

SERBIA AND AGENDA 2030

Mapping the National Strategic Framework vis-a-vis the
Sustainable Development Goals

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1. Introduction: Serbia and Agenda 2030

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 formally came into effect on 1 January 2016, following the adoption of a resolution at the UN summit in September 2015. This is a global development agenda for the period beyond 2015. In the next 15 years, the state parties are expected to mobilise all resources to eradicate poverty, fight inequality and devise a response to climate change. The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the global goals, build on the Millennium Development Goals and recognise that fight against poverty goes hand in hand with economic growth and industrialisation, are geared towards many societal needs, including health, education, social protection, healthy environment and communities resilient to climate change.

The Republic of Serbia, together with several other countries worldwide, has been selected to support the design of a new global development agenda by consulting its citizens on their views of development priorities. Through the national campaign “The Serbia We Want”, as part of the global campaign “The World We Want”, over 250,000 citizens became aware of the consultation process concerning the post-2015 period. Two rounds of consultations were held in Serbia: Over 28,000 citizens had an opportunity to participate in consultations, either through an online survey and a web portal, or through direct consultation, mostly through Facebook and Twitter. Care was taken to consult a wide range of population groups, persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, people living in remote rural areas, the Roma, LGBT persons, displaced persons, the unemployed, trade unions, workers, farmers, journalists, street children, children with autism, youth and others.

Serbia is presently in the process of establishing the institutional framework for monitoring the achievement of sustainable development goals. The purpose of this Report is to map the existent strategic framework of Serbia against sustainable development goals as the departure point for the dialogue and decision-making process on the prioritisation SDGs. The mapping identifies, amongst other, the current state of each SDG, as well as areas which are not adequately covered by the present strategic framework. The Report is prepared by the Secretariat for public policies of the Republic of Serbia supported by German Development Cooperation (GIZ).

1.1. Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals 2000-2015 in Serbia and link to the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000) defined the fundamental values underlying international relations in 21st century: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, environmental conservation and shared responsibility. The Millennium Development Goals flow from this Declaration.

Recognising the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Government of Serbia, in cooperation with the United Nations Country Team in Serbia and the wider donor community, conducted the process of formulating national MDG targets and indicators. In this process, the MDGs were adapted to the national context by elaborating relevant targets (tasks) and setting baseline values.

An important framework for resource mobilisation with a view to addressing development challenges and reforms stemming from the unfinished work on MDG implementation is provided by the partnership with the EU, availability of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and the UNDAF 2016-2020 development framework.

The European Commission is committed to sustainable development and implements the goals of the Agenda 2030 through the operationalisation of policies, funds and management instruments, with a strong focus on monitoring progress on the ground. Since 2010 sustainable development is integrated into the Europe 2020 strategy which is based on three pillars: „smart growth“ with the emphasis on

education and innovation; „sustainable growth“ with low carbon emissions, resilience to climate change and impact on the environment and „inclusive growth“ through the creation of jobs and poverty reduction. The European Union through the Communication¹ ***Next steps for the sustainable European future*** gives an overview of the goals and principles of sustainable development (UN Agenda 2030) and the ways how they are integrated into the EU development agenda and priorities.

Given that 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 EU. This means that all development plans and public policy documents in the process of Serbia's EU integration should integrate the Agenda 2030, and use it to profile Serbia as a future EU member state.

The expectation of Serbia is that the EU, as the biggest and most important development partner of Serbia, together with bilateral partners, will continue to support the implementation of reforms which will lead to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The Development Partnership Framework (DPF – UNDAF) for Serbia 2016–2020 is a strategic document developed in close collaboration and partnership of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations Country Team in Serbia. The DPF is aligned and consistent with: the European integration priorities of EU candidate countries, national consultations for the post-2015 period: “The Serbia We Want” and the Sustainable Development Goals, and – at the operational level – with the Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One². The UNDAF process³ should strengthen national ownership through the recognition, support and advocacy of effective public policies and reliance on domestic institutions, systems and resources in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also supports the development of a strategic framework, as well as systems for monitoring and evaluation of achieved results and promotion of different partnerships, technical and scientific cooperation, including public-private partnerships to achieve the global goals. In response to the member states’ demand for stronger UN coordination, a joint approach geared towards more effective and coherent support for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 was adopted in the form of MAPS (**M**ainstreaming, **A**cceleration and **P**olicy **S**upport).

The EU integration process, the DPF and the findings of the Government’s Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Goals⁴ should inform the next phase, which concerns setting development priorities in line with the new framework of Sustainable Development Goals – Agenda 2030.

During the MDG reporting period, the overall economic situation in the Republic of Serbia was characterised by two main trends. The first, assessed as positive by many indicators, was marked by pronounced economic growth until 2008, with the Republic of Serbia catching up from a relatively low GDP baseline. The other trend was characterised by negative indicator values as a result of the global financial crisis, as well as, to a certain extent, of Serbia’s unwillingness to implement the necessary structural reforms. The national economic downturn had a negative impact on labour market indicators,

¹ *Com (2016) 739 final*

² “Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering Together in a Post-2015 Development World” to ensure that development activities implemented by the UN teams on the ground are firmly focused on results, strengthened accountability, monitoring and evaluation, and improved outcomes.

³ *UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK GUIDANCE*, UNDG 2017.

⁴ The Government's Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Goals for the period 2000-2015, Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, 2015.

drove an increase in poverty and caused an overall living standards decline in the country.⁵ After 2009, the absolute poverty rate increased to 8.9%, and the relative poverty rate – to 24.5% (2014).⁶ The MDG implementation report provides an overview of the remaining challenges and priorities, comprising: social inclusion policies targeting vulnerable groups, such as displaced persons, persons with disabilities and the Roma; improving access to health care; coverage of children by pre-school education, especially in rural areas; introducing a lifelong learning approach; youth unemployment; migration; environmental protection issues and disaster risk reduction.

A majority of these topics are built into the 17 SDGs and they were all 17 assessed as highly important; however, in line with the findings of the report, special focus is on the following goals and sub-goals: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all (Goal 8); reduce poverty (Goal 1); ensure healthy lives for all at all ages (Goal 3); ensure education for all (Goal 4); achieve gender equality (Goal 5); promote sustainable industrialisation (Goal 9); reduce inequality within and among countries (Goal 10); ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (Goal 12); promote activities at all levels to combat climate change (Goal 13); promote peaceful and inclusive societies and rule of law (Goal 16) and partnerships for peace (Goal 17).

1.2. Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals

Agenda 2030, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, has a wider coverage than the Millennium Development Goals and encompasses all three key dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Institutional development and cooperation to ensure the rule of law and peace are also covered by the relevant Goals and targets.

The Sustainable Development Goals are⁷:

1. **No poverty:** end poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. **Zero hunger:** end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. **Good health:** ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. **Quality education:** ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. **Gender equality:** achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. **Clean water and sanitation:** ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. **Affordable and renewable energy:** ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
8. **Decent work and economic growth:** promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. **Industry, innovation and infrastructure:** build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation;
10. **Reduced inequalities:** reduce inequality within and among countries;
11. **Sustainable cities and communities:** make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. **Responsible consumption and production:** ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;

⁵ Employment and Social Reform Programme

⁶ Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of Serbia

⁷ <http://rs.one.un.org/content/dam/unct/serbia/docs/Publications/UNCT%20Serbia%20SDGs%20brochure%20-%20SRB.pdf>

13. **Climate action:** take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. **Life below water:** conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. **Life on land:** sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
16. **Peace, justice and strong institutions:** promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
17. **Partnership for the Goals:** strengthen the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

2. Sustainable Development Goals in Serbia's Strategic Framework

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 Goals.

For mapping purposes, the Sustainable Development Goals are divided into four groups⁸:

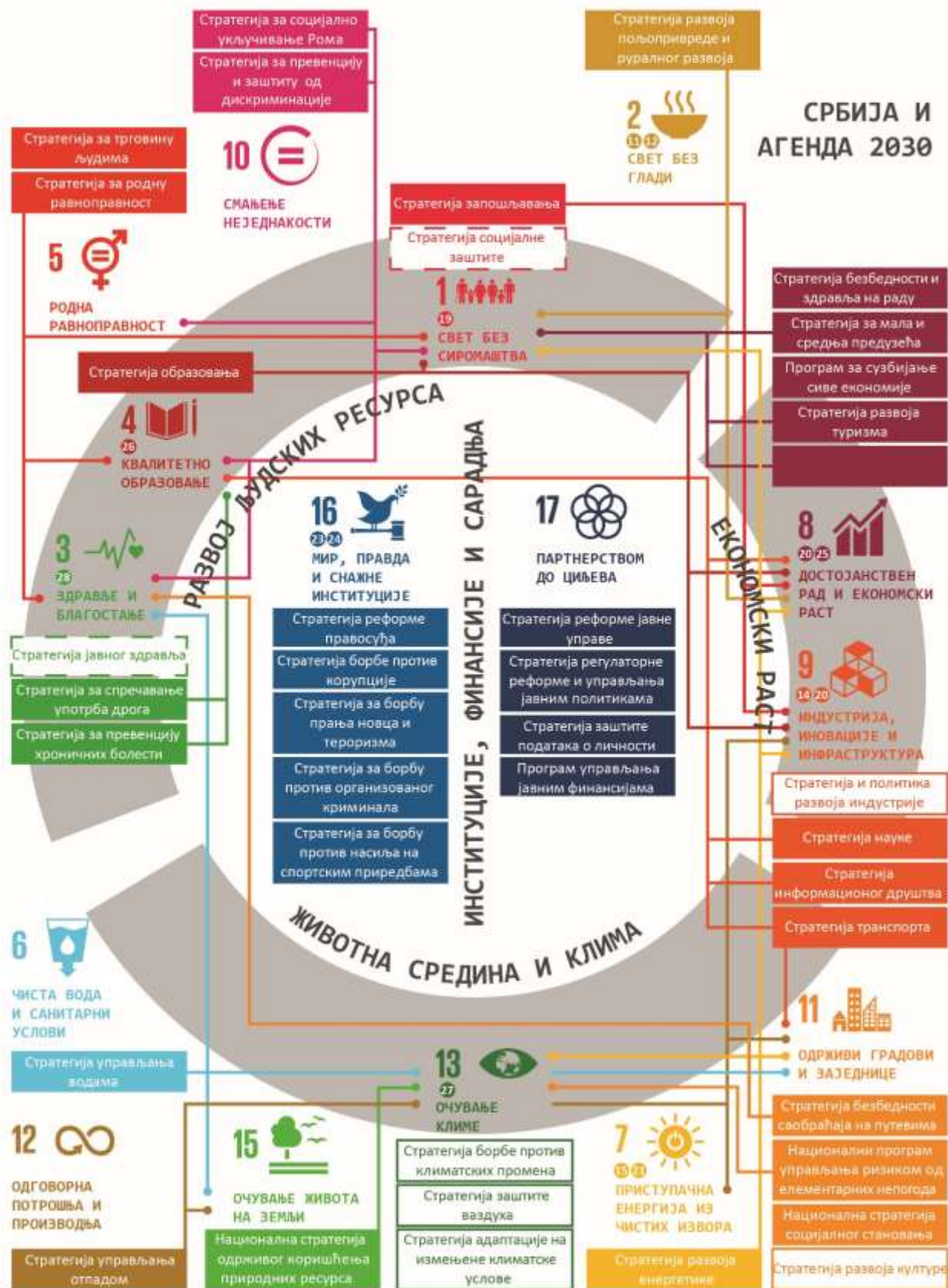
1. Economic growth (Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9);
2. Human resources development (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10);
3. Environment and climate (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 15);
4. Institutions, finance and cooperation (Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17).

A detailed analysis of the mapping findings is provided in Chapter 2.2, while Annex 1 hereto contains a table showing the coverage of the SDGs and their targets by the strategic framework, presented by sectors corresponding to the ministries of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and other state institutions responsible for the implementation of the strategic framework. In addition, Annex 2 contains a table with detailed mapping findings, including mapping against EU accession negotiating chapters.

The visual presentation of the mapping exercise below highlights the key strategic documents vis-a-vis the SDGs. Linkages shown in the illustration are by no means exclusive or exhaustive. The strategic framework essential for SDGs 16 *Peace, justice and strong institutions* and 17 *Partnership for the Goals* has not been linked to other Goals or vice versa, yet those linkages are taken for granted. Otherwise they would overload the illustration. Some strategies, such as the Employment Strategy, the Strategy on Scientific and Technological Development, the Transport Strategy and Youth Strategy, are relevant to multiple Sustainable Development Goals; in the diagram below, they are positioned under the SDGs whose achievement most crucially depends on the implementation of those strategies:

⁸ Goal 14, on sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, is not taken into consideration because Serbia does not have direct access to the sea. However, the indirect effects on seas by rivers is covered under SDG 6.

СРБИЈА И АГЕНДА 2030



■ Важеће стратегије □ Стратегије у припреми ▤ Недостајуће стратегије ● Преговарачно поглавље (ЕУ)

2.1. Mapping Methodology

The mapping of the Republic of Serbia's strategic framework vis-a-vis the Sustainable Development Goals has encompassed all the strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia 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 indicated. 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, and other indicators from the relevant domestic and international statistical sources and analyses. 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. In the mapping analysis, elements of the UN methodology - RIA (Rapid Integration Assessment - RIA) were used for the identification of gaps in the strategic framework, as well as for the assessment of the relative importance of particular strategic documents for sustainable development goals.

Strategic documents of local authorities were beyond the scope of this Report. According to the 9. mapping of strategic/action plans conducted by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (May/June 2015) there were 488 adopted public policy documents and 897 ongoing planning processes at local level. The majority of those documents are over-arching development strategies (including sustainable development strategies). Within sector specific policy documents most cover the area of waste management, environmental and social protection. Other plans at local level relate to problems of vulnerable groups as are children, youth, Roma, migrants and displaced people, but also to areas of importance for particular municipalities as is agriculture, tourism and SMEs and entrepreneurship development⁹.

2.2. Mapping Results

2.2.1. Economic Growth (Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9)

This section describes the results of mapping Serbia's strategic framework vis-a-vis the Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9, concerning primarily sustainable economic growth, employment, improving working conditions, and sustainable industrialisation, infrastructure development and innovation.

GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

1. Background information

At the global level, in the past 25 years, poverty has been significantly reduced and the share of the middle classes in the employed population increased. Yet, in recent years, decelerated economic growth, a rise in inequality and unemployment growth have been observed.¹⁰ In response to this problem, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth by enhancing productivity and supporting technological innovations and entrepreneurship.

⁹ Analiza (procena uticaja) strateškog planiranja i programskog budžetiranja na nivou lokalnih samouprava, Стална конференција градова и општина, EU Exchange 4, septembar 2015.

¹⁰ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth.html>

Serbia's recovery from the impact of the economic crisis has been slow; hence, since the end of the first wave in 2008, Serbia has lagged behind comparable countries in terms of economic growth. In the period of 2010-2016, Serbia's GDP growth (UN indicator 8.1.1.) stood at 0.5% on average, compared to 2.5% in Central and Eastern European countries and 2% in countries in the region. In 2014, Serbia's economic growth remained negative and it was only in 2015 and 2016 that it recorded progress in economic and fiscal developments.

Target 8.1 concerns sustaining economic growth in accordance with national circumstances. In that respect, the fiscal consolidation programme under implementation since 2015 has begun to yield results. GDP growth amounted to 0.8% in 2015, 2.7% in 2016¹¹, while a somewhat lower rate of between 1.5 and 2% is anticipated in 2017¹². Public debt was also significantly reduced in 2017; further, instead of the planned budget deficit amounting to 1.7% of the GDP, a surplus of 0.5% of the GDP is anticipated. Yet, Serbia lags behind countries in the Central and Eastern Europe region, whose GDP growth in 2017 is assessed at over 4%.

Serbia records growth in the industry sector, primarily owing to the recovery of the manufacturing industry, which attracted 34.2% of foreign direct investments in 2016, resulting in manufacturing diversification. Yet, the manufacturing structure is still dominated by low-processed, low value added products. By production process sophistication, Serbia is ranked a low 119th out of 138 countries¹³, while the share of high-technology industries in the GVA declined from 7.2 to 4.4% in the period of 2009-2016, which gives an indication of Serbia's situation with regard to **target 8.2** (achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation). At the same time, Serbia's investments in science and innovation are relatively low (0.9% of the GDP), and those investments primarily come from the public sector (almost 80%). The weak link between science and the business sector is reflected in the small numbers of co-authored papers and registered patents.

The service sector accounts for almost 50% of Serbia's GDP and constitutes the backbone of Serbia's economy, with continuous growth and trade surplus. Although this growth is, to a great extent, influenced by the ICT sector development, the structure of Serbia's service sector is still dominated by services not requiring special skills or knowledge. Knowledge-based services account for only 23% of the GDP, compared to 36.5% in the EU-28. The tourism sector is on the increase, both in Serbia and globally, which is of extremely high importance for assessing **target 8.9** (sustainable tourism). In 2016, the number of tourists grew by 13% relative to the preceding year.

Small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs play an important role in Serbia's economy, as they account for 99.8% of all businesses and employ 66% of the active labour force. The SME sector contributes 32% of the GDP. A major hindrance to the further development of this sector lies in limited access to finance.

With regard to the achievement of **target 8.5** (full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men), the Serbian labour market exhibits positive trends. In 2017, employment (UN indicator 8.5.2) increased by 1.7%, while the unemployment rate recorded the lowest level in the past few years, at 14.6% in the first quarter of 2017. Nevertheless, the problem of long-term unemployment persists, as does the disproportionately high share of youth and vulnerable groups in the unemployed population.

¹¹ Records of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

(<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/dokumenti/2016/Fiskalna%20strategija%202017.pdf>)

¹² Fiscal Council report: http://www.fiskalnisavet.rs/doc/ocene-i-misljenja/2017/Rezime_Fiskalna%20kretanja%20u%202017.%20godini%20i%20preporuke%20za%202018.%20godinu.pdf

¹³ Global Competitiveness Report 2016, World Economic Forum.

The position of women remains unfavourable (despite their share of 51% in the total population, they account for 43.7% of those employed), although the Government's Report on the Millennium Development Goals notes a positive trend in reducing the male-female disparities, both in the unemployment rate (from 2.3 pp in 2008 to 0.8 pp in 2014), and in the employment rate (from 8.4 pp in 2008 to 6.8 pp in 2014).

Youth aged 15-24 are in a highly disadvantaged position, with an unemployment rate of 31.2% (compared to 17.7% in the EU-28). After a period of decrease, the youth unemployment rate started increasing rapidly in 2008, reaching 59.9% in 2011; this was followed by a decrease to the still high 49.6% in 2014 and further to the current level of 31.2%¹⁴, or 2.5 times the general unemployment rate.

Of great importance for the achievement of **target 8.6** (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training) is the fact that the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (UN indicator 8.6.1) is as high as 18.7%.

2. EU and other international processes in this area

The Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth constitutes the European Union's direct response to Sustainable Development Goal 8. This Goal is also embedded in the ten priorities of the "Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change"¹⁵, adopted by the European Council, such as support for jobs, growth and investments (priority 1), a stronger and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base (priority 4), as well as a stronger and fairer economic and monetary union – with focus on social policies and corporate social responsibility (priority 5).

These EU principles are reflected in concrete programmes and investments under implementation. **The Investment Plan for Europe** foresees the mobilisation of EUR 500 billion by 2020 for investment in the key sectors, such as education, health, water, energy, transport and other areas, having in mind the long-term future of the European Union. Projects are, hence, focused on sustainable energy, circular economy, mitigating the impact of climate change and other crucial themes. The principle of circular economy is the EU's response to the question how to create jobs and drive growth by stimulating sustainable production and consumption. The European instrument for science and innovation "**Horizon 2020**" is largely focused on enhancing the competitiveness of the European economy by developing and implementing new technologies.

Through the EU accession process, these EU principles are embraced by candidate countries such as Serbia. Under many negotiating chapters, Serbia is aligning its regulations with the EU principles crucial to sustainable economic growth. This is the case primarily in chapters **20** (Enterprise and industrial policy), **17** (Economic and monetary policy) and **19** (Social policy and employment). Highly relevant are also chapters **25** (Science and research), **9** (Financial services), as well as **1** (Free movement of goods), **4** (Free movement of capital), **2** (Freedom of movement for workers), **26** (Education and culture).

