable, marginalised, at risk of social exclusion and poverty as well as those who are exposed to multiple discrimination and exclusion. All developed goals and activities need to provide support to these groups of young people, better identification of vulnerable young people, while the action plan indicators must address separately and monitor all categories of young people at risk of social exclusion.

24. Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development. 2014-2024¹⁰⁶

Vision of agricultural development of rural areas in Serbia reflects the state of affairs, and as such envisages:

- I. In 2024 agriculture in Serbia should be founded on knowledge, modern technologies and standards, in order to offer to domestic and foreign markets innovative products and provides sustainable income to producers.

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2019/87/reg>

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/22/l/reg>

¹⁰⁶ <http://uap.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/STRATEGIJA-2014-2020-.pdf>

2. Management of natural resources, environment and cultural heritage of rural areas is done in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, so as to attract young people to live and work in them

Realization of this vision implies following of certain principles:

Sustainable agriculture is the foundation of agricultural policy, which puts multifunctional agriculture in the center of economy in rural areas. In this context, respect of the principle of sustainable agricultural development implies:

- Growth of economic efficiency in agriculture, based on technical and technological improvement and innovative products and solutions
- Responsible management of resources and their preservation for generations of descendants, with the emphasis on preservation of biodiversity
- Well-being for rural population, which would cease current bad demographic trend; understanding for sensitive position of young people, women in particular in rural areas, as well as social position of other sensitive groups

Polycentric development, based on comprehension of diversity of production system and types of agricultural households, which stem out of heterogenous geographic, natural, socio-economic and other characteristics of rural settlements in the Republic of Serbia. Equal attention will be devoted to all producers and other actors included in the production chain, who see their perspective in agriculture and other related areas. Special attention will be dedicated to recognition of specific needs of agricultural producers in rural households, with the potential for further growth and young farmers.

Contemporary organization and implementation of strategic goals is closely connected with the need to modernize the structure for efficient management of public policies. Organizational structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and certain aspects of legal framework need to be harmonized and reformed, with the aim to create a systematic approach, ready to efficiently and transparently implement developmental goals and manage public funds. Particular importance of the reform of institutional framework should be emphasized, since availability of pre-access funds is conditioned with harmonization of the national management system of agricultural policy with the EU standards.

Stability and consistency of agricultural budget and realization of set goals requires necessary adjustments in the budget support to the agriculture. Instable financial support and lack of targeted users is a serious obstacle to competition growth, to lowered profit risk and more dynamic reform of the agricultural structure. Budget adjustment implies increased budget funds, changes in the structure of overall support according to pillars and measures, but also in the area of implementation mechanisms. Desirable matrix for that is a model of support CAP (the Common Agricultural Policy), since Serbia's goal is to join the EU.

The desired vision can be achieved only with full implementation of the Strategy. It significantly depends on various external factors, such as – political stability, rule of law, public sector reform, strengthening of the public administration and creation of conditions for market-based economy.

Strategic goals:

Following strategic goals have been determined, in line with the suggested vision:

1. Production growth and stability of producers' income
2. Competition growth, with adjustment to requirements of domestic and foreign markets and technical & technological improvements
3. Environmental protection and sustainable resources management
4. Improvement of life quality in rural settlements and reduction of poverty
5. Efficient management of public policies and improvement of institutional framework of agricultural development and rural areas

Priority areas of strategic reforms:

Interventions in several priority areas of agricultural policy would contribute to the concept of sustainable agricultural development and achievement of set strategic goals. Those are:

1. Stabilization of agricultural producers' income
2. Financing agriculture, rural development and risk management
3. Efficient land management and increase in availability of land resources
4. Improvement of the state of natural resources
5. Improvement of the knowledge transfer system and development of human resources
6. Adaptation and reduced influence of climate changes
7. Technological development and modernized production and processing
8. Development of market chains and logistic support to agriculture
9. Protection and improvement of environment and preservation of natural resources
10. Preservation of agriculture and natural & human resources in the areas with difficult working conditions
11. Diversification of rural economy and preservation of cultural and natural heritage
12. Improvement of social structure and strengthening of social assets
13. Modernized legal framework and institutions
14. Improved quality and product safety

25. National Strategy for Improvement of Objects Storing Animal Origin Food, 2016-2021¹⁰⁷

General goals:

1. High level of human health protection, as well as protection of consumers and national economy, through sustainable and efficient processing sector
2. Provision of sanitary and hygienic standards so that food satisfies safety and quality standards
3. Fulfilment of general hygienic EU standards, as well as all individual requests, relating to the food of animal origin and animal well-being
4. Adjustment with the EU demands in the area of environmental protection, including protection from negative effects of production and animal-origin food processing

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/download/nacionalna-strategija-za-unapredjenje-objekata-u-kojima-se-posluje-hr>

5. Preparation of food production sector for the EU market, as well as for accepting the World Trade Organization rules and procedures

Specific goals:

1. Improvement of hygienic conditions in objects dealing with animal-origin food
2. Uninterrupted application of EU rules and standards, with consensus and cooperation of all interested parties
3. Improved human and animal health protection; improved environment protection
4. Supported competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets
5. Promotion of equal competitiveness conditions
6. Awareness raising and improved expertise of all interested parties for application and implementation of listed demands on animal welfare
7. Improved and maintained high knowledge level and competence of jurisdiction in food safety area
8. Preservation of traditional production methods with food business entities in small-scale objects

26. Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Population in the Republic of Serbia, 2016-2025¹⁰⁸

The Strategy sets five special objectives in key areas which can contribute to the attainment of the overall objective, namely education, housing, employment, health care and social care:

Special objective I: Ensuring full inclusion of children and youth from the Roma community in quality preschool, primary and secondary education, greater coverage of Roma men and women in the student population and provision of support to the education of youth and adults who have not attended school or have dropped out, along with the introduction of effective and efficient mechanisms to combat discrimination and creation of conditions in which Roma can exercise all minority rights in the education system.

Special objective 2: Improving housing conditions for Roma men and women in Serbia by ensuring legal certainty of their housing situation, availability of services, materials, facilities, infrastructure, affordability, adequate habitability and accessibility, suitable location and cultural adequacy as defined under international standards governing the right to adequate housing ratified by the Republic of Serbia.

Special objective 3: Encouraging the involvement of able-bodied members of the Roma national minority in the formal labor market, improving their employability, employment and economic empowerment, especially of those Roma men and women who belong to categories of unemployed persons who are hard to employ on multiple grounds.

Special objective 4: Improving the health of the Roma population, advance access to healthcare services and facilitate full exercise of the right to health in the health care system of the Republic of Serbia.

Special objective 5: Improving access to social security services and availability of financial aid for the purpose of reducing poverty and increasing social involvement of Roma men and women in the local community.

¹⁰⁸ <https://ljudskaprava.gov.rs/sh/node/19980>

27. Strategy for Development of New Generation Networks till 2023¹⁰⁹

Strategic goals of development of new networks in the Republic of Serbia

The Government of Serbia will be dedicated to implement goals summed up in this chapter, with the aim to provide general well-being of population, increase of the GDP, more jobs and improvement of general lifestyle.

1. Draft and updating of availability maps of the broadband infrastructure
2. Development of the foundation for broadband network, through consolidation of state-owned infrastructure
3. Development of broadband access networks, through:
 - Passing a law on broadband access, which will reduce cost to all operators, provide common use of existing infrastructure and enhance issuing of construction permits
 - Providing state support for operators or other legal entities which commit to building their networks in areas without obvious or low economic interest for building broadband infrastructure
4. Provision of broadband capacities for the needs of state bodies
5. Provision of higher number of IP addresses by switching to IPv6
6. Introducing facilities for awarding state support for operators who commit to switch to IPv6 addressing
7. Promotion of use of IoT
8. Promotion of use of smart services in all economy branches
9. Promotion of cloud computing and expansion of data centres
10. Setting up interoperability standards in order to provide simple exchange of large amounts of data between various entities, with the aim to introduce smart services
11. Preparation of spectrum public auction for development of new technologies
12. Development of mechanism for improvement of internet safety
13. Enhanced conditions for general population education in the area of information & communication technologies, at all educational levels
14. Draft of development plan for broadband access network
15. Draft of Action Plan, for Strategy implementation

28. Strategy for the development of artificial intelligence in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2020-2025¹¹⁰

The overall objective of the Strategy is to use artificial intelligence in the function of economic growth, employment and a better quality of life.

The specific objectives of the Strategy are:

- I. Development of education geared to the needs of modern society and economy conditioned by the advancement of artificial intelligence

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2018/33/>

¹¹⁰ <http://www.mnpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/I-Nacrt-strategije-razvoja-veštačke-inteligencije-u-Republici-Srbiji-za-period-2020-2025.-godine.pdf>

2. The development of science and innovation in the field of artificial intelligence and its applications
3. Developing an economy based on artificial intelligence (where this is a key competence and where it is used in various industries)
4. Improvement of assumptions for the development of artificial intelligence and public sector services through the application of artificial intelligence
5. Ethical and secure application of artificial intelligence

29. DRAFT - SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FROM 2020 TO 2027 - Made in smart and creative Serbia^{III}

Through the process of smart specialization, to direct the development of Serbia so that it is recognized as an economy of smart and creative people, highly competitive in the world for its products and services resulting from innovations built on knowledge, creativity and partnerships of the local ecosystem in the fields of:

- Sustainable high-tech high value-added food production for the future
- Sophisticated software solutions for the global market
- Production processes and machines of the future
- Creative solutions with a high degree of cross-sector integrated industrial and business solutions and innovations

30. Strategy of Culture Development, 2017-2027^{II2}

The strategy identifies the field of culture as one of the key dimensions of Serbia's sustainable development. The main strategic goal is to contribute to the development of society in Serbia, to the cultural life of its citizens and to the European integration, by protecting, studying and presenting cultural heritage and fostering artistic creativity. The strategy responds to the key needs of the cultural system, society at large, and cultural diplomacy and international relations.