In addition to regulatory alignment, Serbia, as an EU candidate country, is involved in three European Union programmes of high importance to the themes covered by SDG 8. Since 2008, Serbia has participated in **European framework programmes for science, research and innovation**, and since 2015, Serbian companies have been eligible to participate in the EU **COSME** programme for support to the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises. Another key program in which Serbia participates is EaSI – EU program for employment and social innovation.

¹⁴ National Employment Service, 2017.

¹⁵ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/143477.pdf

The theme of sustainable economic growth also features in major regional initiatives in which Serbia is involved. The **South East Europe 2020 Strategy** is based on the same principles as the Europe 2020 Strategy, namely smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. As part of the **Berlin Process**, emphasis is placed on economic and social matters. All macro-regional strategies and processes in which Serbia is involved, such as the Danube Strategy, strongly emphasise the role of regional cooperation in pursuing sustainable economic growth.

3. Links of the national strategic framework to the targets under the relevant Sustainable Development Goal

Many strategies of the Republic of Serbia recognise the importance of sector-specific policies for the achievement of the overall goal of long-term sustainable economic growth. SDG 8 is closely linked to the areas of education, employment, rule of law, institution strengthening, science and innovation, and many other segments encompassed by other Sustainable Development Goals.

SDG 8 – Target: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances (8.1) is reflected in many strategic documents of the Republic of Serbia. The two documents crucial for the achievement of sustainable economic growth are the **Fiscal Strategy** for 2017 (with Projections for 2018 and 2019)¹⁶ and the **Economic Reform Programme (ERP)** for 2017¹⁷. 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 the structural reforms already contained in sector-specific strategies and facilitates centralised monitoring of their implementation, as well as measurement of their social impact and impact on competitiveness.

The **Strategy on Scientific and Technological Development** of the Republic of Serbia for the period of 2016-2020 (“Research for Innovation”)¹⁸ 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 core theme of this Strategy is enhancing the excellence and relevance of scientific research in the Republic of Serbia, as well as strengthening the links between science, the 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 better linkage to the business sector. 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.

Serbia has an elaborate strategic framework for the achievement of **SDG 8 – Target: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services (8.3)**. The key strategic document in this area is the **Strategy for Support to the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness for the period of 2015-2020, accompanied by an Action Plan**¹⁹. The Strategy also thoroughly integrates the principles of the Small Business Act, which provides the framework for the small business development policy in the EU. The strategic goals defined

¹⁶ <http://www.mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/dokumenti/2016/Fiskalna%20strategija%202017.pdf>

¹⁷ [http://www.mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/strategije/ERP%202017-2019\(1\).pdf](http://www.mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/strategije/ERP%202017-2019(1).pdf)

¹⁸ <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Strategija-srpski.pdf>

¹⁹ <http://www.privreda.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Strategija-mala-i-srednja-preduzeća.pdf>

by this document are: improving the business environment; improving access to finance; continuous human resources development; enhancing SME sustainability and competitiveness; improving access to new markets; and developing and promoting the entrepreneurial spirit and encouraging women's, youth and social entrepreneurship. In the implementation of this Strategy, year 2016 was declared the Year of Entrepreneurship; as part of this initiative, coordination among all key stakeholders was improved and financial support to the SME sector increased. In view of the results achieved within the framework of the Year of Entrepreneurship and the importance of the SME sector for Serbia's economic development, in 2017 the initiative has been expanded into a programme titled "Decade of Entrepreneurship". Of great importance is also the **National programme for combating the grey economy** adopted by the Government and elaborated in cooperation with the National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED).

In the past, Serbia's industrial policies were not focused on the country'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 linkage 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 2017-2027**²⁰.

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 priorities of this Strategy are promoting employment in underdeveloped regions, enhancing human capital, higher social inclusion, institution strengthening, labour market development and reducing labour market dualism.

The Strategy also defines the system prerequisites for an equal opportunities policy in the economy by promoting women's entrepreneurship, self-employment and employment, reducing discrimination and strengthening the capacities of all stakeholders to eliminate discrimination and use women's resources better. Dedicated measures to support women's entrepreneurship are also implemented under the Strategy for Support to the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness. Further improvements in this segment are expected to be achieved by the passage of the Gender Equality Law, currently under preparation.

Further prerequisites for the achievement of target 8.5 will be provided by improving the regulatory framework for social entrepreneurship, which is recognised as a priority in the Strategy for Support to the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship.

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**²¹. The nine strategic goals of this document

²⁰ <http://www.kultura.gov.rs/docs/dokumenti/predlog-strategije-razvoja-kulture-republike-srbije-od-2017--do-2027--predlog-strategije-razvoja-kulture-republike-srbije-od-2017--do-2027-.pdf>

²¹ http://www.mos.gov.rs/mladisuzakon/attachments/article/389/nacionalna_strategija_za_mlade0101_cyr.pdf

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**,²² 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 theme is addressed by the National Employment Strategy, as well as the **Occupational Health and Safety Strategy for the period of 2013-2017**.²³ 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.

The primary goal of the recently adopted **Tourism Development Strategy** of the Republic of Serbia for the period of 2016-2025 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)**.

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.

GOAL 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

1. Background information

Technological progress and innovation are the foundations of sustainable economic development. Access to quality infrastructure and information and communication technologies enables more people to participate in a knowledge-based economy, offers access to education and fosters entrepreneurship. Nevertheless, globally, 4 billion people still have no Internet access. In response to this problem, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 promotes building resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialisation and fostering innovation.

With regard to **quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure**, encompassed by target **9.1**, the situation in Serbia varies substantially by types of infrastructure. In the domain of transport, Serbia's road network is not fully built and many road sections are in a poor condition. However, key motorway sections (on Corridors 10 and 11), which are both national and regional priorities, are under construction. There are numerous cross-border regulatory barriers that have an adverse impact on trade by increasing costs and creating uncertainty in freight transport. Passenger and freight rail transport volume is lower in Serbia than in all countries in the region. One of the leading reasons for this is the outdated rail network (55% of the network is over 100 years old). Serbia's major unexploited potential also lies in river transport, which

²² http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/strategija_obrazovanja_do_2020.pdf

²³ <http://www.minrzs.gov.rs/files/doc/bezbednost/Strategija%20bezbednosti%20i%20zdravlja%20na%20radu%20u%20RS%20za%20period%20od%202013%20do%202017.pdf>

has recorded a decline compared to road transport in recent years. The reliability and resilience of Serbia's infrastructure are also adversely affected by the lack of intelligent transport systems. Energy infrastructure is also dilapidated, resulting in unreliable supply and disproportionately high environmental impact.

In recent years, Serbia has recorded growth in the industry sector, primarily owing to the recovery of the manufacturing industry, which attracted 34.2% of foreign direct investments in 2016, resulting in manufacturing diversification. Yet, the manufacturing structure is still dominated by low-processed, low value added products. Employment in the industry sector is on the increase, which is important for the achievement of **target 9.2: Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation**.

Target **9.3** concerns **the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services** and their integration into value chains and markets. Small and medium-sized enterprises account for 55.8% of Serbia's imports, and only 48.5% of its exports, which testifies to this sector's insufficient international competitiveness. The SME demand for financial services is substantial (estimated at 13.9% of the GDP by the European Investment Bank²⁴), and a high proportion of businesses – as many as 40% – have borrowed from banks. A feature that is mainly missing in Serbia is finance for innovative companies and start-ups in the form of venture capital funds and other instruments.

With regard to the achievement of target **9.4**, concerning **sustainable industries**, increased resource-use efficiency and clean technologies, the ratio of CO₂ emissions to the GDP (UN indicator 9.4.1) is highly relevant; according to World Bank data, this ratio in Serbia is twice as high as the European Union average.

As noted under target 8.2, Serbia invests far less in science and research than the EU countries (UN indicator 9.5.1), which is an unfavourable basis for the achievement of **target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities and encourage innovation**. Although the number of researchers (UN indicator 9.5.2) in Serbia has been on the increase in the past ten years, Serbia still has almost twice fewer researches per million people than the EU countries. Private-sector involvement in the science domain is very low in terms of investment level, number of researchers and scale of research conducted within companies.

Target **9.c** concerns **increasing access to information and communications technology**. Although access to computers and the Internet is widespread in companies, Serbia lags far behind European countries in broadband Internet access. In 2016, 57.8% of households had broadband Internet access (UN indicator 9.c.1), compared to 83% in the EU-28. In addition, Serbia is ranked lower than most countries in the region by the network readiness index, which is an indicator of digital economy, i.e. a country's readiness to participate in the IT sector.

2. EU and other international processes in this area

European policies and instruments are largely aligned with SDG 9. **The Investment Plan for Europe**, described under SDG 8, covers strategic investments in the areas of infrastructure, science, innovation and financial instruments to support innovative companies.

The European instrument for science and innovation **“Horizon 2020”**, in which Serbia participates on an equal basis with member states, has succeeded in generating significantly higher investments in science and new technologies than the previous EU framework programme for science and research and in focusing scientific research chiefly on developing new technologies and addressing major societal challenges.

²⁴ http://www.eib.org/attachments/efs/assessment_of_financing_needs_of_smes_serbia_en.pdf

The theme of sustainable industrialisation also features in many negotiating chapters under which Serbia is aligning its regulations with the EU principles. These are, primarily, chapters **14** (Transport policy), **21** (Trans-European networks), **15** (Energy), **20** (Enterprise and industrial policy), **25** (Science and research), **9** (Financial services) and **10** (Information society and media).

The *Energy Community of South-East Europe*, of which Serbia is a member and within which regional priorities in this sector are set, is of very high importance for energy infrastructure development.

In the transport sector, Serbia's participation in the *South East Europe Transport Observatory*, based in Belgrade, is very important. Under the Treaty recently signed in Trieste, the Observatory will be transformed into a regional Transport Community.

Regional priorities in the areas of transport and energy are also included in the *Connectivity Agenda*²⁵ for the Western Balkans, including Serbia, which was most recently revised at the Summit in Trieste in 2017.

With regard to improving access to ICT, there are no major regional or European processes in which Serbia is involved, outside the European integration process. The *Regional Cooperation Council* launched its activities towards improving regional cooperation in this area in 2016. The *Berlin Process* recognises this theme as important; however, as yet, there are no concrete programmes for investment or improving regional cooperation.

3. Links of the national strategic framework to the targets under the relevant Sustainable Development Goal

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 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.

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 2020²⁶, the **National Programme for Public Railway Infrastructure**²⁷ and the **Waterway Transport Development Strategy**²⁸ provide the strategic basis for transport infrastructure development in Serbia.

The strategic framework document in the area of energy is the **Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia** until 2025, with projections until 2030²⁹. 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 dynamic investment in energy. The Action Plan accompanying the Strategy, which will improve

²⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/connectivity_agenda_2017_triESTE_summit.pdf

²⁶ http://www.rsip.gov.rs/malodrvo/bazastrategija/10_saobracaj_i_komunikacije/10_11_plan_razvoja_zeleznickog_drumskog_vodnog_vazdusnog/10.11_plan_razvoja_zeleznickog_drumskog_vodnog_vazdusnog_i_intermodalnog_transporta_u_periodu_2015-2020_godine.pdf

²⁷ <http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/sites/default/files/Nacionalni%20program%20zel%20infrastrukture%20SRBIJE%202017-2021%2020.9.2016.doc>

²⁸ <http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/cir/dokumenti/strategija-razvoja-vodnog-saobratshaja-republike-srbije-od-2015-do-2025-godine>

²⁹ http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/akta_procedura/2014/113-14Lat.pdf

the efficient implementation of the activities proposed under the Strategy, is under way. According to the NPAA, a Strategy for Managing Mineral and Other Geological Resources of the Republic of Serbia is planned to be adopted by 2018.

The Serbia Industrial Development Strategy and Policy 2011-2020 is a general document that clarifies the linkage between industrial development and other sector-specific policies. This Strategy is being revised; according to the NPAA, the revised Strategy will be adopted by 2018 and will provide an improved response to the issue of sustainable industrialisation, which is the essence of **SDG 9 – Target: Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation (9.2)**.

The **Strategy for Support to the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness for the period of 2015-2020, accompanied by an Action Plan**³⁰ includes measures to improve access to finance for SMEs, promote their internationalisation and integration in value chains that are essential for the achievement of **SDG 9 – Target: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises to financial services and their integration into value chains and markets (9.3)**. Programmes for SME integration in value chains, as well as other financial support measures, are implemented by the Development Agency of Serbia and other state institutions.

The **Sustainable Development Strategy** until 2018 has not been monitored since 2010, which hinders the evaluation of its implementation and impact on the achievement of **SDG 9 – Target: Sustainable industries, increased resource-use efficiency and clean technologies (9.4)**. Relevant to the achievement of this target is also the Republic of Serbia's National Emission Reduction Plan, adopted by the Government in June 2015, whereby Serbia committed to reducing emission levels by 9.8% relative to the 1990 level, by 2030. According to the NPAA, a Law on the GHG Emission Reduction System and the accompanying regulations and rulebooks are foreseen to be adopted by the end of 2017 at the latest. The implementation of the abovementioned **Energy Sector Development Strategy** is also highly relevant to the achievement of this target. Certain sector-specific policies and regulations also take into account resource sustainability and clean technologies. A good example is the policy on green and social aspects of public procurement and the treatment of SMEs, which is largely consistent with the provisions of Directive 2014/24/EU. The following activities are planned by the end of 2017: promoting energy savings in public transport and state-managed buildings with a view to achieving two categories of objectives: cost-effectiveness, achieved through lower energy consumption, and an environmental objective in terms of reducing the emissions of carbon-dioxide and other gases; developing a method for the calculation of life-cycle cost of procured assets and developing a model for standard "environmentally friendly" technical specifications for certain products.

SDG 9 – Target: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities and encourage innovation (9.5) is covered by the **Strategy on Scientific and Technological Development** of the Republic of Serbia until 2020³¹, described in detail under SDG 8. 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 the 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.

³⁰ <http://www.privreda.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Strategija-mala-i-srednja-preduzeca.pdf>

³¹ <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Strategija-srpski.pdf>

The **Strategy for the Development of Electronic Communications**³² in the Republic of Serbia for the period of 2010-2020 and the **Strategy for Information Society Development**³³ in the Republic of Serbia until 2020 comprise the Digital Agenda for the Republic of Serbia. This strategic framework, together with the recently adopted **Strategy for Information Security Development**³⁴ in the Republic of Serbia until 2020, contributes to the achievement of **SDG 9 – Target: Increase access to information and communications technology (9.c)**. As part of the strategic reform to improve broadband Internet access, an activity within the ERP (and the NPAA) foresees the passage of a Law on Broadband Communication Infrastructure. This will ensure harmonisation with Directive 2014/61/EU on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks. Other activities and investments are also planned with a view to improving broadband infrastructure.

2.2.2. Human Resource Development (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10)

This segment describes the results of strategic framework mapping relative to the goals relevant for human resource development. SDG 1, which refers to poverty reduction, is closely related to the implementation of SDGs 2, 5 and 10, so they are described in conjunction with each other, whereas SDG 3 (health) and SDG 4 (education) are described separately.

GOAL 1: End Poverty in All its Forms

1. Background information

Poverty eradication presents one of the greatest challenges globally. Although the number of people living in extreme poverty has been reduced from 1.9 billion to 836 million in the past 25 years, a large number of people still live without access to food, drinking water and sanitation³⁵. In response to this problem, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 promotes poverty reduction, support to the most vulnerable people, access to resources and services, as well as support in the event of conflicts and climate-related extreme events.

In Serbia there is wide-spread poverty. In past few years the absolute poverty rate (UN indicator 1.2.1) has ranged between 6 and 7,6% of total population³⁶, which is the most relevant data for the realization of **Target 1.1** (Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere). The high proportion of people at risk of poverty, which according to the data of the latest SILC survey³⁷ was 38.7% in 2016, is another cause for concern (the European average for 2015 is 23.8%). The already high inequality of income distribution measured by the Gini coefficient is also rising and has reached 38.6 in Serbia (above the European average of 31). These indicators are also important for monitoring the implementation of **Target 1.2** (Reduce the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all its dimensions). The highest level of vulnerability can be seen among certain groups such as the Roma, in particular in informal settlements, internally displaced persons, persons with severe disabilities, the elderly without pension, persons with no or low education level, non-urban population.

For the implementation of **Target 1.3** (Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors) the relevant data is that social protection and security expenditure in

³² <http://mtt.gov.rs/download/3/Strategija%20razvoja%20elektronskih%20komunikacija%20u%20RS%202010-2020.pdf>

³³ http://mtt.gov.rs/download/3/Strategija_razvoja_informacionog_drustva_2020.pdf

³⁴ http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/294088/strategija-razvoja-informacione-bezbednosti055_cyr.zip

³⁵ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-1-no-poverty.html>

³⁶ Source: Household Budget Survey, period 2008-2014, Serbian Statistical Office.

³⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/income-and-living-conditions/data/database>

Serbia amounted to 22.1% of GDP in 2015. However, the structure of this expenditure is dominated by pensions, while social assistance expenditure amounts to 3.7% of GDP as per consolidated budget (which is comparable to the countries in the region)

Target 1.4 promotes equal rights to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land, new technology and financial services including microfinance. Vulnerable groups in Serbia are faced with problems in accessing the most important economic resources such as land, work and finance. A large portion of Roma population live in dangerous living conditions and without formal ownership rights. There is also high inequality in access to services, starting from education and health care, but also transport services which are not adapted to the needs of persons with disability, nor are public areas which provide important services to citizens. In Serbia the Law on Non-bank Financial Institutions, which would enable microfinance, has not been adopted yet. Three organizations engaging in this activity in the Republic of Serbia receive financial support from international donors, but cannot grant funds directly, but through commercial banks, which makes the procedure significantly more complex and makes these funds more expensive for end beneficiaries.

In connection with **Target 1.5** (Reduce the exposure of the poor to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters) an analysis conducted after the disastrous floods in 2014 has shown that vulnerable groups (primarily, the Roma, refugees and displaced persons and persons with disability), as well as households run by women, were more affected by these floods³⁸. It is estimated that after the floods, 125,000 citizens dropped below the poverty line, resulting in poverty increase by almost 7 percent relative to the previous year's level.

Target 1.B relates to creating sound policy frameworks at all levels, promoting the fight against poverty and gender sensitivity. Although a public policy impact assessment is currently not conducted in all public policy areas, guidelines have been prepared for such assessments in line with the EU methodology³⁹. Serbia is also the first country in the Western Balkan region which conducted such an assessment as part of the adoption of the Economic Reform Program.

2. EU and Other International Processes in this area

The Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth has as one of its goals 20 million fewer people at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. For the purpose of implementation of this goal, the **European Platform against Poverty** defines activities that are also fully aligned with the implementation of SDG 1. The Platform is based on a number of actions such as taking public policy measures, better use of EU funds to support social inclusion, promoting social innovations, working in partnership and using potential of social economy, as well as enhanced coordination among countries.

These principles are also disseminated through the EU association process to the candidate countries such as Serbia. Within a number of its negotiation chapters, Serbia is aligning its regulations with the EU principles which are key to poverty reduction. Those are primarily Chapters **19** (social policy and employment), **2** (free movement of workers), **26** (education and culture) and **23** (judiciary and fundamental rights).

The thematic issue of poverty reduction is also included in important regional initiatives involving Serbia. The **South East Europe 2020 Strategy** is based on the same principles as the Europe 2020 Strategy, which

³⁸ <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Izvestaj-o-proceni-potreba-za-oporavak-i-obnovu-posledica-poplava.pdf>

³⁹ <http://sociojalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Smernice-za-procenu-uticaja-na-drustvo-SRP.pdf>

is smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Within this initiative, the **Regional Cooperation Council** also implements a regional project dealing with Roma integration.

3. Linkages between the National Strategic Framework with targets for the relevant Sustainable Development Goal

A large number of strategies of the Republic of Serbia recognize the importance of sectoral public policies for the realization of the poverty reduction goal. SDG 1 is deeply connected with the areas of education, employment, rule of law, institution building, health care and many other segments which are dealt with by other sustainable development goals.