The third part of the Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Serbia from 2017 to 2027 identifies seven priority areas, dedicated to the following general goals:

1. Development of institutional frameworks in the cultural system
2. Responsible personnel and management policy
3. Equal participation of all citizens in cultural life
4. Development of cultural needs
5. A culture of mutual understanding
6. Nurturing Serbian and Cyrillic
7. Connecting the Serbian cultural space

31. Strategy for the Public Information System Development 2020-2025^{II3}

Overall goal

- Improved public information system through a harmonized positive legal framework guaranteeing freedom of expression, freedom of the media, security of journalists, media pluralism, a developed media market, a strengthened journalistic profession, educated citizens and institutions capable of implementing regulations

Specific objectives:

- improved security, socio-economic and professional working conditions for journalists and media professionals
- an established functional, sustainable and fair media market protected from political influence
- Functional, competent, professional and open institutions have mechanisms in place to protect against external pressures and consistently apply public policies and regulations
- quality, pluralistic and diverse media content meets the information needs of different social groups;
- advanced professional knowledge and developed digital competencies of citizens, institutions, media, journalists and media workers

32. National Emission Reduction Plan (NERP)^{II4}

The goal of NERP is to reduce the total annual emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrous oxide (NO_x) and powdered matter from old large combustion plants in order to reach the limit values by 1 January 2028 at the latest the emissions prescribed in Part I of Annex V to the IED Directive.

Achieving this is going to be ensured by establishing maximum emissions for SO₂, NO_x and powdered materials. These maximum emissions correspond to the annual maximum emissions of each individual plant. The sum of the total annual maximum emissions for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and powders for all plants covered by NERP are listed in Annex 5. The maximum emissions defined by the National Emission Reduction Plan, which is published with this plan and is an integral part of it.

STRATEGIES WITH NO DEFINED VALIDITY DEADLINE

I. National Strategy to Process War Crimes^{II5}

The goal of the National Strategy is provision of conditions to significantly improve efficiency of war crimes investigations and processing in the Republic of Serbia. That will be reflected in:

1. Identification of perpetrators, irrelevant of their status and personal features
2. Support to judiciary through improved regional cooperation and harmonized court practice for the purpose of proportionality in penal policy

II3 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/75/l/reg>

II4 https://www.ekologija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/javne_rasprave/konačni_NERP_EPS_i_NIS.pdf

II5 https://www.tuzilastvorz.org.rs/upload/HomeDocument/Document__sr/2016-05/p_nac_stragetija_lat.PDF

3. Improved witness protection and witness support mechanisms
4. More efficient cooperation of state authorities in charge of war crimes investigations and processing
5. More knowledgeable general public attitude towards processing of war criminals

2. Strategy for Development of Free Legal Assistance System in the Republic of Serbia¹¹⁶

A possibility for an efficient protection of violated or threatened rights in democratic societies is a fundamental prerequisite for the establishment of the legal order and the principle of the rule of law. Legal aid which is being provided must meet specific standards originating from the right to a fair trial, the fundamental human right guaranteed by international documents on human rights and the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia. A fair trial entails equality of individuals in their respective access to justice as well as that they may protect and exercise their rights effectively, under the same conditions and without discrimination, before a court of law and any other organ of public authorities. To this effect, each and every individual must have access to legal aid, which entails a duty of the state to ensure the provision of legal aid of satisfactory quality, free of charge or at a reduced cost, when a person in need of legal aid cannot afford it or when, for reasons of fairness, the provision of legal aid is required.

The free legal aid system should be based on the following principles:

- Accessibility of free legal aid services
- Focus on the needs of free legal aid services' beneficiaries
- Equality in utilisation of free legal aid and prohibition of discrimination of free legal aid services' beneficiaries
- Providing incentives for general dissemination of legal information and for counselling on the part of the organ providing free legal aid
- Providing incentives for peaceful dispute resolution
- Efficiency and sustainability of the free legal aid system
- Maintenance and advancement of the existing resources in the field of provision of free legal aid;
- Providing incentives for partnerships and coordination of activities of free legal aid services' providers
- Creating conditions for specialisation of free legal aid services' providers for specific legal matters;
- Transparency of all forms of activities regarding management and decision-making in the free legal aid system
- Efficient monitoring, control and improvement of free legal aid services' quality

General Goal:

Effective, efficient and sustainable free legal aid system in the Republic of Serbia, which ensures equal access to justice, thus achieving equality of the citizens before the law and the rule of law.

Specific objectives and measures

- Establish forms and types of free legal aid

In order to achieve successful functioning of the system of free legal aid, it is necessary to precisely define forms of free legal aid (free legal aid, primary and secondary legal aid) and specify types of free legal aid to be offered.

Measures:

- Define all types of free legal aid: general legal information, initial legal advice, legal advice, legal aid in writing submissions and representation before courts, state administration bodies and other institutions
- Define the category of primary legal aid so that it includes the following: general legal information and initial legal advice (information about the legal status of an individual, advice on possibility of solving the dispute by mutual agreement, information related to court proceedings, the manner of implementation of verdict and possibilities of realization of the right to free legal aid); legal aid in writing submissions and other legal documents
- Define the category of secondary legal aid so that it includes the following: legal advice; legal aid in writing submissions and representation before courts, state administration bodies and other institutions

3. National Strategy to Fight Organized Crime¹¹⁷

The main objectives of the Strategy are to develop a proactive approach to the fight against organized crime, to increase efficiency through appropriate implementation of preventive and repressive action, and to seize property acquired through the commission of criminal offenses. Among the goals are harmonization of national legislation with international standards, strengthening the capacities of all state bodies involved in the implementation of the strategy, strengthening cooperation at national, regional and international levels, as well as strengthening cooperation between state authorities, the private sector and civil society.

4. Strategy of the Policing Community¹¹⁸

The development of the police shall be directed at achieving the following strategic goals:

1. Contemporary policing standards,
2. Strengthening the trust of citizens and of the community in the police,
3. Cooperation and partnership between the police and the community,
4. Efficient safety prevention,
5. Problem oriented approach to safety prevention, and
6. Commitment to ethical principles and respect for diversity.

In practice, the strategic goals of community policing shall be achieved through the implementation of four leading elements - key development areas, which serve as a basis for community policing in the Republic of Serbia.

I) Safety prevention refers to activities aimed at reducing the roots of crime, disorders, fear of violence and other safety threats.

¹¹⁶ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2010/74/l/reg>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2009/23/l/reg>

The police shall be more proactive rather than reactive, through cooperation and joint activities with the community.

2) Community oriented policing is an adequate response to the citizens' priority needs and other needs, as well as to distinctive features of local communities, ethnic, religious and other social groups.

The police shall focus their community policing activities according to the consensuses on safety priorities, with equal treatment and respect for uniqueness and identity of members belonging to various communities.

3) Problem oriented policing is a method based on sources of information, which are used for identifying patterns of crime and tensions within communities.

Besides reacting to consequences, the police shall focus their activities on roots of crime and on implementing preventive strategies.

4) Safety partnerships refer to agreed actions of the police and of the community, in safety prevention, in resolving safety issues and developing safety strategies involving representatives and capacities of other state authorities, local self-governments and the civil society.

In fulfilling public interests, the police must develop programs tailored to specific local communities, since different communities have different problems which cannot be resolved by uniform responses.

Bearing in mind the nature of this concept, as being open to developing new ideas aimed at improving proactive work, this Strategy is more of a rounded framework, rather than a final list of initiatives for its further development.

Namely, this Strategy provides guidelines, but not limitations, to activities based on principles and values of community policing development.

In order to ensure sustained development of community policing, the following approaches should be taken into consideration when implementing activities:

1. Problems should be solved where they appear – local approach.
2. Problems should be solved by analyzing structural causes, by considering all factors and available resources for creating a safe environment, not just those related to traditional policing – problem-oriented approach.
3. Problems should be solved together with others; the police have to cooperate with all individuals, institutions and groups in a community; especially with other agencies and organizations which have greater competency or more appropriate means for resolving particular issues. A comprehensive strategic cooperation is required with others, the community and the citizens–partnership approach.
4. The police should be perceived as a part of the community – cooperation approach.
5. The police shall take initiatives and should not limit themselves to reactive measures after a crime has been committed or a call for help received – proactive approach.

5. National Strategy for Protection and Rescuing in Emergency¹¹⁹

The National Strategy defines five 'Strategic Areas' that form the framework for disaster management and disaster risk reduction in Serbia and are consistent with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disaster. The Hyogo Framework for Action is a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards adopted by 168 Member States of the United Nations in 2005 at the World Disaster Reduction Conference.

- Ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction becomes a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning
- Use Knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors
- Strengthen disaster preparedness or disaster response at all levels

6. National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia¹²⁰

National Security Strategy is the highest strategic document whose implementation protects the national values and interests of the Republic of Serbia from security challenges, risks and threats in all areas of social life. Its starting points are: preservation of sovereignty and territorial integrity, military neutrality, care for the Serbian people outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia, European integration and an effective rule of law.

The definitions expressed in this document particularly express the readiness of the Republic of Serbia for active participation in the processes of cooperation and joint action with other economies and entities of international relations in the construction and improvement of national, regional and global security.

The National Security Strategy is based on the implementation of a comprehensive approach that involves the joint engagement of all entities and potentials of society and the state in countering the security challenges, risks and threats and protecting and pursuing the national interests of the Republic of Serbia. It analyzes the strategic environment of the Republic of Serbia, assesses the challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia, formulates national interests and goals, determines the national security policy, then the structure and principles of functioning of the national security system, as well as the way of its implementation.