The Reform Program of Employment and Social Policy in the EU Accession Process (ESRP) is one of the most important documents for the SDG 1 implementation. The ESRP, which was adopted in May 2016, contains key reforms and programs 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 also the unemployment of the youth as a vulnerable category.

The Social Protection Development Strategy adopted in 2005 is outdated. A new strategy is expected to be adopted by the end of 2018, which will significantly contribute to the implementation of SDG 1 – target: Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere (1.1), SDG 1- target: Reduce the proportion of men, women and children living in poverty in all its dimensions (1.2) and SDG 1 – target: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors (1.3). **The Employment Strategy** of the Republic of Serbia until 2020 is also of great importance for the implementation of these targets and it defines the reduction of relative poverty as one of priorities.

SDG 1 – target: Equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land, new technology and financial services, including microfinance (1.4) is not covered by a single strategy, but the elements of importance for attaining this target have been recognized in the strategic framework. **The Strategy of Education Development in Serbia Until 2020** recognizes the disproportionately high dropout rate and lack of access to all education levels to children from vulnerable categories and the Action Plan defines a number of measures for resolving this issue. The thematic issue of resolving the property–legal status of dwellings in Roma settlements and increased participation of Roma women in ownership is recognized in the **Strategy for the Improvement of Position of the Roma**⁴⁰ in the Republic of Serbia. In the area of microfinance, **the Strategy for the Development of SMEs and Entrepreneurship** recognizes the importance of this type of financing and the Action Plan⁴¹ for implementing this strategy provides for the adoption of the legal framework for non-bank, non-deposit credit institutions, which would provide this type of financing.

The National Natural Disaster Risk Management Program⁴² is the most important strategic document directly related to **SDG 1 – target: Reduce the exposure of the poor to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (1.5)**. This document recognizes the major impact of the 2014 floods on the socially vulnerable categories, but also on the increase in poverty rate in the period after the floods. The proposed measures are not directly focused on the vulnerable groups, but jointly present a framework for the improvement of all natural disaster risk management elements.

⁴⁰ <http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Strategija-SR-web-FINAL.pdf>

⁴¹ <http://www.privreda.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Akcioni-plan-mala-i-srednja-preduzeca.pdf>

⁴² <http://www.obnova.gov.rs/uploads/useruploads/Documents/Nacionalni%20program%20upravljanja%20rizikom%20od%20elementarnih%20nepogoda.pdf>

SDG 1 is directly related to several other SDGs and synergistic effects are anticipated in their implementation. Those are **SDG 2**: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, **SDG 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and **SDG 10**: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

According to the Red Cross data from 2016, 35,560 of the poorest, of whom as many as one third are children, come to 76 soup kitchens in Serbia every day to get a meal.

At the same time, agriculture is one of the key sectors in the economic structure of our country, and the conditions for its development in Serbia are very favourable. Nevertheless, this sector is faced with numerous problems relating to the unfavourable structure of agricultural farms, technical and technological obsolescence of a part of the sector, primarily small and medium-sized farms, poor farmer organization into cooperatives, as well as insufficient level of processing in the existing food industry. Increasingly frequent and severe crises, in terms of their consequences, caused by natural phenomena (floods, droughts, hail and other) are also worth pointing out, as well as increasingly demanding professional challenges before the farmers facing increased pressures due to rising standards and regulations in the process of alignment with the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU.

For the development of the agricultural sector, rural development and for the implementation of SDG 2, the most important strategic document of the Republic of Serbia is the **Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy 2014-2024**⁴³. 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 the institutional framework for the development of agriculture and rural areas.

GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality

The level of gender equality is still not satisfactory. During the past decade, the employment gap between men and women has been reduced significantly, but not primarily due to an increase in employment among women. The level of participation of women at all levels of political engagement has been increased up to the predefined targets, in particular with regard to participation of women in parliamentary bodies at the national and municipal levels⁴⁴. Women are still underrepresented at the positions of ambassadors and, in particular, the positions of mayors (6.02%)⁴⁵. Serbia is the first non-EU country that introduced the Gender Equality Index, and the data point to a lag behind the EU average in all gender equality areas (except the area of power), with a serious gap in the area of labour and money. The pay gap between women and men is 11%, which means that female employees earn 11% less than men. Although women account for 51% of the general population, they are still underrepresented among decision makers (UN indicator 5.5.1): women account for 35.6% of MPs and 23% of the Government members (UN indicator 5.5.1). When it comes to managerial positions in public enterprises, there has

⁴³ <http://www.mpzss.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/datoteke/razno/4827014.0116.30-1.pdf>

⁴⁴ The Government Report on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Goals for 2000-2015, Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, 2015

⁴⁵ National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED)

been an improvement, since in 2016 there were as many as 22% women in the positions of directors and members of the boards of directors, which is an increase of 9 pp relative to 2015.

The most important document for the implementation of SDG 5 is the **National Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2020**⁴⁶. 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, systemic mainstreaming of gender perspective in public policy adoption, implementation and monitoring.

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 contains the principle of equal access to education for boys and girls.

GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

For the implementation of SDG 10, the thematic issues of growth of lower incomes (10.1), inclusion (10.2), combating discrimination (10.3), as well as fiscal wage policies (10.4), are of particular importance.

Fifteen years ago, the average wage in Serbia was RSD 9,208 (EUR 151), while today it is RSD 49,635 (EUR 404). This is the highest amount in Serbia since the break-up of the SFRY and finally the 2008 record when the average wage was EUR 402 has been exceeded.⁴⁷ Currently the average wage is EUR 510 in Montenegro, EUR 439.71 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUR 427 in Albania, EUR 813 in Croatia, and it is lower than in Serbia only in Macedonia, where it amounts to EUR 375.

Income distribution inequality was 9.7 in 2016, which means that 20% of the wealthiest population in the Republic of Serbia had equivalent income that was 9.7 times higher than the income of the bottom 20%. The value of this indicator measured in the previous years is considerably above the average value for EU-28 countries (around 5) and is above the highest value recorded in the EU members⁴⁸. In 2012 the *Gini* coefficient was 38.6, which is significantly above the average for EU member states (30.6), as well as above the level of the *Gini* coefficient for the EU states with the most pronounced inequalities – which requires an adequate response through policy measures. The Gini coefficient measured by consumption distribution has low values for Serbia – it is close to the bottom of the Gini coefficient list, which means that consumption inequality is fairly moderate in Serbia. The situation is similar with other inequality indicator – the quintile ratio, which is relatively low in Serbia compared with other countries, indicating that consumption inequality in Serbia is not particularly pronounced and is moderate by global standards⁴⁹.

Many of these thematic issues are contained in the **Program of Employment and Social Reform in the EU Accession Process (ESRP)**. With regard to the thematic issue of inclusion, the Strategy for Social Inclusion of the Roma is also worth mentioning, while in the anti-discrimination area the Anti-Discrimination Strategy until 2018 is still in effect. The fiscal wage policy is defined primarily by the Fiscal Strategy for 2017 with Projections for 2018 and 2019, but it is also covered by the Public administration Reform Strategy and the Economic Reform Program.

⁴⁶ <http://www.mgsi.gov.rs/lat/dokumenti/nacionalna-strategija-za-rodnu-ravnopravnost-za-period-od-2016-do-2020-godine-sa-akcionim>

⁴⁷ <http://www.novosti.rs/vesti/naslovna/ekonomija/aktuelno.239.html>

⁴⁸ Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit

⁴⁹ Ibid.

1. Background information

Health protection of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia is organized through the network of health-care institutions. Health-care protection at the primary level is provided in 158⁵⁰ health centres, with the developed network of healthcare infirmaries, dispensaries and institutions providing health-related care to certain groups of population, i.e., health-care activities from certain areas from health-care protection. In 2015, in-patient (hospital) health care protection was provided by 127 health care institutions. Specifically: in-patient clinics attached to community health centres (19), general hospitals (41), special hospitals (36), institute (2), offices (14), clinics (7), university medical centres (4) and teaching hospitals (4) with the total bedding capacities of 5.8 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Besides the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Institute “Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut” is another reference point for the health-related data in Serbia. At the international level, the World Health Organization (WHO) gathers the most relevant set of indicators in the area, and it has several databases, such as „European Health for All Database“ and „Global Health Observatory“. Although not fully, the other international health-related indicator monitoring systems are processing the data on Serbia. These are „European Core Health Indicators“ (ECHI) and *European Health Consumer Index - EHCI* that are trying to comparatively monitor the performance of the health-care system of 35 European countries from the point of view of beneficiaries. In line with this index, that, at any rate, should be taken with a huge reserve, it seems that in the past three years a huge step forward was made in terms of the health care quality, that is, Serbia has moved from the rank of 30 to the rank of 24 (out of the total 35). That is to be attributed to the introduction of a new information system to reduce the waiting lists and waiting time⁵¹. Number of patients on the waiting lists in the period 2011-2015 used to grow constantly, and it reached its maximum value of 130,298 patients⁵². In that period, the list for cataract was increased by 68% of patients, and for cardio surgery by 58%. Efficient health care services and e-health are explicitly set as a priority of the Government in its mandate, and the Ministry of Health shall report on the mentioned indicators once a month.

According to the WHO, and in a direct connection with the target **Maternal Mortality rate (3.1)** and UN indicator 3.1.1, 17 women per 100,000 live births died in Serbia, whereas according to the data of the Institute “Batut” that number was 12⁵³. Percentage of pregnant women covered by preventive check-ups in Serbia amounts to 39.1%, which is, despite the fact that the percentage increased in the past two years, still inadequate coverage⁵⁴.

The target **3.2. Neonatal Mortality** (UN indicator 3.2.2) is 4 per 100,000 new-borns (WHO). Despite the fact that in 2015 **infant mortality rate** in the tertiary health-care institutions was reduced and amounted to 28, it was observed through the analysis of maternity hospital performance quality indicators that all indicators were worse than in the previous years. So, the number of child-bearing women with injuries

⁵⁰ Health Care Annual Yearbook for 2015

⁵¹ CEVES, „Какво нам је здравље“ – Систем индикатора за друштвени дијалог о здрављу и здравственом систему Србије, Пројекат: „Мерење ефективности система здравства у Србији“, Фондација за отворено друштво, Србија, 2017.

⁵² Institute “DR. Milan Jovanović Batut”, Annual Report on the Work Quality of the Health Care Institutions for the years of 2015, 2016.

⁵³ Data are corrected through the international comparisons for the reason of erroneous coding of causes of death and incorrectly reported deaths which occur outside hospitals.

⁵⁴ Institute “DR. Milan Jovanović Batut”, Annual Report on the Work Quality of the Health Care Institutions for the years of 2015, 2016.

incurred during their delivery increased, alike the number of new-borns who suffered injuries during delivery, and the length of stay for regular delivery also increased in 2015 and it amounted to 3.8 days. **Under-5 Mortality** (UN indicator 3.2.1) is 7 per 1,000 new-borns⁵⁵. Coverage of vaccinated children against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis amounted to 95%, and against poliomyelitis to 94.9%. MMR vaccination was given in 84% of cases, whereas the coverage of the new-borns with BCG vaccine amounted to 98.3%.⁵⁶ According to the OECD indicators, Serbia is at the bottom of the list of the comparative countries with 93%, which is 86% of the coverage of children up to 1 year of age (UN indicator 3.b.1). The data obtained through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) conducted by UNICEF, indicated to the significant child and infant under the age of 5 mortality rate among the population in the Roma settlements. The survey conducted in 2014, indicated the significant improvement among this population, which resulted in the reduction of the values of both mortality rates of children in the Roma settlements by 50%. It may be attributed to the improvement of the health insurance which enabled an easier access to the health-care services and improved coverage of prenatal services in the course of the same period when these services were facilitated to the Roma population through the Roma health mediators⁵⁷ (UN indicator 3.8.1).

Communicable diseases mortality rate (per 100,000 population) amounted to 4.21 in 2015. The very same year, 45 of recently HIV infected individuals were registered, and the most in the age group of 40 to 49, and according to the vital statistics, 24 persons⁵⁸ died by Morbus HIV (UN indicator 3.3.1). On the other hand, newly-registered TB cases (UN indicator 3.3.2) amounted to 962, which indicated to the permanent multiyear drop, whereby Serbia fell under the group of TB low-burden countries in Europe. Both indicators are in a direct connection with the target **3.3. Communicable diseases**.

Target **3.4** refers to the **reduction of non-communicable diseases mortality rate through prevention**. Structure of 10 main death causes in Serbia according to the year of lost life (YLL) is similar like in the basket of comparable countries, but we stand out by the number of cerebrovascular diseases (2,5 times more than in EU28) and diabetes (2,25 times more)⁵⁹ (UN indicator 3.4.1) whereas we stand out for a good performance with alcoholism and drug-abuse mortality⁶⁰. In the period 2006-2015 mortality rate by malignant tumour (by 10.4%), diabetes (by 24.5%) and obstructive lung disease (by 21.2%) increased. At the same time, a drop in the injury and poisoning mortality rate (by 17.4%) was recorded, as well as a drop in heart and blood vessel diseases (by 3.6%). Myocardial infarction mortality rate was reduced from 14% in the second half of 2007 to 8.0% in 2015⁶¹. UN indicator 3.4.1. covers mortality rates caused by cardio-vascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases.

However, preventive activities are not conducted in a comprehensive fashion in many areas. Serbia has extremely high cervical and breast cancer mortality rate (3.49 per 1000)⁶² and there is obvious problem in the quality of health-care protection. In 2016, 38 municipalities (out of 150) were covered by the organized breast cancer screening programme, 18 by cervical cancer screening programme, and 31 by

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Statistical Yearbook for 2016, Statistical Office of the RS

⁵⁷ Report of the RS Government on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Goals for the period 2000-2015, October 2015.

⁵⁸ Health-statistical Yearbook of the RS for 2015, Institute for Public Health "Batut", 2016.

⁵⁹ WHO, European Health for All Database, <https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/hfa-explorer/>

⁶⁰ CEVES, „Какво нам је здравље“ – Систем индикатора за друштвени дијалог о здрављу и здравственом систему Србије, Пројекат: „Мерење ефективности система здравства у Србији“, Фондација за отворено друштво, Србија, 2017.

⁶¹ Health-statistical Yearbook of the RS for 2015, Institute for Public Health "Batut", 2016.

⁶² Ibid.

colorectal cancer screening programme. The percentage of preventive check-up (1,108,698) in the total number of check-ups (28,046,674) and visit to doctor amounts to 4.0%⁶³.

The Institute “Batut” warns about the fact that the response by institution for data submission keeps on reducing, and the quality of protection, including prevention cannot monitor in an adequate way.

Targets **3.5**, and **3.8** focus on risks, and particularly on **prevention of drug and alcohol abuse**. With the support by the European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction – EMCDDA, an early warning system on new psychoactive substances was established, and it is located within the Centre for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addition. Likewise, the Protocol on Early Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances was developed. International cooperation of the Ministry of Health in this area is defined by the Law on Psychoactive Controlled Substances⁶⁴.

Target **3. a. Application of the “WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control”** also focuses on the health related risk reduction. This area is regulated by a set of laws in Serbia⁶⁵, despite the fact that in accordance with the National Programme for Adoption of the Aquis, in the coming period the focus must be to harmonize the Law on Tobacco with the Directive 2014/40/EU, i.e., to develop a comprehensive law on the tobacco control and amendments to the Law on Tobacco, so as to apply the highest standards in the area of safety and health protection. Irrelevant to the certain measures related to tobacco control, such as prohibition of smoking in public places, higher cigarette prices and stressing the damaging effects, Serbia directly follows Greece in the share of smokers above the age of 15 in the total number of population with 42.1%⁶⁶ (UN indicator 3.a.1).

Universal coverage by health care protection (3.8) in Serbia is attained through the mandatory health care insurance of all employees, self-employed persons and their families, and the state provides retired persons, unemployed persons, refugees and other sensitive groups with insurance (UN indicator 3.8.1). Density of resources (number of doctors per inhabitant, number of hospital beds), as well as annual allocations for health from both public and private funds are clearly beyond the comparative expectations. However, in the regular surveys on income and living conditions (SILC) conducted in EU 28 and candidate countries, Serbia is one of the states with the highest share of citizens with the unmet medical needs of 7,6% in 2014. The cause to that should be looked in unstandardized territorial distribution of resources.

Target **3.9.** refers to the **water, air and soil contamination mortality rate reduction** (UN indicator 3.9.1). Out of the total number of inspected public water-supply systems in the urban settlements in the Republic of Serbia in 2015, 27 or 17.4% of water-supply systems had at the same time physical and chemical and microbiological defects, whereas only 91 or 58.7 % were found correct. A drop in air pollution in sulphur dioxide compared to the previous year was recorded in Belgrade, Bor, Smederevo and Kraljevo, whereas these values increased in Valjevo, Kikinda, Kruševac, Čuprija and Jagodina. Average annual value of emission of nitrogen dioxide went beyond the threshold value for populated places reaching 40,0 µg/m in the case of Belgrade, Obrenovac and Smederevo, precisely in 3 out of 24 urban entities. The most polluted settlements in terms of presence of soot were Zaječar and Užice⁶⁷.

⁶³ National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA), second version, November 2016.

⁶⁴ “Official Gazette of the RS”, number 99/2010 of 27 December, 2010

⁶⁵ Law on Tobacco (“Official Gazette of the RS”, number 101/05, 90/07, 95/10, 36/11, 93/12 and 108/13), law on Advertising (“Official Gazette of the RS”, number 6/16), Law on the Protection of the Population from Exposure to Tobacco Smoke (“Official Gazette of the RS”, number 30/2010)

⁶⁶ WHO, European Health for All Database, <https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/hfa-explorer/>

⁶⁷ Health-statistical Yearbook of the RS for 2015, Institute for Public Health “Batut”, 2016.

2. EU and International Processes in this area

The right to health is included in numerous international contracts and declarations. The most important are: Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), European Social Charter (1961), International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1989), Covenant on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (1984), Convention on the Rights of Child (1989), UN Millennium Declaration (2000-2001), Declaration of Commitment for HIV and AIDS (2000) and International Guidelines for HIV and AIDS and Human Rights (Consolidated version 2006).

Constitution of the World Health organization (1946) *is an act establishing the principle that governments of states are responsible for their citizens health. International Health regulations (2005) were adopted in accordance with this act which make the states obliged by the law to monitor and inform the WHO on events representing risk for international health.*

European Social Charter (1961) stipulates that everyone has a right to social and health protection, regardless the resources he disposes with. This Charter provides for states special obligation to eliminate causes for illnesses, promote health, prevent epidemics and stimulate personal responsibility for good health.

Covenant on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979, 1999) is the only international covenant that protects reproductive right of women and stipulates that states have to ensure equal access to medical services, including measures for families planning and free medical attention and appropriate nutrition during pregnancy, post-natal period and breast-feeding.

Resolution on Principles on Protection of Persons with Mental Illness (1991) and for Improvement of Mental Health Care promotes the rights of persons with mental illness and includes propositions related to informed agreement, secrecy of data and standards for medical care and treatment. One of the principles forbids discrimination based on mentally retarded characteristic.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), Convention of the Council of Europe on Counterfeiting of Medical Products and other Similar Crimes involving Treats to Public Health (2011).

By **Tallinn Charter** „Health System for Health and Wealth” member countries are committed, among other, to promote joint values for solidarity, equity and participation in creation of health policies, planning and distribution of resources and other activities that provide for paying special attention to the needs of poor and other sensitive population groups; to invest in health systems and stimulate investments in other sectors; to promote transparency and to be responsible for the results of health systems so as to attain measurable results.

By „**WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**” **Serbia** is obliged to apply different measures for tobacco control that will reduce offer and demand for tobacco products, and thus the harmful effects on citizens health.

EU Health Strategy 2020 is building the framework for implementation of policies in health sector and it is focused on two strategic objectives: health improvement for all and decline of health care inequity; development of leadership and participial management for health care. Four priorities are defined, and they encompass: investments in health care with lifelong approach and strengthening of citizens, solving the burden problem caused by main infectious and non-infectious diseases, strengthening the health system directed to citizens, capacities for public health and action in emergency situations, and creation of supportive surrounding and resistant communities.

Concerning the public health, *acquis communautaire* (negotiable Chapter 28: Protection of Consumers and Health) cover fields related to tobacco control, serious cross border health risks, including infectious diseases, blood, tissues, cells and organs, patients' rights to cross border health insurance, medicinal products, cosmetics and medicinal devices, as well as those related to mental health, prevention of drugs abuse, inequity related to health care, nutrition, decline of damaging consequences of alcohol consumption, screenings for cancer, healthy surrounding including prevention from injuries, promotion of safety, active and healthy aging, as well as European action in the field of rare diseases.⁶⁸

Republic of Serbia has approached the Third EU Program of Activities in the Field of Health (2014-2020). The task of this program is to find and promote the best practice for the implementation of the most efficient prevention measures for solving the major risk factors, such as smoking, abuse of alcohol consumption, obesity, HIV/AIDS, with focus on cross border health threats, and all these with the aim to prevent diseases and promote health life styles⁶⁹. By this Program, Serbia will obtain support for adjusting to European standards in public health fields, such as: infectious diseases, tobacco control, mental health, transplantation and transfusion.

3. Linkages of the National Strategic Framework with the Targets for Relevant Sustainable Development Goal

A number of strategies in the field of public health and health service were adopted in the period up to 2010⁷⁰, and their term has expired. They have not made an appropriate coherent strategic framework in this field since they had a different degree of general thematic approach, mostly with no action plans and monitoring systems, thus posing a question – whether they were implemented at all, and to what extent. Currently, this sector has not an umbrella strategy needed, neither has it documents of public policy that would develop the missing relevant thematic subfields. This means that there are no clearly defined priority objectives that would more effectively direct allocation of available resources on a long-term basis. Since concrete results have not been articulated, there is no comprehensive framework for transparent way of progress evaluation and effects of health policies.

Targeted value **3.4 non-infectious diseased** is in Serbia strategically elaborated in the **Strategy for Prevention and Control of Chronical Non-infectious Diseases** + AP up to 2018. The Strategy encompasses cardiovascular diseases, malignant tumours, diabetes, chronical obstructive lungs disease and muscular-skeleton system (with no injuries), because these Chronical non-infectious diseases make a large part of burden for health problems in Serbia, and they have mutual risk factors (smoking, alcohol consumption, inadequate nutrition and lack of physical activity) and social and economic determinates.

Strategy for Mental Health Development 2007-2017 contributes to the same targeted value with its three major targets related to the improvement of health by prevention of mental disorders and their curing, as well as mental health development; they are also a response to the requirements of sensitive persons, because it is needed to improve the mechanisms for the protection of the rights of individuals with mental

⁶⁸ Report on Screening for the Chapter 28, 2015.

⁶⁹ National Programme for the Adoption of Acquis, second edition, November 2016.

⁷⁰ Strategy on Tobacco Control, Strategy on Safety and Health at Work in the RS for the period 2009-2012, Public Health Strategy in the RS, Strategy for Ensuring Adequate Amounts of Blood, Strategy for Birth Stimulation, Strategy for Palliative Care, Strategy for Prevention and Control of Chronic Non-communicable Diseases, Strategy for Permanent Improvement of Quality in Health and Safety of Patients, Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Persons with Disabilities in the RS, Strategy for the Development of Mental Health Protection, Strategy on HIV Infection and AIDS

disorders and finally a financial protection that should provide for the availability of all basic psychotropic drugs, i.e. to have them on positive list of drugs.

Current response of Serbia to targeted value **3.5 prevention of narcotic drugs abuse** is the **Strategy for Prevention of Narcotics Abuse** for the period **2014-2021 and its Action Plan (2014-2017)**. This strategic document is accorded to the EU Drugs Strategy (2013-2020) and the Action Plan for Fighting Drugs (2013-2016).

The Strategy for encouraging childbirth states as special objectives, among others, the moderation of economic cost of raising a child; adjustment of working aspect with parental; 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**.

Draft National Program for Prevention from Damaging Consumption of Alcohol and Alcohol Causing Health Disorders in Serbia 2016 – 2020, with Action Plan was elaborated in accordance with the NPAA, but has not been adopted yet. In addition, it is planned for the period until 2018 to elaborate a **Strategy for Rare Diseases** with Action plan for its implementation. The Strategy has to be fully accorded with the Recommendations of the Council of Europe for the activities in the field of rare diseases, and it will contribute to the targeted value **3.a application of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**.

GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

1. Background information

Education establishes a foundation for sustainable development and economic growth. Major progress has been made globally towards ensuring universal primary education. The number of children who have no access to education has been reduced by half since the year 2000.⁷¹ In addition to this, the number of girls attending schools and the literacy rates have been on the increase. However, there are still considerable differences in the accessibility to education for various marginalised groups. Sustainable development goal (SDG) 4 promotes the idea that all children, girls and boys alike, should complete primary and secondary education by 2030.

Serbia is one of the few European countries in which secondary education is not obligatory, which has a negative impact on the achievement of **target 4.1, related to free, equal, and quality primary and secondary education for all**. According to the Serbian Statistical Office data, approximately 35% of the population over 15 years of age have either completed or entered but not completed primary education only. Although the number of children has been constantly decreasing at all levels due to demographic changes, the percentage of children attending schools has slightly increased. It covers 97.6% of the relevant population when it comes to primary education.⁷² Even though nearly all primary students enter the secondary level of education after primary school, the coverage of the relevant generation within the secondary education system is only 88.7%, due to a great number of school leavers. What best speaks about the quality of primary education in Serbia is the OECD PISA test (most recently conducted in Serbia in 2012), according to which 15-year-olds in Serbia achieved on average 60 points less than the average of the OECD countries, which is 500 points.

Education system in Serbia is not inclusive to a sufficient degree, because the system's capacities to respond to the educational needs of different vulnerable social groups are not sufficiently developed, and

⁷¹ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-4-quality-education.html>

⁷² <http://webzrs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/repository/documents/00/02/28/89/05-OBRAZOVANJE.pdf>

neither are any affirmative measures for the admissions of students from the families of lower socioeconomic status. Many educational facilities have architectural barriers which prevent disabled students from receiving appropriate education. There is a total of 48 schools for students with disabilities. In 2014, a total of 289 children were enrolled in pre-school, 4119 in elementary school and 20078 in high schools of this type.

When it comes to the achievement of **target 4.2**, related to the **access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education**, it is important to refer to the fact that the coverage of children in obligatory pre-primary education (UN indicator 4.2.2.) is at a satisfactory level and amounts to 96.6%. Nevertheless, less than 50% of children are included in the complete preschool education process, which is far below the European average of more than 85%. A significant problem in this respect is posed by the inadequate network of preschool institutions, as well as by insufficient capacities.

As regards **target 4.3**, related to the **equal access for all to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education**, the coverage of the relevant generation attending universities or colleges is approximately 48% and showing a slight growing tendency. What poses the greatest problem is a discrepancy between education qualifications and the labour market needs, which is of importance for achieving **target 4.4 – to increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills**.

According to the data obtained from UNICEF, Serbia occupies the 39th place among the 160 countries in the world as regards literacy rates (Un indicator 4.4.1), which in Serbia amount to 98.1%, which is in turn directly related to the achievements of **target 4.6 – to ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy**.

2. EU and other international processes in this area

Education and science-based “Smart Growth” is one of the three foundations of the **Europe 2020 Strategy**. Through the Skills Agenda, the Strategic framework for Education and Training, and Erasmus+ programmes, Europe provides direct support to the improvement of education and training in its member states.

Serbia still has the status of a partner country in the **Erasmus+ Programme**, which means that it has access to parts of this Programme, especially those related to the higher education segment. The National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA) envisages that the Republic of Serbia should achieve full participation in the Erasmus+ Programme at the beginning of 2019.

In the previous period (2001 to 2013) Serbia participated actively in the European Union Tempus Programme (prior to its integration into the Erasmus+ Programme). Serbian institutions acquired about 45 million euros from the Tempus Programme, which made this Programme the biggest financial tool for the modernisation of higher education in Serbia and inclusion of Serbia into the current tendencies of the European strategies for higher education.

In April 2014, the Republic of Serbia accepted the call from the European Commission to participate in the **Open Method of Coordination (OMC)** in the fields of education and training, thus also accepting the rights and obligations it has in these fields prior to its full European Union membership.

It is of great importance to the accession of Serbia to the European Union that in February 2017 Serbia successfully opened and temporarily closed **negotiation chapter 26**, which deals with education and culture.

Serbia participates in a large number of regional initiatives that are relevant for the achievement of SDG 4. Among these, **South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECLE)** and **Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERISEE)** deserve special mention. What is also important to

achieving reforms in Serbia is the cooperation the country has with the **European Training Foundation** (ETF), more specifically, its Italian centre, the goal of which is to develop the education and training systems in the European Union partner countries.

3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and the relevant SDG

The most important strategic document of the Republic of Serbia for the achievement of SDG 4 is Strategy for Education Development in Serbia 2020 (accompanied by the Action Plan), which was adopted in 2012. This policy framework document covers all the levels of education in Serbia and all aspects of the education system, including inclusive education, coordination with the needs of the economy, and the improvement of education quality.

4.1. SDG 4 – Goal target: Free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for all – is in the focus of Strategy for Education Development and the accompanying Action Plan. The priorities of the Strategy in this field include improvement and application of educational standards, the optimisation of the school network, reduction in the rate of **school leavers**, the evaluation of achievements in education and the strengthening of schools' educational function. One of the activities defined by the Action Plan is also the development of inclusive education. In this respect, it is envisaged that an inclusion unit should be established, by-laws adopted in this field, and a development and monitoring plan devised. The deadline for this activity is 2020.

A large number of the activities envisaged by the Strategy are directed towards achieving **SDG 4 – Goal target: Access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education (4.2)**. The aim is to introduce half-day preschool programme in the duration of one year as a minimum for all children between 3 and 5.5 years of age. It is also necessary to define and adopt quality standards, accredit preschool institutions, increase their coverage and improve their network. In this field, considerable funds for the achievement of these goals were obtained through the World Bank's Early Childhood Education and Care project.

SDG 4 – Goal target: Equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education (4.3) has been recognised in all its aspects within the existing Strategy. Of extremely great importance to the achievement of this target is the establishment of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) as well as other measures envisaged by the Strategy. The Action Plan for secondary vocational education envisages the standardisation of exams, the introduction of education for tradesmen, a more flexible organisation of classes, coordination with the needs of the economy, a decrease in the rates of school leavers, the inclusion of employers in the process of developing this level of education, and the establishment of an assessment and monitoring system. A large number of measures address the improvement of tertiary education. The present financing model for higher education is not based on either the labour market needs or the propositions of the country's development strategies; it is rather based on the number of departments and teaching staff at faculties.

SDG 4 – Goal target: Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills (4.4) is of extreme importance for Serbia. Due to a lack of coordination between the workforce qualifications and the labour market needs, the introduction of the National Model of Dual and Entrepreneurial Education is currently under way, with a view to providing secondary students with a more intensive practical preparation in companies, with the possibility of their subsequent employment. Already 1,000 students and 62 companies, some of which are local small- and medium-sized businesses, have been included in the dual education pilot programme.

One of the aims of the Strategy is also a more equitable education system, which would enable the inclusion of a larger number of children, especially those from marginalised groups, which in turn is in accordance with **SDG 4 – Goal target: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access**

to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations (4.5). Only one of the measures envisaged by the Action Plan deals with inclusive education, and no special activities have been defined for different categories of marginalised groups. The issue of education has also been recognised as extremely important within the **Strategy for Improvement of the Status of Roma** in the Republic of Serbia,⁷³ which puts among its priorities the programmes dealing with all levels of education, as well as the education of adults, affirmative measures for the permanent education of Roma girls and women, and a broader range of scholarships for the future Roma students, especially girls and women.

The Strategy also recognises the problem of the insufficient level of elementary and scientific literacy and numeracy, as well as of computer, cultural, and arts literacy of primary students in Serbia. However, no specific activities have been defined by the Action Plan for the achievement of **SDG 4 – Goal target: Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy (4.6)**. 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.

SDG 4 – Goal target: Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development (4.7) is not sufficiently addressed by the existing Strategy. Although this document acknowledges the importance of improving environmental education for the needs of sustainable development, the Action Plan does not define any specific measures for achieving this target. At this moment, the only activities carried out in connection with achieving this target are not systemic, but rather organised by separate schools, frequently with support from donors. Even though the **Sustainable Development Strategy** for the period until 2018 gives some more space to this issue, the carrying out of the strategy itself has not been monitored since 2010.

The strengthening of schools' educational function at all levels of education, with a view to preventing violence, has been integrated in both the Strategy and the Action Plan as a priority, which is important for achieving **SDG 4 – Goal target: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all (4.a)**. The Strategy also recognises the importance of improving the education infrastructure for the purposes of achieving educational quality. Still, no specific measures for adjusting facilities to persons with disabilities have been recognised within the strategic framework. It is expected that the **Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities** will be adopted soon in the Republic of Serbia and that it would manage to provide a better response to this important question.

2.3.3. Environment and climate (Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 15)

The following segment gives an overview of results of the strategic framework mapping against the goals relevant to environmental protection and fight against climate change.

GOAL 13: Combatting climate change

1. Background information

Climate change manifests itself primarily through a shift in the trend of average annual temperature and precipitation. Assessments⁷⁴ for our region point to an increase of the global air temperature of up to 4°C

⁷³ <http://www.inkluzija.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Strategija-SR-web-FINAL.pdf>

⁷⁴ Tihomir Popović, Elizabeta Radulović, Milenko Jovanović: Koliko nam se menja klima, kakva će biti naša buduća klima? (How Much Does Our Climate Change? What Our Climate Is Going to Be Like?), Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environmental Protection

(global goal target is set at a maximum of 2°C). Furthermore, summer rainfall is expected to drop by up to 20%. Implications for agricultural crops thus become more than obvious.

Since 2000, the total material damage caused by extreme weather and climate conditions in Serbia has exceeded 5 billion euros and over 70% of material losses are linked to drought and high temperatures. The second biggest cause of these substantial losses is flooding. The amount of 68 million euros invested in adaptation remains disproportionately small, pointing to the need to step up the implementation of adaptation measures as one of the forms of prevention⁷⁵. According to the ***EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change*** (2013), one euro invested in flood protection could save six euros in damage costs. In 2015, budgetary allocation of the Republic of Serbia to environmental protection accounted for 0.3% of the GDP, as many as five to eight times less than the amount invested by Central European EU Member States where the share of GDP earmarked for environment ranged from 1.5-2.5% prior to the EU accession⁷⁶. In 2015, the total revenue collected from fines stipulated by the “polluter pays” principle amounted to 0.24% of the GDP, down by 0.3% compared to 2014. Investments from all economic sectors in environmental protection accounted for 0.21% of the GDP in 2015, compared to 2013 when the investment constituted 0.32% of the GDP. Out of the total investments in environmental protection, the largest portion (57.8%) comes from the sectors of energy and mining.

There are numerous factors affecting the climate change, such as air quality, waste management, water management, nature and soil conservation, industrial pollution and energy transformation control, risk management, efficiency and quality of civil protection. For example, 58.5% of the population in Serbia enjoyed clean or slightly polluted air in 2015. At the same time, 36.2% of the population lived in areas where the quality of air needed improvement. In 2015, the air in the agglomerations of Belgrade, Bor, Uzice and Pancevo was over-polluted⁷⁷. The analysis of percentage contribution to soil contamination from main localised sources shows that municipal waste landfills are the largest contaminators with a share of 42.78%. Furthermore, when designing the risk reduction measures attention should also be paid to processes affecting terrain stability with the occurrence of landslides and debris flows found on 25-30% of the territory of the Republic of Serbia⁷⁸.

A significant challenge in the process of combatting climate change and designing appropriate mitigation measures is posed by the availability and timely collection of quality field data. The Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environmental Protection regularly submits reports to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in line with provisions of the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.

The revised National Plan for the Adoption of the EU Acquis (NPAA) foresees the monitoring and reporting requirements to be fully met in 2019 at the latest. In 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency submitted its first report on SO₂, NO₂, NO, NOX, CO, PM₁₀ and ozone to the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) using the system of e-reporting. The information system of the National Inventory of Contaminated Sites has been established, allowing the Environmental

⁷⁵ Ana Repac, Nacionalni ciljevi u oblasti klimatskih promena - napredak u sprovođenju međunarodnih obaveza i harmonizaciji sa pravnim tekovinama EU (National Goals in the Field of Climate Change – Progress in Implementing International Obligations and Harmonisation with the EU Acquis), Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environmental Protection, September 2016.

⁷⁶ Environmental Protection Agency: Report on Economic Instruments for Environmental Protection in the Republic of Serbia for 2015 – overview of indicators, 2017.

⁷⁷ Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environmental Protection: Annual Report on Air Quality in the Republic of Serbia for 2015

⁷⁸ Environmental Protection Agency: Report on the Condition of Soil in the Republic of Serbia – indicator overview, 2017

Protection Agency to carry out integrated electronic reporting on environment. The web-portal of the PRTR (Pollutant Release and Transfer Register), set up in line with the Aarhus Convention, allows immediate access by the general public to information⁷⁹. As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency provides relevant information about the amount of waste that had previously not been fully monitored. National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environmental Protection enforces regulations and supports the refrigeration industry sector in reducing the use and proper handling of ozone depleting substances⁸⁰ so as to meet the obligations arising from the Montreal Protocol.

The requirements set out in the Environmental Liability Directive are expected to be fully transposed into national legislation through the adoption of a special Law on Environmental Liability in 2018.

2. EU and other international processes in this area

As a frontrunner in the area of environmental protection and climate change mitigation policy (**Negotiating Chapter 27**), the EU has adopted a series of directives setting the highest standards in fostering sustainable development. It does so by making a transition to resource-efficient, low-carbon economy; applying the “polluter pays” principle; fighting against harm to the environment at its source; adapting to climate change; and building resilience to disasters. The area of climate change is governed by 58 different decisions/regulations/directives. The transposition, and even more so, the implementation of the EU directives into national legislation is highly demanding and requires massive investments. The investment costs⁸¹ necessary to fully harmonise the national legislation with the EU requirements are estimated at 294 million euros in the area of air quality and climate change alone.

Reducing energy consumption and environmental pollution produced by energy system transformation is among the key goals of the EU energy policy⁸² which drives the implementation of a significant portion of climate *acquis*. The **Energy Community of South East Europe**, of which Serbia is a member, steers the implementation of measures aimed at energy efficiency and use of renewables as well as the fulfilment of obligations arising from the Kyoto Protocol, thereby contributing to achieving **SDG 13**, particularly **SDG target (13. a)** dealing with **implementation of the commitment undertaken by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.

Through its **2030 climate and energy policy framework** the European Union sets the course and target goals: improving energy efficiency by 27% ; increasing the share of renewables by 27%; and cutting at least 40% of the greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels.

In mid-2017, Climate Action Group was set up within the **Energy Community of South East Europe** acting as a platform for cooperation between representatives of ministries and other relevant institutions in charge of energy, climate change and environment. The goal of the initiative is to support both the development of climate policy and transposition of the relevant regulation into national legislations, and effective implementation of the policy and setting of new 2030 target goals for the signatories. The Energy Community and the Balkan Green Foundation have set up the so-called Sustainability Forum which brings

⁷⁹ Ministry of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Agency, Report – Waste Management in the Republic of Serbia for 2011-2016, July 2017

⁸⁰ Ministry of Environmental Protection, <http://www.ekologija.gov.rs/obuke-i-kampanja-o-znacaju-zastite-ozonskog-omotaca/#more-22304>

⁸¹ National Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for Approximation in the Field of Environmental Protection

⁸² Fundamental Documents: EU Climate and Energy Legislation Pack, 2030 Policy Framework, Roadmap 2050 (Strategy) – Decreasing emission by 80% when compared with 1990 amount, EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change – 2013.

together a number of interested parties, focusing on transition towards sustainable energy. In parallel, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development with a view to strengthening cooperation in the area of sustainable energy development and climate change in the Western Balkans.