The National Security Strategy is the starting point for the preparation of other strategic and doctrinal documents, public policy documents and normative-legal acts in all areas of social life and functioning of state bodies and institutions, in order to preserve and protect the security of citizens, society and the state.

Economic development and overall prosperity

Economic development and overall prosperity of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens is achieved through the following goals:

¹¹⁹ http://arhiva.mup.gov.rs/cms_lat/sadrzaj.nsf/Nacionalna_strategija_zastite_i_spasavanja_u_vanrednim_situacijama_lat.pdf

¹²⁰ http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2206-19%20Lat..pdf

- improving the standard of living of citizens
- economic progress
- promotion of education, scientific and technological development
- improving economic and energy security

Improving the standard of living of citizens is one of the basic goals of the economic development of the Republic of Serbia. In order to achieve this, conditions will be created for job creation, to reduce the unemployment rate and to create conditions for reducing the outflow of young and educated residents. In this regard, the incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship will seek to increase the number of employees.

In order to stimulate entrepreneurship and self-employment, administrative and legal procedures will be simplified and additional financial incentives and mentoring support introduced.

It will also enable more accessible and quality education, as well as adjusting education to the labor market. Immediate support for the poor will stimulate their own efforts to overcome poverty, and give those who are unable to live a dignified life. Road infrastructure to rural areas will be improved to better connect with urban areas.

The Republic of Serbia will carry out activities aimed at increasing the availability and quality of health care, especially in the area of maternal reproductive health, women's health care and support for family planning. Particular attention will be paid to the prevention and control of infectious diseases, as well as their eradication and eradication. Also, the level of social protection of vulnerable categories of population will be increased and activities will be undertaken to reform the provision of health and social care services in line with the trend of population aging.

Economic progress is essential for the overall development of the Republic of Serbia. The economic reform program will restructure the economy, strengthen and diversify its sources of economic growth.

All measures will be taken to maintain macroeconomic stability and improve the competitiveness of the economy, ensuring investment attraction and increasing exports of goods and services. Investing in the economy and infrastructure will create conditions for foreign and domestic investment in economic development. Bearing in mind the dependence on the trends in the global market and the possibility of major global crises, it will be sought to protect and minimize the consequences of these movements on the national economy.

Industrial policy will be reviewed by adopting new strategies for priority industries with the highest development potential in order to increase the export activity of the industrial sector, especially those with higher added value. The introduction of corporate governance in public companies will improve their profitability.

Establishing economic development priorities will create conditions for balanced regional development and rural regeneration. In order to facilitate economic progress, the Republic of Serbia will actively cooperate with international financial institutions, other economies, sovereign credit institutions and creditors, in accordance with its interests. Long-term economic measures and prioritization of economic development will ensure a gradual reduction of public debt. The Republic of Serbia is committed to regional and global economic integration while ensuring a balanced foreign trade.

Great importance is attached to the implementation of sustainable development, based on the belief that it is an essential element of global efforts that should ensure the sustainability of the planet and a prosperous future for generations to come.

Advancement of education, scientific and technological development are the basic prerequisites for economic development and overall progress of the Republic of Serbia. In this regard, the introduction of dual education, as well as entrepreneurial modules and content, will enable the adjustment of education to the development of the economy and the labor market. It will also provide incentives for scientific and research work in order to acquire and apply modern technologies, as well as to increase the reputation and status of scientific and teaching staff.

In order to improve education, scientific and technological development, a quality monitoring system will be introduced by applying a unique education information system.

The need to change the model of **primary and secondary education**, as well as to strengthen the educational function of primary school, will be considered. The accessibility of primary and secondary education to rural residents will be increased. It will also improve the availability and quality of pre-school education, especially in the area of inclusive practice with children from vulnerable social groups. Higher education will improve the quality and accessibility of all categories of population.

Protection of the **environment** and resources of the Republic of Serbia, which implies a responsible attitude towards the environment in terms of soil quality, ground and surface water resources and atmosphere, biodiversity, as well as the use of natural resources and the management of hazardous waste, is of utmost importance for the security of the Republic of Serbia. Active monitoring of the situation and taking measures to protect against irreversible environmental changes caused by climate, geophysical and technological impacts is one of the conditions for sustainable development.

Improving economic and energy security is important for the economic development and overall progress and security of the Republic of Serbia. It will reduce dependency and increase the resilience of the national economy to global economic distortions and the unpredictability of the world financial system. Economic security will be ensured by maintaining the macroeconomic balance and reducing social stratification.

The Republic of Serbia advocates that all disputes and issues of common interest in economic relations be resolved through co-operation and negotiations. Particular attention will be paid to preventing the criminalization of economic activity and protection against economic espionage.

Construction of electricity and infrastructure for natural gas, oil and oil derivatives, and further diversification of sources and directions of energy and energy supply, formation of obligatory energy reserves, improvement of energy efficiency and increase of energy or energy production capacities, will ensure energy stability, ie reliable, secure, efficient and quality supply of energy and energy to all consumers in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

In this regard, the use of alternative and **renewable energy sources** will be increased and measures will be developed for the sustainable use of natural resources while protecting available non-renewable energy resources, as a strategic reserve. Research on the energy potential of the sun, wind and watercourses will also be undertaken to ensure energy stability in different climate change scenarios.

In order to increase **energy security**, the Republic of Serbia is committed to regional and global energy integrations, but will work intensively to reduce energy dependency and sustainable electricity prices. The energy market will be developed by providing an open and integrated energy market with regional and European markets.

Protection of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia

Protection of the environment and resources of the Republic of Serbia is achieved by achieving the following goals:

- monitoring, assessing, planning and taking measures to mitigate the impact of climate change
- flood and fire protection
- improving the quality of the environment
- effective management of hazardous waste
- enhancing the ability and capacity to manage resources

Monitoring, assessing, planning and taking measures to mitigate the impact of climate change in the Republic of Serbia is of primary importance for sustainable development in all areas of social life. In this regard, the organizational capacities and technical-technological systems for monitoring the meteorological weather, as well as for the assessment of climate and hydrological impacts on the territory, biodiversity and population of the Republic of Serbia will be improved. To mitigate the effects of climate change, preventive measures will be planned and implemented, as well as measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Flood and fire protection is conditioned by the fact that due to hydrological changes and impacts, a significant increase in the number of torrential and other large-scale floods can be expected, which would result in significant material damage and loss of human life. Based on the assessments made, in order to prevent the occurrence of such consequences, it is necessary to intensify the construction of anti-storm structures, the implementation of preventive measures for fire protection, as well as environmental protection measures of the territory.

Improving the **quality of the environment** will be realized, first of all, through the improvement of legal and institutional mechanisms, which will enable the increase of the quality of land, water resources, atmosphere and biodiversity. The Republic of Serbia is committed to the implementation of European Union standards and internationally accepted standards in the field of environmental protection and improvement, as well as to increasing subsidies for the use of environmental technologies.

Effective management of hazardous waste will be continuously implemented through preventive and operational protection against technical and technological accidents, especially in facilities for processing and production of special purpose materials and in hazardous waste storage facilities. Also, demining of land and water surfaces contaminated with unexploded ordnance will be implemented. A system for the complete destruction and elimination of hazardous waste of all kinds, and in particular the radionuclide content of residues from the previous period, will be improved during the exploitation of agents containing such substances.

In this regard, legal and institutional mechanisms for protection against permanent alienation of natural resources and goods of general interest, as property of the Republic of Serbia, will be significantly improved and their sustainable exploitation, use and care will be ensured in accordance with the law.

7. Defense Strategy of the Republic of Serbia¹²¹

The Defense Strategy analyzes the security environment from the aspect of defense of the Republic of Serbia, identifies security challenges, risks and threats of importance for defense, formulates defense interests and goals, determines the defense policy, structure, management and principles of functioning of the defense system of the Republic of Serbia.

8. Strategy for Professional Development of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia¹²²

This strategic document emphasizes the need to manage and coordinate public administration tasks related to the professional development of civil servants from one place, and thus define precisely the tasks of preparation, identification and supervision of the implementation of the professional development program for civil servants, which would be carried out within a ministry within the scope of public administration tasks related to the professional development of civil servants

9. Strategy for Professional Development of Local Self-Administration Employees¹²³

General strategic goal is to establish permanent, harmonized and sustainable system of expert education of employees in local self-governments. That will contribute to raised general knowledge level and skills required for implementation of basic standards of contemporary local self-government. Local self-government operates on principles of the European Administrative Space and should be able to implement obligations stemming from Serbian membership in the EU.

Specific strategic goals are:

- To determine roles and tasks related to expert training of the Local Self-Government Ministry and its local affiliates, as well as other relevant ministries
- Draft of the training curriculum and obligatory elements and conditions to be fulfilled; draft of annual training plans for the ministry employees
- Capacity building of the relevant ministry in charge of the local self-government, as well as other ministries and local self-government units, in line with obligations and procedures for quality and efficient work in all stages of expert training

I21 http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/cir/pdf/akta_procedura/2019/2207-19.pdf

I22 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/56/l/reg>

I23 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2015/27/l/reg>

10. Aarhus Convention¹²⁴

Aims of the Strategy for Application of the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Serbia:

- Provision of precise state of affairs in the areas most important for application of the Convention
- Identification of discrepancies and inconsistencies between the implementation system and Serbian legal framework
- Suggestion of activities to harmonize the law with obligations set by the Aarhus Convention and other related conventions
- Provision of conditions for further improvement and introduction of good practices related to the Aarhus convention and other related conventions
- Establishment of the foundation for tracking mechanisms

II. National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources¹²⁵

The main, basic goals that are set to achieve this National Strategy are:

1. Directing and providing the conditions for the sustainable use of natural resources and goods, creating the basis for setting plans, programs and bases for each individual natural resource or good;
2. Reducing the negative impact of the use of resources on the economy and the environment, by establishing basic indicators to be monitored;
3. Contribution to directing development towards sustainable production (through less and more efficient use of natural resources) and consumption (changing established modes of consumption), as well as greening public procurement.

12. Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia¹²⁶

This strategy is based on the following relevant EU strategic documents pertaining to forestry: the EU Forestry Strategy, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and the EU Sustainable Use of EU Natural Resources and Resources.

The main objective of the Strategy is to preserve and improve the condition of forests and to develop forestry as an industry branch. In addition to this goal, there are a number of specific goals such as:

- increasing the area under forests by encouraging activities and providing assistance to afforestation of land where it is economically and environmentally justifiable to cultivate the forest
- increasing productivity by maximizing and rationally utilizing total production
- potential of forest areas
- establishing an effective forest protection system
- establishing and adopting a methodology for evaluating all forest products and functions
- raising and maintaining optimum quality and density of forest roads, as well as ancillary infrastructure to implement sustainable forest management and security

¹²⁴ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2011/I03/I/reg>

¹²⁵ http://www.zzps.rs/novo/kontent/stranicy/propisi_strategije/S_prirodnih%20resursa.pdf

¹²⁶ http://www.rsjp.gov.rs/mapa/8.%20Zastita%20zivotne%20sredine/r_strategija_sumarstvo.pdf

- social and cultural needs of society
- support for the establishment and development of small and medium-sized forestry businesses
- and other forestry and other activities

A key element in supporting the implementation of the Strategy is the National Forest Program (NFP), which provides an action framework for the development of the forestry sector. The forestry planning system will take place on two levels:

1. Level of general forest development planning, that is, planning of the purposes and functions of forests in within larger areas, regardless of ownership and
2. The level of special forest management planning at the level of management units is a responsibility owners or forest users.

13. National Risk Management Program in Disasters; Program for Risk Financing in Disasters in the Republic of Serbia¹²⁷

14. Program to Reform Employment and Social Policy in the EU Integration Process¹²⁸

15. Birth Support Strategy¹²⁹

Due to obvious trend of lowered completed fertility rate, after the decades of stable level, the basic goal is to achieve the level of 1,85 child/women in the period 10 to 15 years or raise of minimum 10%. Success indicator for this goal could be the result of census in year 2031, or a targeted research of generations of women out of reproductive period, in analogy with the results of the 2011 analysis.

Successful achievement of this general goal would mean that applied measures potentially can lead to theoretically more desirable statistical result – 2, 1 child/woman.

Achievement of this final goal implies fulfilment of previous measures:

- Lowered economic price of financial cost of raising a child
- Lowered psychological price of parenthood
- Preservation and improvement of reproductive health
- Resolved infertility issue
- Education of general public
- Proactive local self-government

¹²⁷ <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Nacionalni%20program%20upravljanja%20rizikom%20od%20ele-mentarnih%20nepogoda.pdf>

¹²⁸ <https://www.minrzs.gov.rs/sr/aktuelnosti/vesti/program-reformi-politike-zaposljavanja-i-socijalne-politike-u-procesu-pristupanja-evropskoj-uniji/employment-and-social-reform-programme>

¹²⁹ <http://www.mdpp.gov.rs/doc/strategije/Strategija-podsticanja-radjanja-2018.pdf>

16. National Program of Support and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of the Citizens in the Republic of Serbia¹³⁰

Improvement of the state of sexual and reproductive health of Serbian citizens is possible to achieve by concrete application of existing legal framework and strategic measures, primarily those in the areas of information, education, counselling, with higher adaptation of health services to the needs of sensitive population categories.

The general aim is preservation and improvement of sexual and reproductive health of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, with the respect for the right on informed choices related to sexuality and reproduction, irrelevant of personal characteristics of individuals such as the sex, gender, age, physical capabilities, socio-economic status, cultural identity, sexual orientation, exposure to social deprivation, HIV infection and other similar characteristics. Realization of the general goal inevitably requires previous fulfilment of specific goals.

Specific goals:

Specific goals clearly define directions of health system activities which will enable preservation and improvement of sexual and reproductive health and rights related to family planning and sensitive population groups, including adolescents, marginalized and socially deprived groups, individuals with physical disabilities or HIV infected.

17. National Prevention Program of Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol-Induced Disorders of the Republic of Serbia¹³¹

General goal of the Program is to lower extreme consequences of alcohol abuse to individuals and society

Specific goals are:

1. Significant decrease of diseases and lethal outcome caused by harmful effects of alcohol and other possible social consequences
2. Support to the activities which will protect children and youth of the harmful effects of alcohol consumption
3. Particular attention should be paid to vulnerable social groups – women, pregnant women, social & economically deprived
4. Promotion of support at local, national and regional level to prevent and lower harmful effects of alcohol
5. Raising awareness of characteristics of problems causing alcohol abuse
6. Strengthening and improvement of health system role to lower harmful effects of alcohol consumption
7. Continuous and systematic work on tracking how widespread abuse forms are, as well as related consequences; defined intervention measures to prevent and lower consequences
8. Better coordination between decision-makers and better use of resources required to implement agreed actions with the aim to lower alcohol abuse

¹³⁰ <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2017/I20/2/reg>

¹³¹ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2017/I15/I/reg>

9. Defined national tracking system of oversight and efficient flow of information for the purpose of development and evaluation of new policies
10. Efficient implementation and management of the Program with expert bodies, established according to the law-regulated protection

18. National Program to Support Breastfeeding and Developmental Family Care of the New-borns¹³²

Basic goals of the Program:

1. Raise the rate of exclusively breastfed babies in the Republic of Serbia in the following three years
2. Induced breastfeeding during the 1st hour after delivery from 50,8% to 70%
3. Breastfeeding of new-borns in the first 48hrs – 80% of new-borns
4. Breastfeeding after the 1st month up to 40%
5. Breastfeeding after 3 months from 23% up to 40%
6. Breastfeeding after 5 months from 13% up to 20%

To increase the rate of total breastfed children with artificial milk formula:

1. With completed 3 months up to 60%
2. With completed 6 months from 47% up to 60%
3. With completed 12 months from 24,6% up to 60%

Application of individualized baby care at all departments where premature born babies are taken care of.

Specific goals of the Program:

1. To improve knowledge and skills of health professional, volunteers and civil society representatives in line with the breastfeeding support program
2. To improve breastfeeding practice, with family-oriented care for new-borns, at all levels of health protection
3. Support teams for promotion of breastfeeding with medical institutions
4. Provide various educational materials to expecting women and parents at the level of local self-governments
5. Include indicators for the success of the Program in regular practice as a consistent part of primary healthcare service for expecting women, mothers and children
6. Build partnership between employees in medical institutions and families
7. Improve cooperation within the local self-governments with the idea to develop ideas, exchange of information and support for the Program implementation

19. National Program for Prevention of Obesity for Children and Adults¹³³

With the aim to improve the general population health, main goals of the program are:

1. Promotion of health lifestyles and improvement of health of all citizens
2. Lowered obesity rate with children, youth, adults and seniors

Specific Program Goals:

1. Promotion of healthy nourishment in line with concrete directions with emphasis on consumption of high-fibre food (vegetables, fruit, full grain cereals) and reduction of food rich in fats and sugars
2. Promotion of healthy lifestyles and physical activity
3. Support of development of health culture and informing of importance of balanced nutrition in health preservation
4. Provision of experts who will implement the program; availability of biologically nutritive food for children and adults, as well as conditions for physical activities.
5. Prevention of obesity with population of normal or desirable weight
6. Prevention of obesity and other diseases caused by obesity
7. Support to weight reduction with obese population (BMI > 25kg//m² adults, children >1 SD)

20. Strategy for Development of Adult Education in the Republic of Serbia¹³⁴

Adult Education Strategy is one of the instruments to resolving key social and economic challenges of the Republic of Serbia. Therefore, this strategy puts emphasize on expert education and training of adults. Serbia needs to restructure and improve its human potential. That would imply:

- Accessible education system to all categories of adults, through institutionalized and planned system
- Decentralization and partnership approach in management, organization and realization of adult education
- Quality of education provided through legal framework and established standards

21. Strategy to Re-Integrate Returnees Based on the Readmission Agreement¹³⁵

The strategy relies on existing institution network and aims to coordinate resources in strategically defined areas; to further develop mechanisms, services and programs in line with determined needs of re-admitted persons, with full respect of human and diversity rights.

Specific goals:

Developed and applied program for re-admitted persons and program of urgent support as an integral part of the mechanism of sustainable re-integration

¹³³ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/uredba/2018/9/l/reg>

¹³⁴ http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Strategija-razvoja-OO-Slg_l_-I-07.pdf

¹³⁵ http://www.rsjp.gov.rs/malodrvo/bazastrategija/I7_ljudska_prava_i_gradjansko_drustvo/I7_8_strategija_reintegracije_povratnika_na_osnovu_sporazuma_o_readmisiji/I7.8_strategija_reintegracije_povratnika_na_osnovu_sporazuma_o_readmisiji.pdf

Support to strengthening the communities in implementation of reintegration programs.

After acquiring a new status in the transit center, an individual should be directed in their communities of origin, where their need can be met in the most satisfying way.

The aim is to enable re-admitted for independent and equal life, with full respect for social and cultural differences. Support provided need to be based on the needs assessment.