When it comes to international conventions, **the Framework Convention on Climate Change** adopted at the 1992 Rio Conference is particularly worth mentioning. The objective of the Convention was to *stabilise* the concentration of the greenhouse gases. The Convention required the signatories to: develop and publish national inventories of emissions and sources of all emissions not controlled by the Montreal Protocol; and formulate, implement and regularly update national and/or regional programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change and measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change, to mention a few of the requirements. In 1997, 159 countries signed the **Kyoto Protocol**, which laid down the obligations regarding quantified emission limitation for industrialised countries.

Key provisions of the 2015 Paris Agreement foresee: holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; adoption of nationally determined contributions, that is target goals, and *revision thereof every five years* as well as development of measures with the aim of achieving the objectives of contributions; regular reporting on emissions and the progress made in regard to national target goals. Prior to the Paris Conference, Serbia had already committed to reducing the GHG emissions by 3%, thereby reducing its dependence on energy imports.

The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Hyogo Framework)** *aims to* substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives and livelihoods, damage to health and loss of economic, physical, cultural and environmental assets of people, companies, communities and nations.

3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and the relevant SDG

Serbia has so far submitted the **First National Communication on Climate Change** (NC1, 2010) and a **Biannual Updated Report** (BUR1, 2016) to the UNFCCC. The **Second National Report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** was scheduled for adoption before the end of 2016, but has been postponed.

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 (13.1)**. A document worth noting is the **2020 National Disaster Risk Management Programme, with the accompanying Action Plan** (UN indicator 13.1.2), *consisting of six components*: institution building and development; disaster risk identification and monitoring; structural and non-structural risk reduction; early warning systems and preparedness; risk financing strategies; 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. The situation is the same with the Strategy for Fire Protection 2012-2017 which also lacks an appropriate Action Plan.

Key strategic documents in this field have not been adopted yet. **Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan**, as a framework document, and **Climate Change Adaptation Strategy** are being compiled (supported by IPA 2016). Climate Change Strategy is expected to identify priority measures for reduction of gas emission and to define competent institutions, implementation deadlines and financial means. The adaptation strategy should provide a framework for climate change adaptation policy, especially for the priority fields of agriculture, forestry and water management. Reduction of greenhouse gas emission in relevant sectors will be determined in 2018 by the Strategy.

According to the NPAA, several relevant strategic documents are planned to be developed by 2018, or are being compiled in addition to these framework documents:

Air Quality Protection Strategy, envisaged for the period 2018-2020 with an action plan including aims of UNECE Goteborg protocol and defining long term measures for the reduction of emissions from different sectors relevant to the NEC Directive;

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

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

Sewage Sludge Management Strategies envisaged for adoption by the end of 2017;

National Action Plan for Mitigation of Drought Impact and Land Degradation.

SDG 13 – Goal target: Climate change measures integrated into national strategies and policies (13.2) are embedded in a number of strategic documents (UN indicator 13.2.1). Policy framework document is the **National Program for Environmental Protection**, adopted in 2010 for a 10-year period until 2019, which represents and contains priority short- and medium-term goals for the specific fields of environmental protection. Chapter 4.2 addresses air quality and climate changes.

Sustainable Development Strategy until 2018 aims to balance the three pillars of sustainable development: sustainable development of economy, production and technology, sustainable social development based on social balance and environmental protection with rational use of natural resources. The first report on the progress in implementing the National Strategy of Sustainable Development was adopted by a Government conclusion on 24 June 2010, which enlists the indicators of the sustainable development for monitoring the Strategy implementation progress. The chosen indicators were harmonised with the list of UN sustainable development indicators, which includes the indicators for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Unfortunately, subsequent reports were not submitted, so upon the expiration of the strategy in 2017, neither the progress towards the goals’ achievement, nor the accomplished effects can be evaluated.

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

So far Serbia has adopted 3 successive plans for energy efficiency. **The Third Action Plan for Energy Efficiency** of the Republic of Serbia has been prepared for the period until 2018. The plan includes the report on the results of the final energy savings and implementation of certain measures defined in the Second Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, the final energy savings goals for 2018 and measures for their

achievement. Total energy savings foreseen for 2018 is 0.7524 Mtoe, which amounts to 9% savings compared to the energy consumption in 2008. There was 0.37 Mtoe of energy saved by 2015, which amounts to 93% of the savings envisaged for the period 2010-2015, i.e. 50% of the goal set to be achieved by 2018.

National Renewable Energy Action Plan of the Republic of Serbia is a strategic document in the field of energetics that promotes investments in the field of renewable energy resources and defines the goals of use of renewable energy resources until 2020 as well as the means of achieving these goals. This plan defines national goals for the share of energy obtained from renewable resources in traffic sector, electricity and heating and cooling by 2020, together with specific measures to be implemented. In accordance with the Directive 2009/28/EC and the Decision of the Energy Community Ministerial Council (18/10/2012), Serbia set an ambitious goal of 27% OIE in gross final energy consumption for 2020 and adopted a series of laws, regulations and administrative provisions to that end.

SDG 13 is in direct correlation with several other SDGs and synergistic effects are expected in their achievement. These SDGs are the following: **SDG 6** - access to safe water and sanitation for all, **SDG 7** – available and renewable energy, **SDG 11** – sustainable cities and communities, **SDG 12** – responsible consumption and production and **SDG 15** – sustainable forest management, combating desertification and degradation of land.

GOAL 6: Access to safe water and sanitation for all

In 2016, 59.5% of households were connected to the sewage system. Purification of waste waters is at a low level considering that there are 55 plants for waste water treatment in Serbia and that prior to discharging only 11% of waste water is purified (only 45 out of 408 million m³ of waste waters discharged was treated in 2016). As the biggest producer of waste waters, Belgrade still lacks a plant for waste water treatment. Key prerequisite for the implementation of Drinking Water Directive and Waste Waters Treatment Directive is restructuring public companies, more efficient cost collection and dynamic standardization of tariffs for the financing of the upgraded infrastructure.

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 **Waste Water Treatment Directive**, are huge. Water management sector takes up the largest share of the total approximate expenses in the field of environmental protection. According to estimations, in order to reach the EU standard in water management, it is necessary to allocate 5.5 billion EUR (1.3 billion EUR for drinking water, 3.3 billion EUR for waste water and 0.9 billion EUR for the reduction of water pollution in agriculture)⁸³.

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. harmonized water regime on the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia, and to enable water management which has 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 in the next 20 years, it

⁸³ National Environmental Approximation Strategy for the Republic of Serbia

is necessary to invest 21.7 billion EUR, while 43% of this investment is necessary for channelling and water protection (7.7 billion EUR).

GOAL 7: Available and renewable energy

The coverage with electricity at the territory of Serbia is 100% (UN indicator 7.1.1.), whereas energy intensity is slowly decreasing (UN indicator 7.3.1) since 2011 from 0.537 toe/1000 EUR to 0.442/1000 EUR in 2014. However, as compared with the EU 28 average of 0,122 toe/1000 EUR (2014) energy intensity in Serbia is the highest, after Iceland⁸⁴. The total final energy consumption in 2015 was 8.770 ktoe, out of which 32% goes to the residential sector, 10% to services, 26% to industry, and 23% to transport⁸⁵.

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 recourses (**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 the paragraph 20 of the Energy Community Treaty, Serbia accepted to transpose EU Directives in the field of renewable energy sources. In line with the Directive 2009/28/EU, an ambitious 2020 target of 27% of renewable energy sources in the total final energy consumption was set for Serbia (UN indicator 7.2.1.). Balancing energy from renewables covers production and consumption of electricity from large and small waterpower plants, wind and solar energy, as well as production and consumption of heat energy from geothermal and solid biomass energy.

Since 2009, when the legal framework for feed-in tariffs was established until October 2016, 80,3 MW of power from renewable energy sources were installed. Yet, this growth is much more important from the point of view of the number of new capacities, rather than the installed power. According the draft Report on the implementation of the National Renewable Action Plan, since mid-2015, by applying for the status of the privileged producer finally some of the long awaited investments in the use of wind power have been initiated. Only in 2015, 13 new applications were registered with the total installed power of 920.3 MW, which surpasses the maximum capacities of 500 MW planned in strategic documents for the period until 2020.

In the field of energy efficiency and renewables, within the German Initiative for climate and technology (DKTI), the main partner of Serbia is the Federal ministry for economic cooperation and development of Germany, the German Development Bank (KfW) and the German agency for international cooperation (GIZ) (UN indicator 7.a.1)

Upgrading energy infrastructure (SDG 7.b) at the regional level is supported by the list of 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 Programme for the Energy strategy implementation will define measures for the

⁸⁴ Energy, transport and environment indicators, Eurostat, 2016 edition

⁸⁵ Report of the Energy Community for Southeast Europe, September, 2016

transposition of EU directives and Energy Community decisions and recommendations, as well as obligations set in the Western Balkan Sustainable Charter within the Berlin process.

GOAL 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 upon the development of towns and settlements and the quality of life in them. The existent legal framework reflects the principles of sustainable development, but is as yet not fully aligned and coherent with EU urban policies and the UN Urban Agenda.

SDG 11, especially **SDG 11.1** 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 privatization of apartments in the early 90s, when the public housing fund almost completely disappeared, and simultaneously, privatization 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 11.2: Sustainable transportation systems and road safety are implemented through the **Road Safety Strategy** for the period 2015-2020 aiming to reduce mortality rate and heavy injury risk.

SDG 11.3: Inclusive and sustainable urbanisation is the subject matter of the recently announced Strategy of sustainable and integral urban development of Serbia to be prepared in 2018 by the Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure. 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); 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 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 11.3.2). **International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning – IGUTP** are the first global document in the field of spatial and urban planning adopted by the UN HABITAT Governing Council.

Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia sees protection, controlled and sustainable use of nature, natural resources, natural and cultural heritage as the first operational goal. **Cultural Development Strategy 2017-2017** is currently undergoing public debate and is expected to be adopted by the end of the year, along with the action plan. Foreseen measures refer to the integrated protection of the cultural and natural heritage, which will contribute to realization of **SDG 11.4**, referring to this field.

National Program 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 program 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 11.5** target referring to the reduction of mortality rate in natural disasters.

Air quality and waste management at municipal level – SDG 11.6 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 2019-2025, as well as Air Quality Protection Strategy, planned for the period 2018-2020.

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

The overall waste in Serbia amounts to some 9 million tons, and the waste volume per capita in 2016 was 1.3 tons per house unit annually. The waste volume in relation to the GDP was 243,7 (t/mil \$) (UN indicator 12.2.2). The share of hazardous waste in the period 2011 – 2016 ranged from 0,7% to 1.2% of total waste. In 2016 the share of hazardous waste was less than 0,8%⁸⁶ (UN indicator 12.4.2). The waste from thermic processes makes for 70% of the total waste value. Based on data submitted from 297 operators with permits to re-use waste, in 2016, 1,68 million tons were subject to treatment. Out of the total treated waste volume, the most represented are metals containing iron and waste from thermic processes such as slag, flying ash, followed by paper and cardboard packaging (UN indicator 12.5.1.)⁸⁷.

The main waste management challenges in Serbia are still connected to securing good coverage and capacities for the provision of the basic services, such as collection, transport and sanitary disposal of waste. Some 70% of the active waste disposal sites have not been envisaged in the spatial planning documents and they lack relevant studies of their assessed impact on the environment, as well as the necessary licenses. Some 20% of the generated communal waste in Serbia⁸⁸ is dumped on illegal landfills and junkyards, outside the control of the community public utility companies. Closing and re-cultivation of the existing waste disposal sites has been envisaged, as well as the opening of 26 regional sanitary landfills, with centres for separation of recyclable waste, composting/MBT facilities and transfer stations. It has been planned to develop a separate module for the reporting on unsanitary and illegal waste disposal sites, as well as the corresponding GIS component. According to the Report⁸⁹ on implementation of the Plan for the Reduction of Packaging Waste (2015-2019) it may be concluded that all the actors within the system of packaging waste management fulfilled general national goals in both 2015 and 2016.

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. Out of 28 envisaged regional plans, 13 have not been prepared or adopted. This clearly testifies of the poor inter-municipal cooperation which has significant impact on functionality and effects of the regional landfills.

The transition towards improved circular economy in the EU is being operationalised through the so called “circular economy package” adopted in 2015. The “package” includes various measures including regulatory, with targets aiming at waste reduction at landfills and increase of recycling and re-use. So as to close the life cycle of a product, the measures are transposed into an Action plan and support each step

⁸⁶Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbian Environmental protection agency, Waste management in the Republic of Serbia in the period 2011-2016, July 2017

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Environmental Protection Agency, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 88/09

in the chain value from production to consumption. Evident is the synergy with EU goals pertaining climate change and energy, thus another set of measures was adopted through the document ***Clean Energy for all Europeans***.

For the **SDG 12** of major importance is the **EU Waste Framework Directive** with two key goals: prevention and decrease of the negative impact generated by waste production and management and improvement of resource efficiency. The most wanted option is the waste prevention and re-use, than recycling and energy recovery. The **7th Environment Action Programme** as one of key goals mentions resource efficient, green and competitive low carbon economy. As part of the **EU 2020 Strategy - Roadmap to resource efficient Europe** offers guidelines for the increase of resource productivity and decoupling of economic growth impacting environment.

The key policy documents in this field include **National Strategy of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Wealth**, which lacks Action Plan, so its implementation is impossible to monitor, **Waste Management Strategy for 2010-2019**, which also deals with hazardous waste, **National Action Plan for Utilisation of Renewable Energy Resources in Serbia up until 2020** and **3rd National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency**. Another important document is the **Strategy for the Development of Public Procurement Procedure in the Republic of Serbia for 2014-2018** which identifies priority fields, one of which refers to improved efficiency and sustainability of the public procurement system, and it is thus directly related to **SDG target 12.7**. The key goal is to promote and stimulate environmental and social aspects of public procurement processes.

According to the NPAA, it is expected for the new Waste Management Strategy for 2019-2024 to be developed in 2018, including an integrated plan for hazardous waste management, as a part of the National Waste Management Plan accompanying the Strategy.

GOAL 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

According to the data of the Serbian Environmental Agency, the area covered by forests is around 2 880 000 ha or 32 % of Serbia's territory (UN indicator 15.1.1). In the period of 1953 until 2006 the increase was more than 1000000 ha, i.e. 75% as compared to 1953. Between 2011-2013 the intensity of damages caused by insects and elementary disasters increased, thus some 7400 m³ of wood was destroyed in fires. A particular problem is the illegal wood cutting. The ratio between the annual volume growth (around 9 million m³) and annual cutting (2 700 000 m³) is less than 3:1. During 2013, in Serbia some 2200 ha were forested.

Some of the most complex limitations in the field of sustainable management of forests, which hinder implementation of the policies, include: lagging behind in technical and technological development; inappropriate practical management of individual forests, and poor observance of the relevant research; institutional weaknesses and slow adaptation to global changes.

In Serbia, 6%, respectively 474 areas of the territory are under some sort of protection. Out of that number 5 are national parks, 17 nature parks, 16 landscapes, 69 reserves, 325 nature monuments and 39 areas of cultural and historic importance (UN indicator 15.1.2).

In the field of biodiversity, according to the Rulebook on the proclamation, protection and strict protection of wild flora, fauna and fungi species⁹⁰, 1760 species are under strict and 868 under the protected regime. Almost all mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles are under some kind of protected regime, as well as a vast number of insects and plants. More than 50 % of strictly protected species are on the list of

⁹⁰ „Службени гласник РС“, бр. 5/2010

international conventions and EU Directives, most of them being on the Bern and Bonn convention and Bird Directive (UN indicator 15.4.1).

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy as its main goal states the full implementation of the Habitat and Birds Directives, preservation and renewal of ecosystems, integration of biodiversity protection into key agricultural and forestry policies, sustainable use of fish resources and combat against invasive foreign species. The key challenge is to complete the NATURA 2000 maritime network.

The ratified conventions in the field of biodiversity and habitats are: International Plant Protection Convention, International Convention for the Protection of Birds, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, particularly as the habitat of wading birds, Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, Convention on the Conservation of European Wild Flora and Fauna and Natural Habitats, Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia, National Environmental Protection Programme and Strategy for Sustainable Use of Resources are the three key policy documents that deal with sustainable management of natural resources and contribute to the fulfilment of **SDG target 15.1 Sustainable use of ecosystems, especially forests, wetlands and mountains**.

The Spatial Plan stipulates long-term bases for organisation, arrangement, use and protection of the space in the Republic of Serbia with the purpose of harmonising economic and social development with the natural, ecological and cultural potentials and limitations. As one of 5 priority goals the Plan quotes: Sustainable use of natural resources, as well as protected and improved environment. Reports on the level of realisation of the Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources do not exist, as no plans or programmes have been developed for separate natural resources, while this had been the intended mode of Strategy implementation.

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 **Strategy for the Development of Forestry**. The main goal of the Strategy is to preserve and develop the condition of 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 the 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 Republic of Serbia, with significant number of endemic plant and animal species, bears major responsibility in safeguarding biodiversity. The starting point for the **Strategy for Biological Diversity in the Republic of Serbia for 2010-2019** was the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognises that state parties have sovereignty over their resources and biodiversity, but they are expected nevertheless to support the three fundamental goals: protection of biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity components and equitable distribution of the profit made by using genetic resources. The Strategy defines national targets in implementing global strategic targets of biodiversity – Aichi targets, adopted on the 10th meeting of the State Parties to the Convention in Nagoya, Japan. An integral part of the Strategy is the Action Plan for its implementation, which contains activities, implementers and timeframes for implementation, as well as potential sources of financing to facilitate the Strategy implementation. This directly contributes to SDG target **15.5 aimed at reducing and halting the loss of biodiversity**.

2.3.4. Institutions, Finances and Cooperation (Sustainable Development Goals 16 & 17)

In this segment, Serbia has mapped its strategic framework in relation to sustainable development goals 16 and 17, defining relevant horizontal principles for implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda such as development of institutions, the rule of law and partnerships.

GOAL 16: Achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, the rule of law and developing responsible institutions

1. Brief Overview of the Context

This sustainable development goal is dedicated to the development of state government institutions and judiciary system, enabling citizens to live in a stable environment without corruption and violence, wherein they have unhindered access to their human and political rights. In the previous 25 years Serbia has come a long way towards achieving this goal. In the last 15 years there have been no victims of armed conflicts (**SDG target 16.1 reducing all forms of violence**, UN indicator 16.1.2), and no kidnapped or killed journalists and human rights' activists (UN indicator 16.10.1). Homicide rate⁹¹ (**16.1**) varies between 2.1 and 1.4 with a tendency of decrease, which falls within European average. When it comes to the victims of homicide, about two thirds of them are male, while one third are female victims.

Pertaining to **SDG target 16.2 Ending all forms of exploitation and violence against children**, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs estimates that in the last five years, the rate of all forms of domestic violence has increased. In 2015, the total number of abused and neglected children amounted to 9,309. The children living and working in the street, children forced into marriage and exploited in prostitution are the most vulnerable. The most visible form of abuse is beggary. What all the aforementioned forms of exploitation of children have in common is the high level of violence.

Memorandum of Understanding between Serbia and the UN on implementing the Project "Integrated Response to Violence against Women and Girls" was signed in September 2016 (related to **SDG target 16.3 Rule of law and equal access to justice** and UN indicator 16.1.3). The aim of this Project is to develop social and institutional environment which would contribute to zero tolerance to and eradication of violence against women in Serbia, through the improvement of legal and policy framework, strengthening of the prevention system and mechanism of helping women victims of violence, as well as improving access to effective protection against violence by providing general and specialised services. The activities are aimed at working with women survivors of violence, perpetrators of violence, as well as performing preventive work with boys and girls⁹². When it comes to gender equality index, Serbia is 48th of 144 countries, meaning that gender inequality gap is smaller than in the other countries in South-East Europe.