Expected results:

1. Sustainable integration with full understanding of social and cultural aspect of integration, with creation of conditions for re-admittance and provision of conditions for independent and equal life.
2. Active participation of local self-government and development of network of services in line with their needs, local self-governments and the regions, which will strengthen their resources for social needs and support decentralization process.
3. Prevention of new poverty
4. Prevention of secondary migrations, migrations control in regular life, with the aim to reduce unemployment rate
5. Prevention of human trafficking
6. Inclusion of physically capable re-admitted individuals in regular life with the aim to lower the unemployment rate
7. Development of rural and depopulated areas
8. Building of trust and inter-ethnic tolerance

22. Migration Management Strategy¹³⁶

The Vision of the Strategy for Combating Irregular Migration is orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration of people. The vision of the Strategy for Combating Irregular Migration comes from the norms and values defined in international human rights and migrant rights conventions and protocols, which were signed by the Republic of Serbia.

General strategic goal is to manage migrations in comprehensive way, which will enable achievements and priorities of state goals in the area of migrations, and also enable:

- Migration management in line with the sustainable population policy and long-term developmental needs of economy and labour market of the Republic of Serbia
- Cancellation of the visa regime for citizens of the Republic of Serbia and acquisition of the status on the "White Schengen list"; progress in negotiations on visa liberalization or visa enhancements with other European and the world countries (in particular those of importance for Serbian citizens)
- Implementation of integrated border management
- Improved cooperation with diaspora and support to those wishing to return to the homeland
- Provision of conditions for young experts and talented people to gain professional engagements in the homeland; provision for circulation of knowledge between the diaspora and the homeland citizens

¹³⁶ <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2009/59/l/reg>

- Provision of conditions for integration of foreigners and efficient protection of rights and interests of Serbian citizens living and working abroad
- Application of clear and effective procedures for prevention and suppression of illegal migration; irregular border crossings; irregular stay of foreigners after the expiration of the residence permit; smuggling of migrants; human trafficking; resolving the issues of refugees and internally displaced people; efficient and effective acceptance and sustainable socio-economic reintegration of re-admitted people, Serbian citizens, based on the re-admission agreement.

Strategic goal is to establish and apply mechanism for comprehensive and consistent monitoring of migrations in the Republic of Serbia; protection of migrants' rights; provision of conditions for integration and social inclusion with awareness raising on the importance of migrations.

23. Strategy to Support and Strengthen Home Country and Diaspora & Home Country of the Serbs in the Region¹³⁷

The Republic of Serbia has a large and significant diaspora. It is not, in absolute terms, as large as the diasporas of some far more numerous nations, but it is still very numerous. Moreover, it is very significant in relative terms, that is, it represents a large part of the Serbian people. There are no absolutely accurate data on the number of members of the Diaspora, because the census has never been conducted, but it is operated with a number of about 4 million, which means that almost a third of our population lives outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia.

Relations with the Diaspora and Serbs in the region are based on Article 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, according to which the Republic of Serbia protects the rights and interests of its citizens abroad and develops and promotes relations of Serbs living abroad with their country of origin.

With this strategy, the Republic of Serbia seeks to provide adequate material, social and political conditions for the successful development and preservation of the Serbian language, the Cyrillic alphabet, culture and identity of our citizens and compatriots living and working outside the borders of the Republic of Serbia. The main objective of this document is to establish and maintain continuity in preserving and strengthening the relations of the mother country and the diaspora, as well as the mother country and Serbs in the region.

24. Personal Data Protection Strategy¹³⁸

Relying on the experience of other EU states and the Council of Europe, Republic of Serbia has determined the priority goals in order to protect personal data. They are divided into 2 groups:

General goals:

- Transparency of public and private sector
- Availability of data of a person in process
- Protection of privacy and other human rights and basic freedoms in processing personal data

¹³⁷ http://dijaspora.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/strategija_mvd2011.pdf

¹³⁸ <https://www.poverenik.rs/sr-yu/%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%B84/942-strategija-zatite-podataka-o-linosti.html>

- Strengthening public trust in public institutions and private sector, which have citizens' personal info on their disposal
- Development of an institution in charge of oversight and control of personal information
- Strengthening and improvement of information technology

Specific goals:

- Harmonization of the Law on Personal Data Protection with the EU legislation
- Harmonization of other laws and bylaws from other areas with the Law on Personal Data Protection
- Establishment of independent body for oversight and protection of rights
- Introducing the concept of personal data protection to the broadest public
- Additional training of personnel in charge of personal data protection

DRAFT STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTION PLANS

MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Draft of the Transport Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020-2030.
2. Draft the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2035.
3. Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investment in the Renovation of the National Building Stock

MINISTRY OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, VETERANS AND SOCIAL POLITICS

1. Employment and Social Reform Programme - ESRP, 2021- 25
2. National Employment Strategy 2021-26
3. The Strategy for the Prevention of and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q3 2020).
4. The Strategy for the Prevention of Violence Against Children 2020-30, and the accompanying Action Plan 2020-21 (and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q1 2020).
5. The Gender Equality Strategy 2016-20 will expire in 2020.
6. Strategy for the Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking, Especially Women and Children 2017-20 (Official Gazette of RS, 77/17) will cease to be applicable.
7. The Strategy for the Prevention of and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q3 2020).
8. The Strategy for the Prevention of Violence Against Children 2020-30, and the accompanying Action Plan 2020-21 (and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q1 2020).

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Public Financial Management Reform Program for the period after 2020.

MINISTRY OF MINING AND ENERGY

1. Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (INECPs)
2. National Energy Efficiency Action Plan

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

1. National Environmental Protection Strategy (after the expiry of the National Environmental Protection Program 2010-2019)
2. Waste Management Strategy with National Waste Management Plan -2019-2024- at final stage of preparation (after expiration of Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019)
3. National strategies for environmental protection for the period after 2020 - start of preparation is expected by the end of the year.
4. Waste management strategy with National Waste Management Plan -2019-2024- in the final phase, is expected to be adopted in the coming period
5. Low-carbon development strategy with action plan for 2030 (Climate change strategy with action plan) - in the process of public debate
6. Biodiversity strategy - in the final phase, is expected to be adopted in the coming period
7. Air protection strategy - development of Startegia through IPA 2014 project - in progress
8. Sludge management strategy - at the final stage, expected to be adopted in the coming period
9. Circular Economy Program - planned production by the end of 2020
10. Program of introduction of cleaner production - in the final phase, it is expected to be adopted in the coming period

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

1. Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022
2. Draft Community Policing Program with a proposal of the Action Plan,
3. Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the Republic of Serbia 2019-2024,
4. Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Cybercrime 2019-2023,
5. Draft Action Plan for the period 2020-2021 for the implementation of the Development Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior 2018-2023,
6. Draft Strategy for Integrated Border Management 2021-2025,
7. Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Integrated Border Management,
8. Preparation of the Draft Schengen Action Plan in accordance with the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism.

ANNEX 2

CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY PARTNERS

INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

I. Does your Ministry have all the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure has a number of areas of competence; therefore there is a large number of various documents which represent the strategic framework. In the area of rail and intermodal transport there is the National Public Railway Infrastructure Programme 2017-2021 and the Railway Master Plan 2012-2021, both of which represent sectorial strategies.

As for inland waterway transport, there is the Inland Waterway Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2015-2025.

In terms of urban development, in June 2019 the Government adopted the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia up to 2030.

2. Have you planned on reviewing or enacting new strategic documents under your area of competence which have expired or are to expire in 2020? When will this happen?

It is expected that in 2020 the first draft of the Transport Strategy of the Republic of Serbia should be made for the period of 2020-2030.

The new five-year National Public Railway Infrastructure Programme is to be made owing to the technical assistance of the IPA funded Comprehensive Railway Reform. The new National Programme completion deadline is the third quarter of 2021.

In the area of road traffic, the Road Traffic Safety Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2015-2020 should be superseded by a new strategy for the future period of minimum 5 years. As Article 11, paragraph 3 of the Law on Road Traffic Safety stipulates that the National Strategy shall be proposed by the Road Traffic Safety Coordination Body, and considering the fact that the Minister of the Internal Affairs is the Head of the Coordination Body while the Ministry of the Internal Affairs provides professional and administrative-technical support to the Coordination Body, at this point we have no information from the MIA as to when the new Road Traffic Safety Strategy of the Republic of Serbia will be drafted.

In the inland waterway transport area the Decision on the Strategy Amendments is underway for the purpose of harmonizing the part of the Strategy related to the maritime economy, based on the recommendations provided by the International Maritime Organization after having subjected the MCTI's work to an audit.

The Review of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2010-2020 has been planned, which is why the Government of the Republic of Serbia made a decision in July 2019 to draft the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2021-2035.

The Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure is planning to issue the Long-Term Strategy for Mobilising Investment in the Renovation of the National Building Stock in accordance with the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU. There are ongoing activities related to the drafting of this strategy. With the technical support of the GIZ Project and engagement of experts from The Buildings Performance Institute Europe, in 2019 the Terms of Reference for the Strategy drafting were completed. The public invitation was announced and an expert team selected, after which the team entered into the strategy drafting agreement. The Strategy should be finalized by the end of 2020 as per the presented dynamics.

3. Is there a donor support to the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in your areas of competence? State the projects, donors and implementation time frame.

The Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia up to 2030 was elaborated through the Project of Strengthening Municipal Land Management in Serbia supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure in January 2017.

4. Describe the institutional mechanism for the planning, execution and monitoring of the implementation of the strategies containing the UN Sustainable Development Goals under your area of competence.

As for inland waterway transport, we formed the Committee for the Implementation, Monitoring and Promotion of the Inland Waterway Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2015-2025 for the period up to 2020.

Within the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia up to 2030 Goal II of the sustainable development and its goals in Serbia is being implemented. The Strategy Implementation Action Plan is currently being elaborated for the period between 2020 and 2022.

In the area of energy efficiency, the network of institutional mechanisms for the energy efficiency promotion issues implies a close collaboration of all levels of the legislative and executive branches (national, interdepartmental, local and regional, the Government, relevant ministries, local self-government units...).

The institutional mechanisms have a clearly defined legal framework and scope of action, which indicates that the Government is dedicated to the achievement of the goals for a uniform promotion of all segments significant for reduced climate change impact and reduced harmful environmental impact.

Even though a considerable progress has been made in the previous period in terms of this area, further strengthening of the institutional mechanisms is required, while ensuring continuity of the permanent improvement and strengthening of all structures is extremely important for the further development of this area.

INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, VETERANS AND SOCIAL POLITICS

I. Does your Ministry have all the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?

1. Decent Work Country Programme 2019-2020 (DWCP), Signed on 7 March 2019 in Belgrade between International Labour Organisation (ILO) and most representative trade unions and organisation of employers in the Republic of Serbia (i.e. Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia, TUC "Nezavisnost" and Employers' Union of Serbia). In essence, the DWCP is a plan of cooperation of key social partners in the Republic of Serbia with the ILO the objective of which is to reach the highest standards of the protection of workers.

2. National Occupational Safety and Health Strategy 2018-2020, and the accompanying Action Plan (Official Gazette of RS, 96/18).

3. The drafting of the Proposal for the National Strategy on Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence Against Women and in Intimate Partner Relationship (2020-2025), and its Action Plan (2020-2022).

2. Have you planned on reviewing or enacting new strategic documents under your area of competence which have expired or are to expire in 2020? When will this happen?

1. A new Employment and Social Reform Programme - ESRP, 2021- 25 will be developed. The applicable ESRP was adopted in 2015 and is in force up until the end of 2020. In addition to the development and adoption of a new strategic paper furthering undertaken on-going reforms under the now applicable ESRP, the revision of the reporting matrix on the implementation of ESRP is envisaged to take place in 2020. This revision is to be conducted in cooperation with the Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction and completed by the end of September 2020.

To this end, an inter-sectoral working group will be set up in the second half of 2020.

2. As 2020 is the final year of the envisaged implementation of the National Employment Strategy 2011 -20 (Official Gazette of RS, 37/11), the accompanying Action Plan for 2020 (Official Gazette of RS, 94/2019), it is planned under its specific objective I Reducing labour market duality by improving conditions at labour market and advancing labour market institutions, measure I.I. Improvement of the legal and analytical frameworks to address the labour market challenges, that a new national employment strategy 2021-26 is adopted with an accompanying national employment action plan 2021-23. As the adoption procedure will be conducted as provided for under the Planning System Law, in 2020 the National Employment Strategy 2011-2020 will be the subject of an ex-post analysis while the new National Employment Strategy 2021-26 will be subject of an ex-ante analysis.

3. The Gender Equality Strategy 2016-20 will expire in 2020.

4. Also, the Strategy for the Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking, Especially Women and Children 2017-20 (Official Gazette of RS, 77/17) will cease to be applicable.

5. The Strategy for the Prevention of and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q3 2020).

6. The Strategy for the Prevention of Violence Against Children 2020-30, and the accompanying Action Plan 2020-21 (and Protection from Discrimination 2020-2025 (the adoption is foreseen for Q1 2020).

3. Is there a donor support to the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in your areas of competence? State the projects, donors and implementation time frame.

Yes. The list of projects:

Social services for vulnerable groups - GIZ

The project provides support to local and national-level authorities to improve social welfare services - more efficient, transparent and tailored to respond to the needs of the recipients. In the context of international standards, the project contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined in the Agenda 2030, respecting the Leave No One Behind principle, supporting UN SDGs 11 and 16 with its focus on sustainable communities and strengthened institutions.

Donor: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) (Germany)

Implementing Agency: German Development Agency - GIZ

Project Partners: Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Republic Institute for Social Welfare, Institute of Social Welfare of the Autonomous Province, Social Welfare Chamber, Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. Total value: EUR 4.000.000.

Duration: 13/12/2018-13/12/2021

“Enhancing Good Governance and Social Inclusion at Local Level in Serbia” Programme – Swiss PRO“

The objective is to advance good governance, social inclusion, gender equality and position of vulnerable population by strengthening of local social welfare institutions, mechanisms of assessment of vulnerable groups of population, and support to civil sector for project implementation in line with the UN SDGs.

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Implementing Agency: UNOPS

Project Partners: Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities. Total value: EUR: 5.8 mil.

Duration: 01/01/2018-31/12/2021

The UNDP- International Organization for Migration (IOM) Joint Global Programme on Mainstreaming Migration into National Strategies (STAGE 3) -preparation stage

The Programme will have a strong sectoral focus, particularly to: employment, health care, education and social welfare. Also, the Programme will enable strategic inclusion of diaspora and migrant associations and private sector in the development and implementation of action plans for effectiveness and developmental impact. The monitoring and reporting will be conducted against the results-based framework adjusted with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (with the focus on the SDGs 1, 8, 5 and 10), and Global Compact for Migration.

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Implementing Agency: International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Fund (UNDP). Participating economies: Bangladesh, Jamaica, Moldova, Tunisia, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Philippines, Nepal, Senegal and Serbia.

Project Partners in Serbia: Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs. Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, and Ministry of Health. Total value: CHF 8.845.563.

Duration: 48 months

IPA 2013 - Support to the National Employment Service (NES) Employment Programme (Direct grant) and Technical Assistance for Capacity Building in Employment Policy – Technical assistance (Service contract) (30/8/2017 - 30/3/2020)

The project “Support for the Implementation of Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme in the Republic of Serbia with a Focus on Employment Policy and Increasing Youth Employability” (“Youth Employment Initiative”) is part of a broader programme financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), under the title “From Education to Employability (E2E) – Youth Skills Development and Public Private Partnership in Serbia”.

For the purpose of the implementation of the “Promoting Inclusive Labour Market Solutions in the Western Balkans” project, the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNDP and the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs and National Employment Service has been completed and expected to be signed in the forthcoming period.

Gender Equality

There are no donor funds that are specifically allocated to gender equality. Currently, UN Human Rights Team is providing support through two consultants who are engaged in the drafting of the Proposal for the National Strategy on Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence Against Women and in Intimate Partner Relationship (2020-2025), and its Action Plan (2020-2022). The support will be completed by the end of 2020, when is the expected date of the adoption.

The ministry in charge of employment, NSZ and other authorities, institutions and social partners are in charge of the implementation of the active employment policy measures and the planned activities.

The institutions responsible for the implementation of the measures and activities of the vocational rehabilitation of persons with disability: enterprises for vocational rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability, National Employment service and other service providers licensed for job matching and provision of services of vocational rehabilitation of persons with disability.

Key partners and stakeholders: ministries in charge of economy, finance, education, youth, public administration and local governments, social partners (two recognized trade unions and employers' association), Statistical Office, Public Policy Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, and donors (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), German Development Cooperation (GIZ), European Union, United Nations Agencies, International Labour Organisation, etc.).

Gender Equality

SDG 5 as one of the Sustainable Development Goals is about gender equality, Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2020 is essential for the achievement of SDG 5. The Strategy identifies the following objectives: transformed gender patterns and strengthened gender equality culture, enhanced equality of women and men as a result of the implementation of public policies and equal opportunity measures, systemic mainstreaming of gender equality. In that context, In November 2019 a public opinion research on gender equality promotion and prevention and combating domestic and partner violence against women was conducted by the Anti-Discrimination and Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs. The results indicate that there is a high correlation between the lack of gender equality and violence against women. To the question "In your opinion, has gender equality been achieved in Serbia?", even 58% of respondents replied that the gender equality was achieved partially, 26% gave negative answer, and 14% positive. 2% of the respondent think that there is sound legal framework that is not sufficiently followed in practice to ensure full gender equality. Serbia is the first non-EU member which has put in place the Gender Equality Index. The data show that Serbia is lagging behind in all gender equality areas in comparison to the average of the EU members (except for the women in power, in which case there is significant representation of women in legislative, judiciary and executive branches), and that that lagging is coupled with serious gap in relation to employment and labour and finances. In Serbia, gender pay gap is 11%.

4. Describe the institutional mechanism for the planning, execution and monitoring of the implementation of the strategies containing the UN Sustainable Development Goals under your area of competence.

The Anti-Discrimination and Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs is in charge of the development, implementation and monitoring of measures and policies geared to the prevention of all forms of discrimination. It is particularly focused to the achievement of the UN SDGs 1 and 5 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere and Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

The parameters of sustainable development are monitored by Centre for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, in cooperation with the Statistical Office of Serbia.

Institutional framework including all the institutions in charge of monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy will be listed in the accompanying Action Plan.

For the purpose of monitoring and evalauiton of the progress of the Action Plan, all the bodies responsible for its implementation are under reporting obligation, the reports of which are submitted to the Government Disabiliy Council - a non-permanent body. The reporting is done through the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs. As a result, a summary report on the implementation will be published on the web paga of the MoLEVSA. The reports are submitted every three year upon the adoptiton, and the final report not later than six months upon the expiry of the Strategy. The results of the implementation of the AP are reported upon every calendar year, i.e. annually. These prouse of these reports is to serve as a basis for analysis and review of the achieved results and in the next step, for the assessment of the needs of persons with disability, in order to identify actors who have not performed to the required extent and to take corrective measures.

The implementing institutions will exchange information with civil society orgnaistaons on the carried out programmes, projects and activites which contribute to implementation of the measures envisaged under the Stragey and the accompaning Acton Plans.

The question of the functioning and social integratiton of persons with disability needs to be integrated into statisical research conducted by the Republic Statistical Office, such as census, Income and Living Standards Survey, and other researches, and the results need to be regularly processed, data generated and published.

Under the Planing System Law, the Government is informed on the impelemntation on annual basis, i.e. once in a year.