With respect to **combating organised crime (16.4)**, according to the Report on Implementation of the Action Plan⁹³ for Implementation of the Government's Program, crime rate was decreased by 8% in 2016, when compared to the average annual rate between 2010 and 2015 (from 102,000 to 93,724 acts of crime). In the first six months of 2017, crime rate was further decreased by 6.8% when compared to the first half of 2016 (from 53,383 to 49,795 acts of crime). The number of acts of general crime has decreased by 5.9%; the number of crimes against life and body has decreased by 9.5%; the number of crimes against property has decreased by 10.8%; the number of crimes induced by theft is 7% lower; the number of crimes induced by heavy theft 13.4% lower; the number of crimes induced by grand larceny is 30% lower;

⁹¹ Statistical Yearbook of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia for 2016

⁹² Republic Secretariat, Report on Realisation of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Government's Program, August 2017.

⁹³ Summary estimates on achieving priority aims of the Action Plan for implementation of the of the Government's Program, Republic Secretariat for Public policies, August 2017.

the number of crimes caused by illegal use of other person's vehicle has increased by 2.1%. The quantity of confiscated drugs (in grams) has been 2.8 times higher. According to the data provided by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the number of homicide victims was 152 in 2013, fell to 114 in 2014, and was reduced even further in 2015, to 102 victims. However, Serbia still lacks an integrated strategy to address reduction of violence.

According to the data provided by the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection, the number of human trafficking victims was the largest in 2014, when it amounted to 125, while it significantly fell in 2016 to 57.

The most important activities in **combating organised crime (16.4)**, according to the Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 24, include increasing efficiency of the competent institutions, improving record keeping procedures and information exchange on the national and international level and further promoting regional and international cooperation through regional and international projects. One of the recommendations from the Action Plan, relevant for monitoring of and reporting on the achieved SDG targets for Goal 16, is to establish a universal and centralised crime information system, as well as a secure platform of communication between law enforcement bodies and actors. It is necessary to secure a better connection between relevant databases (including the analyses of costs, administrative resources, budget and training needs) and improve the collection of integrated statistical data pertaining to crimes.

According to the freshest data available, (2014) 3014 people were reported for the abuse of office, 142 people for receiving bribe, 84 for offering bribe, 33 for trade in influence, and 79 for abuse in relation with a public procurement procedure. In the same year, 1044 persons were accused of corruption. However, as little as 1% of corruption cases are ever reported, while the number of persons accused or sentenced for corruption related crimes is much smaller (**SDG target 16.5 – substantially reduce corruption**)! According to the corruption perception index for 2016, Serbia holds position 72 among 176 countries. The research made in 2015 and 2016 by Transparency Serbia indicates that the citizens of Serbia perceive corruption (39%) as one of three crucial problems that the Government should address, immediately after employment (52%) and economy (50%). While more than one fourth of the citizens believe that corruption is lower than four years earlier, as much as 40% believe that situation is quite the opposite. Almost one third of the respondents failed to provide a clear answer. The citizens traditionally assess that the Government's efforts to combat corruption are poor and insufficient. Present results, even though they are rather bad, are among the best so far, with less than 50% of negative comments and the second best "average mark" for the Government on the global scale (below the results of 2007).

When it comes to **SDG target 16.9 providing legal identity**, the Law on Extra-Judicial Proceedings has been amended to enable late entries into birth register, which is particularly important for Roma population.

Independent regulatory bodies have been established (SDG targets **16.10. Ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms and 16a Strengthening institutions for combating terrorism and crime**), to facilitate protection of citizens and access to information of public importance.

Police cooperation in Serbia is comprehensive and implemented on all levels (strategic, operative, specialist and cross-border) and via different communication canals (international - INTERPOL, EUROPOL, SELEC, as well as bilateral).

2. EU and other international processes in the field of promoting the rule of law and responsible institutions

The aforementioned development was mainly attributed to the process of EU integrations, with essential reforms of the public sector aimed at achieving higher transparency and inclusion. The EU processes in

Serbia which are connected to the goal 16 have been comprehensively addressed by negotiating chapters 23 and 24, as well as by the action plans accompanying them. The Action Plan for Chapter 23 envisages that **the crucial corruption prevention measure should be the adoption of the new Law on Anti-Corruption Agency** which would more comprehensively regulate prevention of corruption. In the domain of **repressive efforts against corruption**, the Action Plan envisages the adoption of the **Financial Investigation Strategy** which should be the document to integrate most of the measures addressing anti-corruption efforts. This Strategy should be accompanied by an action plan which would secure its implementation.

The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 envisages amendments to the anti-corruption legal framework in 2018, in line with the comprehensive analysis of anti-corruption legislation and its harmonisation with the EU legislation and other international standards.

In the Republic of Serbia, the police, prosecutors and courts utilise different systems to monitor criminal cases and proceedings. In practice, such approach creates many problems. Only after the establishment of the universal information system and adoption of compatible forms in the police, prosecutor offices and courts, which would enable the monitoring of proactive actions, as well as actions undertaken upon reporting by the Agency, State Audit Institution, Tax Administration, Public Procurement Office and other relevant actors, it would become possible to report on the cases of corruption and organised crime in a reliable way.

According to the Report by the European Commission on the current condition pertaining to the chapters 23 and 24 submitted in May 2017, in the following period Serbia should especially intensify the efforts in the field of judicial reform. In combating corruption, Serbia should additionally improve institutional cooperation and process ownership, with the support of strong political will, in order to achieve tangible results. When it comes to fundamental rights, Serbia should make major amendments to the legislation in the fields of data protection, gender equality, free legal aid and protection of minorities. Furthermore, additional efforts need to be invested in the fields of combating human trafficking, financial investigations and technological crime. The same source also indicates that Serbia should facilitate meaningful and systematic consultations with civil society actors and make sure that their expertise is benefited from and fully appreciated.

There is a comprehensive international legal framework regulating this field in the UN and EU. The most important global document in the field of combating crime is the **UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols Thereto** adopted in Palermo in 2000. The Convention was supplemented by 3 Protocols: 1. Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, 2. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons and 3. Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants. The convention legally binds its parties to undertake concrete measures in fighting organised crime (incrimination of belonging to a criminal group, money laundering, corruption, adopting of more efficient mechanisms of extradition and police cooperation). The Protocols also provide internationally adopted definitions of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, while simultaneously envisaging series of measures to combat these forms of crime.

Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (2012) affirms that the rule of law and stable legal framework represent the fundamentals of sustainable development. Independent judiciary is a precondition for the rule of law, while the state parties are invited to enable access to justice for all. The role of International Criminal Court is recognised and cooperation with this institution is demanded.

UN Convention against Corruption adopted in 2003 is legally binding and demands that the states should implement anti-corruption measures addressing the aspects of prevention, criminal prosecution,

international cooperation, confiscating property and exchange of information. When it comes to the prevention of corruption, the states are demanded to establish anti-corruption bodies, which Serbia did do, as well as to improve transparency and responsibility in managing public finances. As for criminal prosecution of corruption related acts, the states are demanded to incriminate not only receiving bribe, but also interfering with the investigation and money laundering. The protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers is also envisaged. Confiscation of the property acquired through corruption on the international level is the most important aspect of this Convention.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 provides globally adopted definitions of discrimination against women. State parties are obliged to include gender equality into their respective legal systems and prohibit discrimination, as well as to secure judicial protection of these rights. The state parties are also obliged once in every four years to report to the UN on the implementation of the Convention. In October 2013, Serbia ratified the **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO Convention)**. The next step should be introduction of the CAHVIO into national legislation and improvement of the position of women victims of violence, as well as criminal prosecution of the perpetrators.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1989 is adopted by the widest range of parties among all international conventions. This document guarantees all the rights of the child interconnected with a number of sustainable development goals.

International Pact on Civil and International Rights (1966) is the convention which generally protects the fundamental rights serving as the basis for modern society, such as freedom of thought, prohibition of torture and slavery, arbitrary detention, equality before law, unprejudiced court proceedings and minorities' rights.

Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights), the implementation of which lies within the competence of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, is the key document to support the development of human rights in Europe. It stipulates the protection of all typical human rights (life, freedom, safety, just court proceedings, conscience and religion, etc.). It served as the basis for the adoption of the UN Charter of Fundamental Rights in 2009, which integrated all European and international documents referring to human rights, as well as the state-of-the-art solutions pertaining to the protection of data, bioethics and transparency of state administration. This Charter has the status of the Treaty on European Union.

EU Convention against Corruption Involving Officials (1997) stipulates obligations to qualify both passive and active corruption as criminal offences, while it also defines responsibility of the head of a business entity for the active corruption operated on behalf of such entity. Related **Criminal Law Convention on Corruption** adopted in 1999 stipulates international mechanisms for criminal prosecution of corruption, while its implementation lies within the competence of the GRECO.

Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence of 2011, the so-called Istanbul Convention provides legally binding definition of "gender". This Convention stipulates obligatory incrimination of psychological violence, every involuntary sexual act, forced marriages and sexual harassment, particularly emphasising so-called "honour crimes".

Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking adopted in 2005, prohibits all forms of trafficking in human beings, simultaneously dedicating particular attention to the protection of human trafficking victims.

3. Links between the National Strategic Framework and SDG targets

Reduction of violence/combating crime (16.1) is the problem which is partially addressed by a number of strategic documents. First, there is the **National Strategy against Violence and Indecent Behaviour at Sport Events** for the period between 2013 and 2018, dealing exclusively with the violence caused by sport fans and hooligans. **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 a part of the general development of the citizens' security culture, yet it is not specifically dedicated to such activities.

Serbia does not have a strategy specifically dedicated to child protection and children related issues are dealt with in other documents relevant for general population. The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 stipulates that the new policy framework for the protection of children against violence will be developed.

Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence was adopted on 23 November 2016. Application of the Law commenced on 1 June this year. Specialist training of judges, prosecutors and police officials is being continuously implemented, in order to efficiently apply new legislative solutions and decrease the number of children suffering violence in the hands of their carers (**End Abuse of Children 16.2**, UN indicator 16.2.1)

Strategy of Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children and Protection of Victims 2017-2022 is also related to the 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 attention is dedicated 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.

National Strategy for Judicial Reform 2013-2018 defines improved access to justice and human and minority rights and freedoms as one of its strategic goals, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the target **Rule of Law and Equal Access to Justice (16.3)**. The adoption of the Law on Free Legal Aid is also envisaged, this law being prepared since 2011, yet constantly facing significant resistance by the interest groups. 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 also necessary.

The Strategy to Reduce Overload in institutions for the enforcement of criminal sanctions responds to UN indicator *16.3.2 Share of detainees in total prison population*, while one of the strategic fields addresses alternative measures to secure presence of the accused, avoiding detention. Previous strategy in this field had certain results, so between 2012 and 2015 the number of detainees decreased from 2532 to 1539, while the total prison population remained roughly the same.

The Strategy to Control Small Arms and Light Weapons expired in 2015, while developing of the new one is in its initial phase. General aim of this document is to decrease abuse of weapons, i.e. armed violence. One of the key measures in this strategy would be to improve the use of international instruments to trace illegal weapons. This is particularly important for Serbia, providing that the country is one of the sources for the arms used by terrorists in the EU. This topic is directly related to the target **16.4. Reduce illicit financial and arms flow**.

National Strategy to Combat Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism up until 2018, which, apart from the aims referring to the prevention and uncovering of money laundering, includes a separate strategic field "Prevention of introducing into the financial system and other sectors the assets suspected to be acquired by crime", which directly corresponds to the target **Combating Money Laundering and**

Organised Crime (16.4), as well as the UN indicator 16.4.1 (total value of the illicit financial flows coming in and out of the country). The adoption of the new Law on Preventing Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism is under way (a draft was adopted by the Government on 29 September 2017), which would harmonise domestic legislation with the European directives in the field. Directly related to the same target **(16.4)** is the **National Strategy to Combat Organised Crime**, stipulating general measures of building institutions and capacities to combat organised crime. This strategy lacks a valid action plan and it practically remains unimplemented. As it has already been mentioned, **The Strategy to Control Small Arms and Light Weapons** expired in 2015, while the development of the new one is in its initial phase. **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 assets acquired by crime, as well as the stricter control of fire arms.

The target **Reducing Corruption (16.5)** is included in the **National Strategy to Combat Corruption in the Republic of Serbia** between 2013 and 2018. The Strategy is the fundamental national policy document in the field and it deals with the problem of corruption comprehensively. It envisages a series of systemic measures to strengthen institution in combating corruption, as well as specific measures addressing different aspects of social life (healthcare, media, judiciary, etc.).

Anti-corruption measures are also integrated in the **Strategy to Reform Public Administration in the Republic of Serbia** and the **Strategy to Develop Public Procurement Process between 2014 and 2018**. The Action Plan for Negotiating Chapter 23 includes a separate sub-chapter dedicated to anti-corruption efforts. It is fully compatible with our Strategy and envisages a number of activities to support its implementation.

SDG target Effective and Transparent Institutions 16.6. is dealt with in the **Strategy to reform Public Administration in the Republic of Serbia** as the public policy framework document which should secure continuation of the previous reform efforts and widening of their scope to the entire public sector, not only public administration. The general aim of this Strategy is to secure high quality of the services provided to citizens and business entities in line with the principles of European administration. Specific aims refer to building of institutions, improved service provision and increased transparency of public administration. This Strategy also envisages the development of e-administration, as well as more anti-corruption activities. **Program of Reforming Public Finances' Administration 2016-2020** adopted based on the Strategy to Reform Public Administration in the Republic of Serbia has the aim to improve macroeconomic stability, services provided by state administration and transparency, as well as to fulfil the conditions necessary in the process of EU accession. **Strategy for the Development of the Internal Financial Control in the Public Sector for 2017-2020** also contributes to administration and control of the public resources (including international funds) being in line with legislation, description of the budget and the principles of good financial management (efficiency, effectiveness, economy and transparency).

Strategy of Developing Electronic Administration in the Republic of Serbia secures technical support to the Strategy to Reform Public Administration in the Republic of Serbia and the two strategies are closely related. The aims of the Strategy include: improving satisfaction of the public services' beneficiaries, lowering administrative burden to economy, increasing efficiency of public administration and securing national and cross-border inter-operability. Development of e-administration and digitalisation represent priorities of the Government. Some significant breakthroughs have been made in this field thus far. According to the report on implementing the Action Plan for Implementation of the Government's Program, the integration of the databases of 6 state authorities has been completed: Registers (birth, marriage and death), Ministry of the Interior – place of residence and Ministry of the Interior – biometric

documents, Tax Administration – balance inquiry, National Employment Service – records overview and certificates of the paid amounts, Central Register of Compulsory Social Security – checking a person’s employment status, Pension and Disability Insurance Fund – beneficiaries’ records. The access to the integrated databases is enabled via e-ZUP (E-Law on administrative procedures) service, available since 1 June this year. In 2016, the recorded number of e-administration beneficiaries was higher by 278,473 than in 2015. Managerial structure is defined. Professional capacities are currently satisfactory.

Other instruments serving to support the Strategy to Reform Public Administration in the Republic of Serbia include the **Strategy of 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, business entities and other holders of right and obligations to realise their rights and interests, by creating the conditions for the continuous and comprehensive improvement of civil servants’ competences, thereby having a direct impact on the **target 16.6.** and UN indicator 16.6.2 (share of the citizens satisfied with their latest experience with public authorities).

Responsible and Participatory Decision-Making (16.7) is the target addressed by the **Strategy of Regulatory Reform and Development of Public Policy Management System** for 2016-2020. The key aims are to: develop the role of the citizens and business subjects in the system of public policy management and adoption of regulations. These aims are met through the adoption of the Law on Planning System which is currently in parliamentary procedure. This Law stipulates obligatory consultations with all interested parties, as well as public debates in the process of developing public policy documents. Another important obligation stipulated by this Law is for the public policies to be adopted based on the earlier analyses and facts, which corresponds to the indicator 16.7.2 (share of population believing that decision-making is responsible and participatory). The same obligations are envisaged by the Action Plan for implementation of the initiative **Partnership for Open Administration in the Republic of Serbia for 2016/17**.

When it comes to representation of national minorities, the Government has adopted regulations based on the Law on the Employees in Autonomous Provinces and Local Self-Government Units, which give priority to the employment of underrepresented minorities. This has direct impact on the target **16.7 Responsible, Inclusive and Participatory Decision-Making**.

The 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 the 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 the 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 right⁹⁴.

Action Plan for implementation of the Partnership for Open Administration initiative in the Republic of Serbia for 2016/17 is 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 the above mentioned serving to facilitate more efficient and responsible operation of public authorities. Furthermore, there is the Law on Free Access to Information of Public Importance

⁹⁴ Republic Secretariat, Report on Realisation of the Action Plan for Implementation of the Government’s Program, August 2017.

which is, according to general estimates, quite lenient, and the process of its amendment and harmonisation with European standards is under way. This is Serbian response thus far pertaining to the target **16.10: Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms**.

The target **16.b: Enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development** has been addressed by the **Strategy to Prevent and Protect from Discrimination**, dedicated to the prevention of all forms of discrimination.

GOAL 17: Partnerships for the Goals

1. Situation Summary

Since the funds are crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a special goal 17 *Partnership for the goals* was created. The scope and ambition of the Agenda impose the involvement of numerous partners such as national parliaments, regional and local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector in order to mobilise all available resources necessary for the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In this sense, this goal is thematically vaguer than other goals as it covers the entire spectrum of the range of activities. It covers the targets in the area of **finance, technology, trade, capacity building**, and finally **systemic issues**. It applies to national budgets, debt management, international business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade, systemic issues, science, technology, innovation and capacity building, and finally the subject of crucial importance for the planning of targets and indicators, i.e. data, monitoring and reporting on the achieved results.

Finance

Regarding the first target ***Mobilization of resources and capacities for taxes and other revenues collection (17.1)*** Serbia can be proud of the positive trend. In 2010, tax revenue amounted to RSD 617,000,000, in 2014 upon the fiscal consolidation it was RSD 771,000,000 and RSD 888,000,000 in 2016. This means that tax collection has increased by more than 40% since 2010. Successfully implemented fiscal measures and the establishment of an enabling business and investment environment during 2015 resulted in the improvement of all economic flows in 2016. The economic activity is increasing, the fiscal and export deficit are decreasing, the labour market is improving and the inflation remains low and stable⁹⁵. Mid-term macro-economic forecasts expect an average real GDP growth of 3.3%. Also prognoses is that a dynamic annual growth of investments of 5.4% will be achieved, as well as growth of goods and services import and export of 7.7% and 5.8% respectively⁹⁶.

According to the positioning paper on the financing of local government units⁹⁷, in 2012 и 2013 observed in total, the municipalities did not have budgetary deficits, whereas long-term obligations related to debt and through municipal obligations were transparent and not too high. The financial status of municipalities is characterised by a large ratio of subventions of 15% in the structure of overall expenditures, out of which a major part (12% of expenditures) is allocated to Public Utility Companies.

Since 2017, a mild positive trend can also be observed for the target ***Long-term debt sustainability (17.4)***. As a result of the economic crisis, the share of public debt relative to GDP has increased from 28.3% in 2008 to 73.0% in 2016. The latest data of the Ministry of Finance for the period up to June 2017 indicates a decline of 64.6%⁹⁸.

⁹⁵ Fiscal Strategy 2017-2019, Ministry of finance

⁹⁶ Fiscal Strategy 2017-2019, Ministry of finance

⁹⁷ Jasna Atanasijević, Nikola Zelić, Ivan Bošnjak: Positioning paper on financing local government units

⁹⁸ Ministry of Finance, Public Debt Administration: Status and Structure of Public Debt, August 2017.

In some 10% of the total number of municipalities the debt towards suppliers amounts to 20% of all revenues, in some cases even up to 80%. These are accrued obligations which are shifted from one year to the other⁹⁹.

Technology

The establishment of regional and international cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation (17.6) is of great importance for Serbia, which is currently involved in international scientific projects through the so-called *European Research Area*. Since 2014, Serbia has been a full member of the European program **Horizon 2020** and has positioned as a leader in the effective use of this fund; Serbia is also a member of two regional networks for science and innovation: "Western Balkans" and "Danube Region".

The development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies (17.7) will be of crucial importance for Serbia in the years to come. Amendments to the legal framework for public procurement should facilitate partnerships for innovation and sustainable new technologies. In order for Serbia to become involved in the Industry 4.0¹⁰⁰ faster, information and telecommunication technologies are becoming increasingly important. In recent years, the number of employees in the software industry has been growing annually by 20-30%¹⁰¹. Serbia is making efforts to promote the use of new technologies, especially ICT. Currently, 57.8% of households have broadband internet access, more than 3 million people use the Internet on a daily basis, and more than 1.5 million use the services of e-government and e-commerce. Almost all legal entities have broadband access, while 98.6% of business companies use e-government services¹⁰². Bearing all this in mind, digitization is one of the key government priorities in the next four years. It is also Serbia's response to the target: **Enhance and use of innovative technologies and ICT (17.8)**.

Trade

Promoting a universal, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization formulated in the target - **Multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (17.10)** is a sensitive topic for Serbia. The process of Serbia's joining the WTO consists of a multi-lateral and bi-lateral component. The only open issue in the multi-lateral component is a ban on genetically modified products. Bi-lateral negotiations were conducted with 18 countries, of which 14 were finalized¹⁰³. Another important target within SDG 17 is **Increase the exports of developing countries (17.11)**. In the period from January to June 2017, total exports increased by 10% in Serbia. The main export products were cars (-4.3%), electrical machinery (+ 17.8%), fruits and vegetables (+ 1.8%), metals (+ 24.3%) and crops (+ 9.3%)¹⁰⁴.

Capacity building

For Serbia, as the beneficiary of international development assistance, it is vital to use **International support for capacity building for development and implementation of national plans (17.9)** in the most

⁹⁹ Jasna Atanasijević, Nikola Zelić, Ivan Bošnjak: Positioning paper on financing local government units

¹⁰⁰ Industry 4.0. is a name for the current trend of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies. It includes cyber-physical systems, the Internet of things, cloud computing and cognitive computing.

¹⁰¹ World Bank Project: Competitiveness and Jobs

¹⁰² Data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

¹⁰³ Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications

¹⁰⁴ Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Program of the Government, July 2017.

efficient and effective manner, including sustainable development goals. The section that follows describes the types of support and assistance.

Systemic issues

Compliance of public policies and institutional framework primarily refers to the ***global macro-economic stability (17.13)***. In 2017, the inflation in Serbia has been relatively stable and is within the range $3\% \pm 1.5$ pp, while the financial system stability has been maintained through the adequacy of the banking sector capital of 22.4%, while the liquidity ratio is above 2.0, which is in line with the local and foreign legal requirements¹⁰⁵.

Regarding the target ***Global partnership for sustainable development (17.16)***, Serbia is involved in numerous regional initiatives (see the next section), and since July 2017, Serbia has been part of the Regional Economic Area. At the summit held in Trieste, six leaders from the Western Balkans endorsed a Multi-annual Action plan on Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP). MAP consists of four dimensions: trade, investment, mobility and digital market.

2. EU and other International Processes

With the entry into force of the SAA, Serbia has become an EU associated country, with a clear perspective of EU membership. Sectoral cooperation covers all chapters of the *acquis*, allowing Serbia to incorporate EU norms and standards into its legislation in all areas of social activity.

Sectoral cooperation is partly implemented using the funds available under the Pre-accession instrument IPA, and partly through bilateral financial assistance of individual countries. In the last 15 years, the EU has been the biggest donor with realized grants amounting to more than EUR 3 billion, as well as the largest creditor with loans worth EUR 4.3 billion¹⁰⁶. Within IPA II, an indicative allocation of grants in the amount of EUR 1.5 billion has been envisaged for Serbia for the period 2014-2020. Serbia gained significant assistance in grants within bilateral cooperation and development assistance of individual countries.

Western Balkan Investment Framework WBIF is a financial instrument and a joint initiative of the European Commission, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and six countries of the Western Balkans. This fund enables regional infrastructure development in the fields of environment, energy, transport, public and private sector. The Connectivity Agenda is promoted through political leadership within the Berlin Process. This is, obviously, connected with the considerable technical efforts of the Member States and the support of the Energy Community Secretariat and SEETO Southeast European Transport Observatory. The Berlin, or the Western Balkans 6 Process has strengthened the work on the creation of the regional economic market. The roles are clearly divided, whereby the Member States create a political impetus, the European Commission provides a framework for financing infrastructure, which is conditioned by adoption and implementation of the so-called "soft measures", while the Energy Community Secretariat deals with defining these soft measures and monitoring. The aim of the SEETO is to promote cooperation on the construction of the main and secondary transport infrastructure in the region in accordance with the indicative extension of the TEN-T network for the Western Balkans. Priority projects should remove bottlenecks, improve interoperability and build cross-border links that are missing.

¹⁰⁵ Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Program of the Government, July 2017.

¹⁰⁶ European Commission, Connectivity Agenda

By signing the Framework Agreement on the general principles for the participation in Community Programs, Serbia has acquired the right to participate in the horizontal cooperation, i.e. Community programs. In the period from 2014 to 2020, Serbia participates in the following Community Programs: Horizon 2020 - program for research and innovation, Erasmus+ program for youth education Creative Europe - program intended to provide financial support to transnational projects in the field of culture and creativity, Europe for Citizens - program intended to finance projects for better understanding of the European Union, its history and diversity.

Currently, Serbia is in various stages of negotiations and participation in other Community Programs: Customs 2020, *Fiscalis* 2020, Program for the Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME), and Employment and Social Innovation - EaSI.¹⁰⁷

The Republic of Serbia is a member of the following regional initiatives and organizations: South-East European Cooperation Process (SEEC), Central European Initiative, the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and the EU Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian region, International Sava River Basin Commission, Migration, Asylum and Refugee Regional Initiative, Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), Regional Cooperation Council RCC, Brdo-Brioni Process, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Berlin Process and the latest Regional Youth Cooperation Office¹⁰⁸.

Additional two agreements of which Serbia is a signatory are of great importance for the regional sustainable development. The first one is **Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River**, which binds Member States to strive for sustainable and equitable water management, including conservation, improvement and rational use of surface and ground waters. The Convention aims to strengthen economic relations in the region and emphasises the need to maintain the navigability of the whole Danube. The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), headquartered in Vienna, has been established for the implementation of this Convention. Within the ICPDR, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2004 in Vienna, international cooperation regarding the basin of the river Tisza is conducted.

The Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin (Kranjska Gora, 2002) defines the cooperation of States on the establishment of an international regime of navigation, sustainable water management, protection against harmful effects of water, water regime and ecosystems. Special Protocol on Flood Protection to the Framework Agreement, ratification of which is in progress, will regulate the cooperation in order to prevent and/or reduce the risk of flooding, by undertaking appropriate measures and activities. The issues regarding the navigation in the international waterway of the Sava River are regulated by the relevant Protocol, which was ratified in the context of the law relating to the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin.

3. Relationships of the National Strategic Framework with the targets for the relevant Sustainable Development Goal

In relation to the target: ***Mobilization of resources and capacities for taxes and other revenues collection (17.1)*** and the ***Long-term debt sustainability (17.4)*** there are several strategies applicable in Serbia which deal with this issue either from the systemic, or operating aspect. The key strategic document is the **Public Financial Management Reform Program** which includes six broad areas of action /pillars: 1. Sustainable medium-term macro-fiscal and budgetary framework 2. Planning and budgeting of public expenditures 3. Efficient and effective budget execution 4. Effective financial control 5. Accounting, monitoring and financial reporting 6. External scrutiny of public finances. The program contains the sequence of

¹⁰⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs

¹⁰⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs

implementation of measures and activities on a quarterly basis in the period from 2016 to 2020. Another important strategy is the **Strategy of the Internal Financial Control Development in the Public Sector** for the period from 2016 to 2019 for the establishment and development of a comprehensive and effective system of public internal financial control (*PIFC*) in the public sector, with the aim of good governance and protection of public funds regardless of their origin, and compliance with the requirements of chapter 32 - Financial Control, to conduct negotiations with the EU.

Responding to the issue of inefficient operation of the Tax Administration, the **Tax Administration Transformation Program for the period 2015-2020** was adopted, which aims to raise tax collection to a higher level and reduce costs related to meeting the tax requirement, i.e. reduce the grey economy.

Pursuant to the Budget System Law, a **Fiscal Strategy** is adopted and it includes: medium-term projections of macroeconomic aggregates and indicators; report on tax policy, including the report on tax expenditures; Review and analysis of the fiscal implications of economic policies and structural reforms; assessment and quantification of fiscal risks and contingent liabilities; **Strategy for State Debt Management in the period covered by the Fiscal Strategy**.

Of European Strategies that are related to Serbia and comply with and promote the achievement of most of the Sustainable Development Goals, the following should be mentioned:

EU Strategy for South Eastern Europe with the following development pillars: **Integrated Growth** (higher volume of foreign trade and investment at the regional level with three dimensions related to "Free Trade Area", "Competitive Economic Environment" and "Integration into the Global Economy"); **Smart Growth** (including four dimensions: "Education and Competences", "Research, Development and Innovation", "Digital Society" and "Cultural and Creative Sectors"); **Sustainable Growth** (with the following dimensions: "Resource Efficiency" and "Competitiveness"); **Inclusive growth** (includes the following dimensions: "Employment" and "Health"), and finally **Governance for Growth** which means to increase the capacity of the state administration to establish a rule of law, combat corruption and create appropriate business environment (covering three dimensions: "Effective Public Services", "Anti-corruption" and "Justice").

The Action Plan for Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans (MAP) stems from the commitments undertaken under the South East Europe 2020 Strategy and the Central European Free Trade Agreement which is based on the principles of the Stabilization 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 the development of databases and platforms for a set of sustainable development indicators¹⁰⁹.

¹⁰⁹ <https://europa.rs/zapadni-balkan-regionalno-ekonomsko-podrucje/>

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.

EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region consists of four pillars: Blue Growth (Fisheries and Aquaculture), Environmental quality (transnational habitats and biodiversity) connecting the region (maritime transport, intermodal connections to the hinterland, Energy networks) and Sustainable tourism (sustainable and responsible tourism management). The following horizontal aspects apply to all four pillars: capacity building, research and innovation, small and medium size business, climate change and disaster risk management.

3. Agenda 2030 - Implementation Framework in Serbia

3.1. Institutional Framework

In December 2015, the Government established the Inter-departmental Working Group¹¹⁰ for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) tasked to carry out nationalization, implementation and monitoring of SDGs in the Republic of Serbia. This body is chaired by the Minister Prof. Dr. Slavica Đukić Dejanović. At the meeting held on 1st September 2017, it has been agreed that Serbia is to start drafting the voluntary national report on progress in achieving SDGs. The report would be presented in 2018 in New York. In order to start the implementation of this task, it is necessary that Serbia defines priority agenda of goals in accordance with the strategic framework. In this regard, the Office of the Minister in charge for demographic state policy, as chief coordinator of the nationalization of global goals, plans to organize a number of conferences throughout the country, bearing in mind that the regional approach, that is, the implementation of the policies at the local level, is vital for the implementation of the Agenda 2030. In order to ensure an effective coordination, a special Working Group (WG) for SDGs will be established as a focal point at the Government level and include members of the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), Ministry of Finance and Secretariat for Public Policies (PPS).

This Report was prepared to serve also as a starting point for the preparation of a „package of development documents“¹¹¹ in line with the proposed Law on the planning system in the Republic of Serbia, which is in the procedure of adoption in the Parliament. The Law sets the legal framework for coordinated developmental and public policy planning (regulatory planning included) aligned with the mid-term budgetary framework.

The process of prioritisation and nationalisation of the sustainable development goals in the Republic of Serbia opens the possibility to integrate the development agenda and the reporting process through the existent institutional framework, i.e. European Semester light. Thereby, the same reporting principles and standards established in EU member states would be applied in Serbia also.

¹¹⁰ Members of the Interdepartmental Group are line ministries and other governmental bodies tasked with monitoring and coordination of the Agenda 2030 implementation in Serbia.

¹¹¹ The “package of development documents” comprises of the Development plan, the Investment plan and the Spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia.

4. Conclusion

The results of mapping provided an insight into the coverage of the areas of specific SDGs with adequate strategic and policy documents. Since the mapping is based on four mutually closely connected areas, voids in relation to strategic documents are shown for each area:

1. Economic growth (SDGs 8 and 9);
2. Human resources development (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10);
3. Environment and climate (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 15);
4. Institutions, finance and cooperation (SDGs 16 and 17).

Economic growth, in particular the area of medium and small-sized enterprises is adequately strategically covered, while in the area of industrial policies and development of infrastructure some important strategies are soon to expire and some are in the process of revision or drafting in accordance with NPAA. These are: **Strategy of the Industrial Development**, with a special focus on production chains in selected industrial manufacturing sectors, **Strategy for Smart Specialization**, **Strategy for All Modes of Transport until 2025**, **Strategy of Managing Mineral and Other Geological Resources**, and, finally, **Strategy for Cultural Development**, where the development of creative industries and culture is particularly relevant as a lever for the development of tourism.

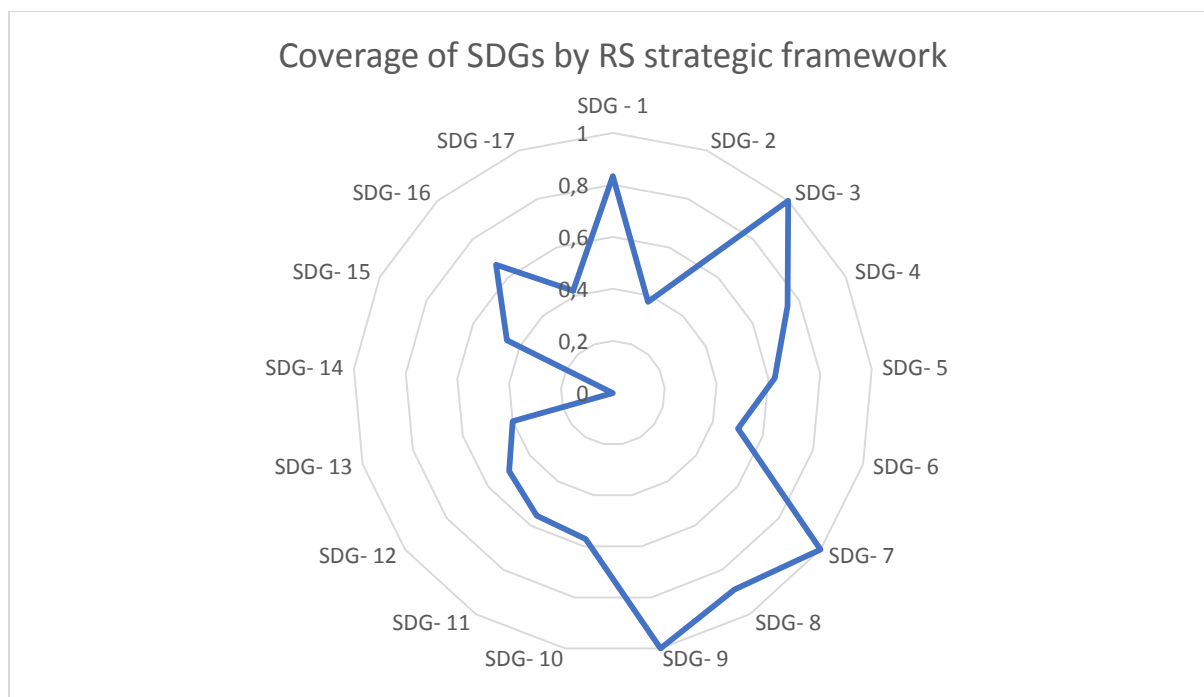
Development of human resources is covered in several strategic documents, as well as ESRP¹¹² - a programme for the reform of employment and social policy. However, a national strategy on social protection is still missing. As far as the strategic framework is concerned, the area of health is in the transition period and hence lacking an umbrella strategy to address public health development. In accordance with NPAA, two strategic documents are currently in the drafting process: National Prevention Program on Harmful Use of Alcohol, and Strategy for Rare Diseases. It should be taken into account that by the end of 2017 the Strategy on Mental Health will expire and thus this sub-area will soon remain in a strategic vacuum. The area of education is adequately covered until 2020 by the Strategy for Education Development.

The area of environment and climate is strategically defined in a number of strategies pertaining to the water management, sustainable use of resources, renewable energy resources and energy efficiency, and risk management. The area of climate, however, lacks an umbrella strategic document, as well as other important public policy documents. The plans include drafting of a **strategy on combating climate change**, **strategy on air protection**, and **climate change adaptation strategy**.

Horizontal area pertaining to **institutions, finance and cooperation** is mostly strategically defined but some key strategies lack action plans and monitoring of results and goals. These are: **Strategy for Free Legal Aid System Development in the Republic of Serbia**, and **National Strategy for Fight against Organized Crime**. Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control has expired but drafting of the new one is already in progress. In the framework of the sub-goal of transparent institutions, the drafting of the **Strategy on the Functional Organisation of Jobs in the Republic of Serbia** is underway.

The detailed mapping results vis a vis particular sustainable development goals are portrayed in the graph below with indications to the strategic coverage of each of them:

¹¹²ESRP – Employment and Social Reform Programme.



The graph shows that the best coverage is for goals 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9, whereas the areas of environmental protection and climate change are least covered with strategic documents. It should be noted that the graph includes all targets for all SDGs, even though some are of minor or no relevance for Serbia. The overall coverage of SDG targets with the strategic framework is 62% (again taking into account SDG 14 – Life under water, and other targets which are not relevant for Serbia, or are covered by international agreements).