INTERVIEW with the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality Ms Brankica Stankovic

First, I would like to emphasize the difference between the national or local strategies and internal strategies of the institution. My answer is no, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality has its own (internal) "Strategic Plan of the CPE for the period of time from 2016-2020".

I. Does your Institution have the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?

Having in mind the previous answer, I must point out that the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality is not responsible, according to its mandate, for creation and/or proposing of any (national) strategy. However, its role in the process of implementation of national strategies is very important. As independent state organ, among other duties, the CPE is responsible to process complains submitted to the CPE regarding the breach of equality during that process or in any other case. Also, the CPE has legal obligation to warn the public about any breach of the antidiscrimination legislation.

Regarding the adoption of new or expired strategies, one of the most important national strategies for improving the mechanisms for combating discrimination is the National Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (for the period 2014-2018) expired in 2018. In its Annual Regular Report, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality gave general recommendation regarding urgent adoption of the new National Strategy for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination which has to be based on evaluation of previously implemented strategy.

2. Is there a donor support to the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in your areas of competence? State the projects, donors and implementation time frame.

Firstly, I would like to say that the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality took part in the promotion of the creation of the Agenda 2030 during the 2015 in Serbia. So, we can say that Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs are, since the beginning on the Agenda of the CPE.

Combat against all forms of discrimination and achievement of equality in all segments of our society is the Commissioner's mission. Bearing that in mind, I have to say that all our activities are the cross cutting issues in achievement of all 17 sustainable development goals. But, more specifically, the Commissioner can relate the activities of its projects for the goals 4 (with sub goal 4.7), 5, 10 (with sub goal 10.3), 16.

I'll give you a few examples. The CPE just finished the implementation of the two years long project 'Strengthening Local Anti-Discrimination and Institutional Capacities of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality' funded by the Kingdom of Norway. This project can be related to the SDG 16.

Also, for many years now, with the support of the Open Society Foundation, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality invites interested students of elementary and master studies of law to apply to the Moot Court Simulation Discrimination. Next Moot Court competition will take place in March 2020. We can relate this project to the SDG 10 and 16.

The Project 'Bridge of Understanding – Intergenerational solidarity' is one of the permanent projects of the CPE, organized by the Commissioner in cooperation with the Red Cross of Serbia on October the 1st, International Day for the Elderly. This project can be related to the 4.7 SDG.

3. Describe the institutional mechanism for the planning, execution and monitoring of the implementation of the strategies containing the UN Sustainable Development Goals under your area of competence.

At the central level, the Republic of Serbia established, in December 2015, an Intersectoral Cooperation Working Group for implementation of UN Agenda 2030. Planning, implementation and monitoring of the strategies is in the frame of its work or, more specifically in the mandate of the relevant state institutions. As mentioned in the previous answers, the CPE is an independent state organ with no specific activities placed in national strategies. However, the CPE can react, according to the law, if such document (or documents) contains any discriminatory article.

INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, Mrs Verica Ignjatovic, assistant minister

I. Does your Ministry have the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?

The Ministry of Finance has several strategic documents valid after 2020, the most important are : the Revised Fiscal Strategy for 2020, with projections for 2021 and 2020, and the Economic Reform Program 2019-2021. Both are covering different aspects of the Agenda 2030.

2. Have you planned on reviewing or enacting new strategic documents under your area of competence which have expired or are to expire in 2020? When will this happen?

Preparation of new documents is planned. The Fiscal Strategy and the ERP are rolling documents, prepared each year for next 3 years period. ERP 2020-2022 is adopted by the Government in January 2020, and the next cycle will start in June.

In 2020 we envisaged preparation and adoption of the new strategic document Public Financial Management Reform Program for the period after 2020. We have already started preparatory activities, with special emphasis on relation to the PAR.

3. Is there a donor support to the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in your areas of competence? State the projects, donors and implementation time frame.

There are several SDGs related to the MoF. But the most important role of the MoF in relation to the Agenda 2030, recognized also by donor community, is horizontal one - in securing funds for public financial management, and therefore financing of Agenda 2030 in general.

The MoF is beneficiary of the Project Public Finance Reform – Financing Agenda 2030, implemented by GIZ and financed by the German and the Swiss governments. All information on the project you can find at: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/21219.html>

4. Describe the institutional mechanism for the planning, execution and monitoring of the implementation of the strategies containing the UN Sustainable Development Goals under your area of competence.

The most important monitoring mechanism is the Working group on UN Agenda 2030, chaired by the Minister Ms Slavica Djukic Dejanovic, gathering all relevant actors across the Government on this topic. The ERP document reflects also different actors and is monitored through the Working group on preparation and following of implementation of the Economic Reform Program, chaired by the Minister of Finance Mr.Sinisa Mali, as the National ERP Coordinator. The implementation of the EU has been discussed with the EU institutions in different fora, including separate assessment prepared by the EC and Joint conclusions adopted jointly by the ECOFIN Council and representatives of the Western Balkans and Turkey. There is also monitoring mechanism for the ERP established by civil society – the National Convention on EU.¹³⁹

INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINING AND ENERGY

I. Does your Ministry have the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?

The energy related policy framework is:

The Energy Sector Development Strategy until 2025 with projections to 2030 was adopted on December 4, 2015 by Serbian Parliament and published in Official Journal No 101/15. The Strategy defines the main priorities of the energy sector development: improvement of security of supply, development of energy market and sustainable development (increasing the share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption, 9% of energy saving in final energy consumption by 2018 and environmental protection). The energy strategy defines the main priorities and activities in each field of energy (electricity, oil and gas, coal, heat, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources).

The Decree on establishing the Program for the Implementation of Energy Strategy, which was adopted in October 2017 by Serbian Government and published in official Journal 104/17., which define all activities, measures and projects to be implemented for the period of the 6 years for each energy sector.

2. Have you planned on reviewing or enacting new strategic documents under your area of competence which have expired or are to expire in 2020? When will this happen?

The Energy Community (EnC) adopted a Recommendation 2018/01/MC-EnC on preparing for the development of Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans (INECPs) by the Contracted Parties of the Energy Community, addressing the five dimensions of the EU Energy Union Strategy. In order to complete obligations in accordance with the Energy Community Treaty, and defined the Serbian contribution to the EU targets for 2030 in the field of energy and climate, and in particular monitor performance on energy policy, developing strategic documents are of utmost importance. MoME is in charge for creating, implementation and monitoring energy policy. In accordance with the mentioned EnC Ministerial Council Recommendation, Serbia should prepare integrated national energy and climate plans for the period from 2021 to 2030. 4th National Energy Efficiency Action Plan shall be adopted during the first half of this year and will cover the time period until the end of 2021.

3. Is there a donor support to the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in your areas of competence? State the projects, donors and implementation time frame.

Table with projects is annexed

4. Describe the institutional mechanism for the planning, execution and monitoring of the implementation of the strategies containing the UN Sustainable Development Goals under your area of competence.

In general MoME is in charge for creating, implementation and monitoring energy policy. The relevant regulation for the preparation strategic documents are: Energy Law, obligations under Energy Community Treaty, Law on planning system of Republic of Serbia and Law on SEA as well as Government Rules.

The Steering Committee and Working group consistent from relevant representatives of the Ministry of Mining and Energy have been established for the process of the preparation strategic documents. During the process of the preparation strategic documents, the public consultations and public hearings were realized as well as opinions of relevant Ministries were provided. The Reports on SEA have been prepared and public consultations and public hearing were realized also.

According to the Law on Energy, Article 8, the Ministry is obliged to prepare the annual Report on the Implementation of the Energy Strategy and the Program for the implementation Energy Strategy.

The first annual Report on implementation Energy Strategy and Program for the Implementation Energy Strategy have been prepared.

INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

I. Does your Ministry have the strategic documents to be in effect after 2020 and which ones?

The Ministry is in the process of planning / drafting or has already adopted the following strategic documents for the period after 2020:

- National strategies for environmental protection for the period after 2020 - start of preparation is expected by the end of the year.
- Waste management strategy with National Waste Management Plan -2019-2024- in the final phase, is expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Low-carbon development strategy with action plan for 2030 (Climate change strategy with action plan) - in the process of public debate
- Biodiversity strategy - in the final phase, is expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Air protection strategy - development of Startegy through IPA 2014 project - in progress
- Sludge management strategy - at the final stage, expected to be adopted in the coming period
- Circular Economy Program - planned production by the end of 2020
- Program of introduction of cleaner production - in the final phase, it is expected to be adopted in the coming period

Please note that the drafting of all strategic documents, as well as their validity periods, is in accordance with the provisions of the Planning System Act (Official Gazette 30/2018).

2. Is it planned to review or adopt new strategy documents from your jurisdiction, which expires or expires in 2020? When?

Yes:

- National Environmental Protection Strategy (after the expiry of the National Environmental Protection Program 2010-2019)

- Waste Management Strategy with National Waste Management Plan -2019-2024- at final stage of preparation (after expiration of Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019)

3. Is there donor support for the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of your competence? Indicate which projects, which donors and the timeline for implementation.

The coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Republic of Serbia is the responsibility of Prof. Dr Slavica Djukic Dejanovic, Minister without Portfolio, and an Interagency Working Group of representatives of all relevant institutions, including the Ministry of the Environment, has been established. Support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level exists (above all, support from UNDP and GIZ) and is also coordinated by the Cabinet of Prof. Dr. Slavica Dejanovic.

Regarding the objectives under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment, there are currently no projects under way that support the implementation of the individual Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, but there are more projects funded through IPA and other bilateral donors (UNDP, UNEP, GIZ), which contribute directly or indirectly to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals within our jurisdiction.

4. Describe the institutional mechanism for planning, implementing and monitoring the implementation of strategies that contain the UN Sustainable Development Goals within your jurisdiction.