It is also worth mentioning that not all strategies are equally important for the achievement of SDGs and that there are a number of strategies that are relevant for several of the SDGs and their respective targets. In the graph below, the relative relevance of strategies is shown *vis a vis* the SDGs:

Relative importance of individual strategies for SDGs



Annex: Table with comprehensive mapping of the national strategic framework

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals AGENDA 2030	STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA	EU CHAPTERS
Poverty reduction (Goal 1)		
Poverty (1.1), (1.2), Social protection (1.3) Indicators: 1.1.1. Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural) 1.2.1. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRP – Employment and Social Reform Programme in the EU accession process • National Employment Strategy for the period 2011 – 2020 • Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025 	Chapters 2 and 19
Equal rights (1.4) Indicators: 1.4.1. Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Social Housing for the period 2012 – 2022 + Action Plan until 2022 (Is it being implemented?) • Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025 	
Equal rights (1.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016 – 2020 • Strategy of Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (Action Plan 2014-2018) (Is it being implemented?) • Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025 + Action Plan 2017-2018 • Action Plan for the Realization of the Rights of National Minorities • National Strategy for Resolving the Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) for the period 2015 – 2020 (Commissariat for Refugees and Migrations) 	Chapters 19 and 23
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture (Goal 2)		
Double agricultural productivity and the incomes of small food producers (2.3), Sustainable food production systems (2.4) Indicators: 2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2014 – 2023 • IPARD Programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 – 2020 • National Strategy for Upgrading of Establishments Producing Food of Animal Origin for the period 2016 – 2021 	Chapters 11 and 12

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2014 – 2023 • IPARD Programme for the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 – 2020 	Chapters 11 and 12
Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages (Goal 3)		
Prevention of substance abuse (3.5) 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 litres of pure alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy for the period 2014 - 2021 + Action Plan 	Chapters 24 and 28
Prevention of traffic accidents (3.6) 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Road Safety in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2015 – 2020 + Action Plan 	Chapters 1, 14 and 21
Maternal mortality (3.1.), deaths of new-borns 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) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Prevention and Control of Chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases + Action Plan until 2018 • <i>Public Health Strategy (maybe in the process of drafting)</i> 	Chapter 28

<p>uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations</p> <p>3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population</p> <p>3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population</p> <p>3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease</p> <p>3.7.1. Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods</p> <p>3.7.2. Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group</p> <p>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</p> <p>3.9.1. Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution</p>		
Ensure education for all (Goal 4)		
<p>Quality primary and secondary education (4.1), pre-primary education (4.2), tertiary education (4.3)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>4.1.1. Proportion of children and young people:</p> <p>(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</p> <p>4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for Education Development in Serbia 2012 – 2020 + Action Plan 	Chapters 23 and 26
<p>Relevant technical and vocational skills (4.4)</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for Education Development in Serbia 2012 – 2020 	Chapter 26

4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill		
Achievement of gender equality (Goal 5)		
<p>Combating all forms of discrimination and violence against women (5.1), (5.2), (5.5)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments</p> <p>5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016 – 2020 + Action Plan Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017 – 2022 + Action Plan 2017 – 2018 <i>National strategic document for preventing and combating violence against women in the family and in intimate partner relationships (in the process of drafting, Coordination Body for Gender Equality)</i> 	Chapters 19, 23 and 24
Ensure availability of drinking water and sanitation for all (Goal 6)		
<p>Access to safe and affordable drinking water (6.1)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Management Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2034 National Programme for Environmental Protection Spatial Plan for the Republic of Serbia 2010 - 2020 National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (not being implemented) National Sustainable Development Strategy (not being implemented) 	Chapter 27
<p>Improve water quality (6.3), increase water-use efficiency (6.4), implement integrated water resources management at all levels (6.5)</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Management Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2034 National Programme for Environmental Protection Spatial Plan for the Republic of Serbia 2010 - 2020 	Chapter 27

<p>6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated</p> <p>6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality</p> <p>6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time</p> <p>6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources</p> <p>6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)</p> <p>6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Strategy for the period 2010 – 2019 • National Environmental Approximation Strategy for the Republic of Serbia • National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (not being implemented) • National Sustainable Development Strategy (not being implemented) 	
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (Goal 7)		
Universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (7.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Sector Development Strategy until 2025 (<i>AP drafted, waiting for adoption by the Government</i>) 	Chapters 15, 21 and 27
Increased sustainability of renewable sources of energy (7.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Sector Development Strategy until 2025 (<i>AP drafted, waiting for adoption by the Government</i>) • National Renewable Energy Action Plan 	Chapters 15, 21 and 27
Energy efficiency (7.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3. National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 	Chapters 15, 21 and 27
International cooperation and investment in energy infrastructure (7.a and 7.b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Strategy of the Energy Community 	Chapters 15, 21 and 27
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all (Goal 8)		
<p>Sustainable economic growth (8.1), entrepreneurship (8.3)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita</p> <p>8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Supporting the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness for the period 2015 – 2020 (Ministry of Economy) • Strategy and Policy of the Industrial Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2011 – 2020 (not being implemented) – in the process of drafting 	Chapter 20
<p>Sustainable economic growth (8.1), entrepreneurship (8.3)</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Free Zones Development Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017 – 2020 (planned, but perhaps still not in the drafting process)</i> 	Chapter 1, Chapter 20

<p>8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita</p> <p>8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quality Infrastructure System Improvement Strategy in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2015 – 2020 (Action Plan for regulation of harmonized area, and AP for regulation of un-harmonized area are currently in the drafting process)</i> • National Programme for Countering Shadow Economy 2015 – 2020 • Programme for the improvement of the Republic of Serbia on the World Bank's Doing Business Ranking on business environment 	
<p>Technological upgrading and innovation (8.2)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for the Development of Information Technology Industry for the 2017 – 2020 – AP has not been adopted, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications) 	Chapter 20
<p>Technological upgrading and innovation (8.2)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2020 – research for innovation (<i>AP in the drafting process</i>) 	Chapter 25
<p>Technological upgrading and innovation (8.2)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smart Specialization Strategy (in the drafting process)</i> 	Chapter 25
<p>Resource efficiency in consumption and production (8.4)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP</p> <p>8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Strategy for the period 2010 – 2019 (<i>new one planned for the period 2019 – 2025</i>) • National Strategy for Incorporation of the Republic of Serbia into Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol for the sectors of waste management, agriculture and forestry (not being implemented) • Strategy for Implementing the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – Aarhus Convention. Is it being implemented 	Chapter 4
<p>Productive employment and descent work (8.5)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities</p> <p>8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and Social Reform Programme in the EU accession process – ESRP (horizontal) • National Employment Strategy for the period 2011 – 2020 + National Action Plan for Employment (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy) • National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016 – 2020 	Chapters 2 and 19

<p>Unemployment of youth (8.6) Indicator: 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Youth Strategy for the period 2015 - 2025 + Action Plan until 2017 (new AP in the process of drafting)</i> • ESRP 	Chapters 19 and 26
<p>Labour rights, safe and secure working environments (8.8) Indicators: 8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Health and Safety at Work in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2013 -2017 + Action Plan 	Chapter 19
<p>Promotion of sustainable tourism (8.9) 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Development Strategy for the period 2016 – 2025 	Chapter 30
<p>Access to banking, insurance and financial services for all (8.10) Indicators: 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monetary Policy of the National Bank of Serbia 	Chapter 17
Promote sustainable industrialization (Goal 9)		
<p>Infrastructure (9.1) 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Railway, Road, Inland, Waterway, Air and Intermodal Transport Development Plan until 2020 • National Programme for the Public Railway Infrastructure for the period 2017 – 2021 (23/02/2017) • <i>Road Transport Development Strategy for the period until 2025 (planned, perhaps in the process of drafting)</i> • <i>Air Transport Development Strategy for the period until 2025 (planned, perhaps in the process of drafting)</i> • Waterway Transport Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, 2015 – 2025 + AP until 2020 	<p>Chapter 14, Chapter 21</p> <p>Chapter 15, Chapter 21</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Energy Sector Development Strategy until 2025 (AP drafted, waiting for adoption by the Government)</i> • National Renewable Energy Action Plan • 3. National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 	
<p>Sustainable industrialization (9.2), value chains and credit policy (9.3)</p> <p>9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita</p> <p>9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment</p> <p>9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added</p> <p>9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and Policy of the Industrial Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2011 – 2020 (not being implemented) • Strategy for Supporting the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness for the period 2015 – 2020 	Chapter 20
<p>Efficiency and clean technologies (9.4)</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>9.4.1 CO2 emission per unit of value added</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3. National Energy Efficiency Action Plan • National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (does not have an action plan) • Energy Sector Development Strategy • Sustainable Development Strategy 	Chapter 15
<p>Scientific research for sustainable industrial development (9.5)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP</p> <p>9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smart Specialization Strategy (in the process of drafting)</i> • Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2020 	Chapter 25
<p>Access to ICT (9c)</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Development of Information Society in the Republic of Serbia until 2020 • Strategy on Development of Electronic Communications in the Republic of Serbia until 2020 	Chapter 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Development of Electronic Communications in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2010 – 2020 (does not have an action plan) 	Chapter 10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Development of Information Security in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2017 – 2020 	
Reduce inequality within and among countries (Goal 10)		
<p>Sustain lower income growth (10.1)</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRP 	Chapter 19

Inclusion (10.2) Indicator: 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRP • Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025 + Action Plan 2017 – 2018 	
Eliminating discrimination (10.3) Indicator: 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy of Prevention and Protection against Discrimination (Action Plan 2014-2018) 	Chapters 19 and 23
Fiscal and wage policies (10.4) Indicator: 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERP – Economic Reform Programme (tbc) • Public Administration Reform Strategy + AP • Fiscal Strategy for 2017. with projections for 2018 and 2019 	
Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements (Goal 11)		
Access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and upgraded basic services (11.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Social Housing Strategy of Serbia for the period 2012 – 2022 • Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2016 – 2025 + Action Plan 2017 – 2018 	Chapter 23
Sustainable transport systems and road safety (11.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Road Safety in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2015 – 2020 	
Protection of cultural and natural heritage (11.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Plan for the Republic of Serbia until 2020 • <i>Strategy for Cultural Development 2017 – 2027 in the drafting process</i> 	
Reduced number of deaths caused by disasters (11.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Disaster Risk Management Programme 	
Air quality and municipal waste management (11.6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Strategy for the period 2010 – 2019, addresses also hazardous waste (<i>new one is currently being drafted for the period 2019 - 2025</i>) • <i>Air Protection Strategy (planned by National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis - NPAA)</i> 	
Advancing sustainable production and consumption patterns (Goal 12)		
Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (12.2) Indicator:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Renewable Energy Action Plan of the Republic of Serbia until 2020 • National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (does not have an action plan) 	Chapter 27

12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP		
Environmentally sound management of chemicals (12.4) Indicator: 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Programme for Environmental Protection until 2019 (does not have an action plan) Waste Management Strategy 2010 - 2019, addresses also hazardous waste <i>(new one being drafted for the period 2019 - 2025)</i> 	Chapter 27
Reduce waste generation (12.5) Indicator: 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Programme for Environmental Protection until 2019 (does not have an action plan) 	Chapter 27
Public procurement practices in accordance with principles of sustainability (12.7) Indicator: 12.7.1 Implementation of sustainable public procurement policies and action plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Procurement Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2014 – 2018 	Chapter 5
Education for sustainable development (12.8) Indicators: 12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for Education Development in Serbia 2012 – 2020 + Action Plan 	Chapter 26
Promotion of action at all levels to combat climate change (Goal 13)		

<p>Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change (13.1)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</p> <p>13.1.2 Adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</p> <p>13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First national communication (First Report of the Republic of Serbia under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), adopted in 2010; • First Biannual Update Report (FBUR) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC (adopted in January 2016); • <i>Adoption of the Second National Communication Report under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (SNC) was postponed - initially planned by the end of 2016</i> • <i>Climate Change Strategy with Action Plan (in the process of drafting: IPA 14, expected in 2019)</i> • <i>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (in the process of drafting, IPA 16, expected in 2019)</i> • <i>Air Protection Strategy, planned in the period 2018 – 2020</i> • Programme for Disaster Risk Financing for the Republic of Serbia until 2019 (03/03/2017) • National Disaster Risk Management Programme + AP until 2020 • <i>National Action Plan for Mitigating the Effects of Drought and Land Degradation (in the process of drafting)</i> • National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations • Plan to Eliminate the Use of Halogenated Chlorofluorocarbons, with the goal to decrease the consumption of halogenated chlorofluorocarbons by 35% by 2020 	<p>Chapter 27: Environment</p>
<p>Integrate climate change measures into national policies and strategies (13.2)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>13.2.1 Establishment or operationalization of an integrated climate policy/strategy/plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Sector Development Strategy until 2025 (<i>AP drafted, pending adoption</i>) 	<p>Chapter 27</p>
<p>Commitment undertaken to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (13. a)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>13.a.1 Mobilized amount of US dollars per year between 2020 and 2025 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (in the process of drafting, IPA 16, expected in 2019)</i> 	<p>Chapter 27</p>

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and land degradation and biodiversity loss (Goal 15)		
Sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular forests, wetlands and mountains (15.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial Plan for the Republic of Serbia until 2020 National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (does not have an action plan) National Renewable Energy Action Plan until 2020 	Chapter 27
Sustainable management of forests (15.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (<i>does not have duration period defined, does not have AP</i>) 	Chapter 27
Combat land degradation (15.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Goods and Resources (does not have an action plan) 	Chapter 27
Halt biodiversity loss (15.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2010 – 2019 	Chapter 27
Peace, justice and effective institutions (Goal 16)		
<p>Reduce violence/combat crime (16.1)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age</p> <p>16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause</p> <p>16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Strategy against Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2013 – 2018 Strategy of Community Policing Strategy on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (<i>the old one has expired, the new one is in the preparation process – the working group is being established</i>) 	Chapter 23 Chapter 24
<p>Combat abuse of children (16.2)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>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</p> <p>16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation</p> <p>16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Woman and Children, and Protection of the Victims 2017 – 2022 	Chapter 24
<p>Rule of law and equal access to justice (16.3)</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Judicial Reform Strategy Strategy for Free Legal Aid System Development in the Republic of Serbia (<i>does</i> 	Chapter 23, NAP for Chapter 23

<p>16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms</p> <p>16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population</p>	<p><i>not have duration period defined, does not have AP)</i></p>	
<p>Combat money laundry and organized crime (16.4)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)</p> <p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy against Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing until 2018 • National Strategy for Fight against Organized Crime (it does formally exist but it is not implemented in practice) 	Chapter 24
<p>Combat corruption (16.5)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2013 – 2018 	Chapter 23, NAP for Chapter 23
<p>Effective and transparent institutions (16.6)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</p> <p>16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Administration Reform Strategy of the Republic of Serbia • Public Financial Management Reform Programme 2016 – 2020 • Strategy for Development of Public Internal Financial Control for the period 2017 – 2020 • Strategy for e-Governance Development of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2015 - 2018 • <i>Strategy on Functional Organization of Jobs in the Republic of Serbia (planned, maybe in preparation)</i> • Strategy for Professional Development of Civil Servants in the Republic of Serbia 	Chapters 10, 32, 33

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Professional Training of Employees in Local Self-Government Units (LSGs) 	
<p>Accountable and participatory decision-making (16.7)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions</p> <p>16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy of Regulatory Reform and Improvement of the System of Managing Public Policies for the period 2016 - 2020 • National Strategy for Gender Equality for the period 2016 – 2020, with one of the specific goals: Men and women equally participate in decision-making in public and political life 	
<p>Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (16.10)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>16.10.1 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</p> <p>16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Implementing the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – Aarhus Convention. Is it being implemented • Strategy on Personal Data Protection (without AP) • Action Plan for the implementation of the initiative Open Governance Partnership in the Republic of Serbia for 2016 and 2017 	Chapter 23
Partnership for achieving goals (Goal 17)		
<p>Mobilization of resources and capacities for tax and other revenue collection (17.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Financial Management Reform Programme 2016 – 2020 • Strategy for Development of Public Internal Financial Control for the period 2017 – 2020 • Fiscal Strategy for the period 2017 – 2019 • Tax Administration Transformation Programme for the period 2015 – 2020 	Chapter 16 – Taxes
<p>Long-term debt sustainability (17.4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Financial Management Reform Programme 2016 – 2020 • Fiscal Strategy for the period 2017 – 2019 	
<p>Regional and international cooperation in the area of science, technology and innovation (17.6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East Europe Strategy • European Union Strategy for the Danube Region 	Horizon 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region 	
Enhancement and use of innovative technologies and ICT (17.8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy on Development of Information Society in the Republic of Serbia until 2020 • Strategy of Electronic Communications Development in the Republic of Serbia from 2010 to 2020 (does not have and AP) 	
International support for capacity-building in drafting and implementing national plans (17.9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East Europe Strategy • European Union Strategy for the Danube Region • EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region 	
Increased export (17.11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Financial Management Reform Programme 2016 – 2020 • Fiscal Strategy for the period 2017 – 2019 	
Macroeconomic stability through policy coordination (17.13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Financial Management Reform Programme 2016 – 2020 • Strategy of Regulatory Reform and Improvement of the System of Managing Public Policies for the period 2016 - 2020 • ERP – Economic Reform Programme (tbc) 	
Policy coherence for sustainable development (17.14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy of Regulatory Reform and Improvement of the System of Managing Public Policies for the period 2016 - 2020 	
Enhance the global partnership for achieving sustainable development (17.16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South East Europe Strategy • EU Strategy for the Danube Region • EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region 	
Support for increased availability of high-quality, reliable and disaggregated data for reporting (17.18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Chapter 18 – Statistics: enhancing national statistics and harmonization with the EU system

LIST OF ANALYSED STRATEGIES:

1. Judicial Reform Strategy 2013-2018 (Ministry of Justice)
2. Strategy for Developing Free Legal Assistance in Serbia (Ministry of Justice)
3. Strategy for developing a system for implementing criminal sanctions in Serbia until 2020 (Ministry of Justice)
4. National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2013-2018 (Ministry of Justice)
5. Strategy for reducing the capacities of correction facilities in Serbia until 2020 (Ministry of Justice)
6. Strategy for protection from fires 2012-2017 (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
7. Police in Society Strategy (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
8. National Strategy for combatting violence during sporting events 2013-2018 (Ministry of interior affairs)

9. National Strategy for protection and rescue in emergency situations (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
10. National Strategy for Combatting Organised Crime (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
11. Strategy for Migration Management (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
12. National Strategy for Combatting Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
13. Strategy against human trafficking, especially women and children, and victim protection 2017-2022 (Ministry of Interior Affairs)
14. Public Administration Reform Strategy (Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government)
15. Professional Training for Local-Self-Government Staff Strategy (Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government)
16. Professional Training of Public Servants Strategy (Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government)
17. Regulatory Reform and Public Policy Management Strategy (Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government), Public Policy Secretariat)
18. E-Government Development Strategy 2015-2018 (Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government)
19. Public Procurement Development Strategy 2014-2018 (Ministry of Finance)
20. Public Finance Management Reform Program (Ministry of Finance)
21. Tax Administration Reform program (Ministry of Finance)
22. Fiscal Strategy (Ministry of Finance)
23. Public Finance Internal Control Strategy 2017-2020 (Ministry of Finance)
24. Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia (Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure)
25. Economic Reform Program (Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Finance)
26. Industrial Development Strategy 2011-2020 (Ministry of Economy)
27. Strategy for SMEE support and competitiveness (Ministry of Economy)
28. Tourism Development Strategy 2016-2025 (Ministry of trade, tourism and telecommunications)
29. National Program for Combatting the Grey Economy (Government of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Economy)
30. Strategy of scientific and technological development 2016-2020 (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development)
31. Strategy of Trade Development until 2020 (Ministry of trade, tourism and telecommunications)
32. Strategy for IT industry development 2017-2020 (Ministry of trade, tourism and telecommunications)
33. Program for improving Serbia's position on the World Bank Doing Business Rankings 2017-2018 (Government of the Republic of Serbia)
34. National Strategy for Energy Development until 2025 with projections until 2030 (Ministry of Mining and Energy)
35. National Action Plan for Usage of Renewable Energy Sources (Ministry of Mining and Energy)
36. Third Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2016-2018 (Ministry of Mining and Energy)
37. Strategy for Water Management 2016-20134 (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)

38. Strategy for Applying the Convention on information availability, public participation in decision-making and right to legal protection in matters of environmental protection (Ministry of Environmental Protection)
39. National Strategy for Environmental Approximation (Ministry of Environmental Protection)
40. Waste Management Strategy 2010-2019 (Ministry of Environmental Protection)
41. National Strategy for introducing Serbia to the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol for waste management, forestry and water management (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)
42. Bio-diversity Strategy 2011-2018
43. National Strategy on the Sustainable Usage of Natural Resources (Ministry of Environmental Protection)
44. National Environmental Protection Program (Ministry of Environmental Protection)
45. National program for Disaster Risk Management (Government of the Republic of Serbia)
46. Program for financing risks in the case of natural disasters (Government of the Republic of Serbia)
47. Information Society Strategy until 2020 (Ministry of trade, tourism and telecommunications)
48. Water Transport Strategy 2015-2025 (Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure)
49. Road Safety Strategy 2015-2020 (Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure)
50. Strategy of development of electronic communications 2010-2020 (Ministry of trade, Tourism and Telecommunications)
51. Plan for developing rail, road, air and water transport in Serbia 2015-2020 (Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure)
52. National Program for Public Rail Infrastructure (Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure)
53. Information Safety Strategy 2017-2020 (Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications)
54. Workplace Safety and Health Strategy 2013-2017 (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
55. National Employment Strategy 2011-2020 (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
56. Social Housing Strategy (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)

57. ESRP (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
58. Strategy to Improve Birth-rates (Government of the Republic of Serbia)
59. National Youth Strategy 2015-2025 (Ministry of Sports and Youth)
60. Strategy for Prevention and Control of Chronic Uncommunicable Diseases (Ministry of Health)
61. Mental Health Protection Strategy (Ministry of Health)
62. Strategy for Drug Use Prevention 2014-2021 (Ministry of Health)
63. Strategy for education Development (Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development)
64. Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)
65. IPARD Program 2014-2020 (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)
66. Forest Management Strategy (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)
67. Strategy for improving facilities for dealing with food of animal origin 2016-2020 (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management)

68. Strategy for prevention and protection from discrimination (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
69. Strategy for re-integration based on re-admission agreement (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
70. National Strategy for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2015-2020 (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
71. National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020 (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
72. Strategy for Roma Social Integration 2016-2025 (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
73. Action Plan for Minority Rights (Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues)
74. Strategy for protection of personal data (Ministry of Justice)
75. Culture Development Strategy 2017-2027 (DRAFT) (Ministry of Culture and Information)