The Ministry of Environment has two representatives in the Interagency Working Group for Coordination of Implementation of Agenda 2030 in the Republic of Serbia, who are in charge of monitoring activities at the national level, as well as for coordination of activities within the Ministry, bearing in mind that the objectives are the responsibility of several sectors / organizational unit. Also, on behalf of the MoSW, a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency is in charge of coordinating the work on setting up environmental indicators relevant for monitoring the implementation of COR AGENDA2030.

In addition, the planning, implementation and monitoring of all strategic documents (which certainly include the goals of sustainable development) is implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Planning System (Official Gazette 30/2018), which establishes a mechanism for the preparation and adoption of all planning documents in the Republic of Serbia.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Republic Directorate for Water Management especially elaborated United Nations Questionnaire on SDG Indicator 6.5.1 in an writing interview.

In September 2014, the United Nations adopted the Plan for Sustainable Development until 2030 with strategic development goals (in further text SDG) and indicators for monitoring of each goal.

SDG 6 goal refers to water and sewage system, while goal 6.5 is: "To implement principle of integrated water management until 2030 at all levels, including cross-border cooperation, where needed."

During the 1st cycle of data collection, 2017-2018, in total 172 UN member states reported data for SDG indicator 6.5.1. This enabled setting up of the basic global position on the implementation status of the integral water management and the key point for monitoring success in implementation, at the global, regional and national level.

Taking that as a starting point, the UN program of environmental protection (UNEP) is now officially inviting economies to open the 2nd round of data collection for the indicator 6.5.1, through filling in the national form regarding the status of implementation of integral water management.

Monitoring indicator 6.5.1 is the degree of implementation of the principle of integrated water management which can range from 0 – 100, and is calculated out of the questionnaire, consisting of 4 parts:

1. Creation of conditions – Creation of supportive conditions to apply integrated water management, which includes political, legal and strategic planning tools;
2. Institutions and participation – The range and roles of political, social, economic and administrative institutions and other involved groups which assist in introducing integral water management;
3. Management tools – Tools and activities which will enable decision-makers and final users to bring rational and informed decisions among alternatives;
4. Finances – Budget and financing is available and is being used for development of water resources and management, from various sources;
5. Indicator 6.5.1 results

Each question should be answered within the range 0-100, in steps of 10. With every answer you should provide explanation as to why the question has been ranked, as well as to provide the reference. Explanation is particularly required if marks are extremely high or low.

INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

I. Does your Ministry have strategic documents which are valid after 2020? Please, name them.

For mapping the strategic framework of the Ministry of the Interior with reference to Sustainable Development Goals, current public policy documents have been used.

Public policy documents in which the Ministry of the Interior is the implementing authority and which are valid after 2020 are as follows:

Peace, justice and effective institutions (Goal 16)

- National Strategy for the Prevention and Countering of Terrorism 2017-2021,
- Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022,
- Strategy for Combating Cybercrime 2019-2023,
- Development Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior 2018-2023,
- Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the Republic of Serbia 2019-2024.

Achievement of gender equality (Goal 5)

- Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022.

2. Is there a plan for the revision or adoption of new strategic documents within your purview which have expired or expire in 2020? When?

Ministry of the Interior plans to adopt new public policy documents that have expired or will expire after 2020:

Promotion of action at all levels to combat climate change (Goal 13)

- Draft Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management

Peace, justice and effective institutions (Goal 16)

Development of new strategies

- Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022
- Draft Community Policing Program with a proposal of the Action Plan,
- Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control in the Republic of Serbia 2019-2024,
- Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for Combating Cybercrime 2019-2023,
- Draft Action Plan for the period 2020-2021 for the implementation of the Development Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior 2018-2023,
- Draft Strategy for Integrated Border Management 2021-2025,
- Draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for Integrated Border Management,
- Preparation of the Draft Schengen Action Plan in accordance with the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanism.

Achievement of gender equality (Goal 5)

- Draft Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017-2022

Ministry of the Interior, General Police Directorate, Criminal Police Directorate participated in the development of the Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Serbia 2019 (SitAn), which will represent a source of information on children and youth in Serbia and also serve as a basis for the next program of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and UNICEF for the period 2021-2025. This document is a starting point for improving the rights of a child, which will relate to a number of Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Is there support of donors for planning and implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the area of your competence? Please, indicate projects, donors and timeframe for implementation.

The following projects, which contribute to the implementation of Goal 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, are being implemented in the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia,

○ “Development of a Gender Agenda in the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia” within SPAP III program

Donor: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Project timeframe: 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2020

Purpose: Establishing conditions at the local and central level of the police organization for the implementation of the measures prescribed in the “Guidelines for the implementation of measures for gender mainstreaming in the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia through the human resources management system.”

○ “Prevention and fight against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children on the Internet in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina”

Donor: World independent organization for children “Save the Children”

Project timeframe: September 2018 – March 2021

Purpose: Strengthening the capacity of institutions and communities in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent and combat violence against children on the Internet.

○ “Risk reduction – increasing security by stopping the misuse of weapon in the context of domestic violence”

Donor: United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Project value: 294,462 dollars

Project timeframe: December 2019 – December 2020

Purpose: This project should contribute to establishment of zero tolerance for violence and elimination of violence against women in Serbia, as well as to reduction and the misuse of firearms in the context of violence against women, domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence.

○ “Improvement of Women’s Safety in Serbia”

Donor: Kingdom of Norway

Project value: 8,092,275 Norwegian crowns (around 969,367 dollars)

Project timeframe: April 2019 – end of 2021

Purpose: Implementation of new measures for the protection of girls and women from domestic and intimate partner violence, which will be achieved through the following activities: improving the knowledge and capacity of police officers, judicial actors and Members of the Parliament to introduce and implement innovative practices; increasing human and organizational capacity of the Ministry of the Interior to implement protective measures, increase awareness and access to information on measures for the protection against violence and GBV (Gender Based Violence) among women and girls in rural areas; improving media and journalist skills to avoid gender stereotypes when reporting on VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) and femicide.

○ “**Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**” within the second phase of the European Union/Council of Europe project “**Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey**”

Donor: Council of Europe

Project value: 750,000 EUR

Project timeframe: May 2019 – May 2022

Purpose: Strengthening the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking in accordance with the recommendations of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA).

○ “**Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**” (Twining)

Donor: European Union

Project value: 1,000,000 EUR

Project Timeline: 24 September 2018 – 23 September 2020

Purpose: Improving capacities for the detection of cases of trafficking in human being, as well as the prevention and protection of victims of trafficking through strengthening the capacity of the Criminal Police Directorate for effective coordination with other relevant institutions (Centre for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking – Ministry of Labour, Employment Veteran and Social Affairs and the Republic Public Prosecutor’s Office).

In December 2019, the following project was completed:

○ “**Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Girls in Serbia – Phase II**”

Donor: UN Team (UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF, UNEFPA) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Project value: 948,719.52 dollars

Project Timeframe: September 2016 – December 2019

Purpose: Support the development of an institutional environment that will contribute to zero tolerance and eradicate violence against women in Serbia.

Preparations for the new Swedish-Serbian Police Cooperation Program – SPAP IV are under way. It should include one gender component, and the final decision should be made by the donor – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); project timeframe: 2021-2022.

4. Describe the institutional mechanism for planning, implementing and monitoring the implementation of strategies including UN Sustainable Development Goals within your purview.

The representatives of the Ministry of the Interior are members of the Inter-departmental Working Group for the implementation of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, which was established in December 2015 and is composed of high representatives of 26 line ministries and other organizations. The Working Group is chaired by the Minister in charge of demography and population policy and is tasked with:

- monitoring, in cooperation with the relevant ministries, the implementation of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable development 2030, adopted on 25 September 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York;

- comprising and coordinating positions and activities of all relevant ministries on the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030;
- proposing a procedure for adopting a national sustainable development strategy and its financing, which would integrate all individual strategies and harmonize the achievement of the goals under the UN Agenda for Sustainable development 2030 with the requirements that the Republic of Serbia needs to meet in order to fulfil its international obligations, and successfully complete accession negotiations with the European Union;
- proposing bases for statistical monitoring of goals and objectives;
- preparing periodic reports on the implementation of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 in the Republic of Serbia;
- continuous informing, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United Nations Permanent Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations system on the results of the work of the Working Group and the implementation of the goals and objectives of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030.¹⁴⁰

In the Ministry of the Interior, planning, monitoring and implementation of these strategic documents are carried out by the Sector for International Cooperation, European Affairs and Planning in accordance with the competences specified in the Rulebook on Internal Organization and Job Classification, and in cooperation with other organizational units of this Ministry.

The Ministry of the Interior participates in the work of the Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanism. The task of the Council are to review and monitor the implementation of the recommendations received by the Republic of Serbia in the process of the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council and the recommendations of the treaty bodies of the United Nations: Committee on Human Rights, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee against Torture, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Committee on Enforced Disappearance. The State Secretary Biljana Popović Ivković participates in the work of the Council on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior. The Involvement of the Ministry in the work of the Council is important for the process of fulfilling its obligations in the field of human rights protection.

In 2019, the Ministry of the Interior prepared reports including records of preventive measures and regulations related to the prevention of organized crime.

On 28 February 2019, in Geneva, at the 72nd Meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the delegation of the Republic of Serbia presented the Fourth Periodic Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Committee issued new recommendations to the Serbian authorities and their implementation will be subject to evaluation over the next four years. The State Secretary Biljana Popović Ivković participated in the Committee meeting as a member of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia.

¹⁴⁰ DECISION on the establishment of the Inter-departmental Working Group for the implementation of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 is available at <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/odlu-k/2015/I13/2/reg> (17 January 2020)



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