



Policy Recommendation:

Eradicating Poverty as Serbia's Number One Strategy

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Abstract

This analysis aims to contribute to the formulation of a new strategic approach to combatting poverty within the Republic of Serbia, one based on the standards set forth in the UN and EU Sustainable Development agendas. International standards that Serbia may utilise in this regard include: poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, eradicating poverty as an aim of public policy with a human rights-based approach. The situation in Serbia points to an urgent need to adopt a new strategic document dedicated to eradicating poverty, decades after the expiry of the implemented Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the disappointing effects of the Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme (ESRP). Half a million people continue to live in absolute poverty, unable to satisfy their basic needs. At the same time, a quarter of Serbia's population lives at risk of poverty. Thus, there is an urgent need to evaluate PRS and ESRP implementation and to initiate the process of drafting a new strategic document under the auspices of the UN and to adopt said by the end of 2021, at the latest.



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Introduction

The aim of this analysis is to contribute to formulating a new strategic approach to combatting poverty within the Republic of Serbia, one based on the standards set forth in the UN and EU Sustainable Development agendas, to which Serbia is committed as a member of the UN and a country undergoing the EU accession process.

The topicality of the subject is best illustrated through the following data: approximately half a million people in our country live below the so-called absolute poverty line, which amounts to RSD 12,286 per person¹ i.e., these people are unable to satisfy even the most basic necessities of life as their disposable income per month is less than the above provided amount; a quarter of Serbia's population lives below the so-called relative poverty line i.e., RSD 19,381² per individual i.e., is at risk of poverty as their monthly income is less than this amount (which is 60 percent of the median disposable income). When we combine these data with recent World Bank estimates which state that due to the 'economic shocks' caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the threat of a poverty pandemic looms, as the number of poor may increase from 125 to 327 thousand³, it is clear that combatting poverty must be one of Serbia's strategic priorities in the coming years. This conclusion is even more pronounced if the presented data are viewed in the light of the alarming fact that for a decade now, our country has not had a similar strategic document in effect after the expiry of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, despite having record poverty rates compared to other European countries.

First, the paper analyses relevant international standards referring to the formulation of public policies of relevance to the issue of poverty, firstly those set by the United Nations, Council of Europe and European Union, as key international organisations to which Serbia is a member, or to whose membership the RS aspires. Next, it provides an overview of the actual situation in Serbia, including the relevant strategic framework and legislative and institutional preconditions required to combat poverty. And in conclusion, based on the main findings of the analysis, appropriate conclusions and recommendations have been formulated.

International Standards

In 2015, the General Assembly of the UN adopted a key global strategic development document entitled the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Already

¹ Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the RS Government - Absolute Poverty,

<http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/rs/socijalno-ukljucivanje-u-rs/statistika-siromastva/apsolutno-siromastvo/>

² Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, *Poverty and Social Inequality, 2019, 2020*, available via the following link: <https://publikacije.stat.gov.rs/G2020/Pdf/G20201283.pdf>

³ World Bank, *Notes to the Regular Economic Report (RER): How Covid-19 Could Affect Poverty and Household Welfare in the Western Balkans, 2020.*, pg. 8., available via the following link: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/704831590692977527/pdf/The-Economic-and-Social-Impact-of-COVID-19-Poverty-and-Household-Welfare.pdf>

in its preamble the document provides the following: “eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,” is the greatest global challenge and all countries are obliged to free mankind from the “tyranny of poverty”⁴. In line with this, eradicating poverty is listed as the first of the 17 adopted Sustainable Development Goals. In this manner the UN has taken one step further relative to the previous global development strategy, the Millennium Development Goals, valid until 2015. Now, instead of just fighting poverty i.e., reducing it, member states are committed to its complete eradication by 2030, by meeting the seven sub-goals listed under SDG 1ⁱ. As far back as 1992, the UN proclaimed 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. This year’s theme is ‘Acting Together to Achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All’⁵. Such an approach of the UN is based on a corpus of international human rights treaties that have been under construction for decades. It includes a range of standards, such as the right to an adequate living standard, prescribed under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁶.

UN committees that monitor the implementation of international human rights treaties dedicate a great deal of attention to poverty eradication issues. According to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the above-mentioned covenant, poverty is one of the central issues of this committee, while firmly holding the view that poverty is a violation of human rights⁷. Furthermore, this body considers poverty to be a multidimensional phenomenon which is not limited only to a lack of income, but rather is also viewed as a lack of the basic ability to live with dignity i.e., as “a human condition characterised by sustained or chronic deprivation of the resources, capabilities, choices, security and power necessary for the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living and other civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights”⁸. This Committee regularly monitors the situation in Serbia concerning poverty. Its latest report on our country expressed concern regarding the limited effectiveness of valid strategies where extreme poverty is concerned⁹. Similarly, in its report, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed serious concern regarding the fact that children in marginalised, remote and rural communities in Serbia “are disproportionately affected by poverty”¹⁰.

⁴ United Nations - General Assembly, *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2015, pg. 1

⁵ United Nations, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 17 October, <https://www.un.org/en/observances/day-for-eradicating-poverty>

⁶The Law on the Ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, SRFY Official Gazette No. 7/1971-88

⁷ United Nations - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Substantive Issues Arising in the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Poverty and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 2001, pg. 1.

⁸ *Ibid.*, pgs. 2-3.

⁹ United Nations - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Serbia*, 2014, pg. 9.

¹⁰ United Nations - Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Serbia*, 2017, pg. 14.

Other UN mechanisms contribute to maintaining and developing the standards of this organisation in terms of eradicating poverty. Thus, the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Professor Olivier De Schutter, recently assessed that the world was ill-equipped to face the social and economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic due to the years of austerity measures imposed following the global financial and economic crisis. He therefore called for the building of social protection systems based on human rights, which can significantly contribute to their effectiveness in eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, thereby improving the resilience of societies in the face of shocks.¹¹.

The Council of Europe has also set standards in the fight against poverty in its documents. Thus, the Revised European Social Charter stipulates in Article 30 that everyone has the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion. With this Article, those countries that ratified the Charter (including the mentioned Article) and including Serbia, are committed to enforce measures within the framework of an “overall and co-ordinated approach to promote the effective access of persons who live or risk living in a situation of social exclusion or poverty”¹². In this regard, the European Committee of Social Rights, a body of the Council of Europe competent to implement the Charter, assessed that the situation in Serbia is not in line with the standards provided in Article 30, that is to say, for the reason that the country lacks an overall and co-ordinated approach to combatting poverty and social exclusion¹³.

Where the EU is concerned, its key strategic document, Europe 2020: A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth lists poverty as one of three key priorities with the aim of reducing the number of at risk-of-poverty persons to below 20 million by 2020¹⁴. Then, the European Pillar of Social Rights, adopted in 2017, sets out key principles on which the new European social model should be based, which includes: the right of children to protection from poverty, prevention of poverty among employees, the right of everyone to a minimum income which is necessary for a dignified life and the right to access quality basic services¹⁵. And finally, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) identify the promotion of social inclusion and the fight against poverty and all forms of discrimination as one of the 11 thematic objectives to which they should contribute¹⁶. What’s more, the condition for using the most important ESIF from the aspect of social development, the European Social Fund,

¹¹ United Nations - Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, *Looking Back to Look Ahead: A rights-based approach to social protection in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery*, 2020, pgs. 1-2.

¹² Law on the Verification of the Revised European Social Charter, RS Official Gazette - International Treaties No. 42/2009

¹³ Council of Europe - European Committee of Social Rights, *Conclusions 2017 - Serbia - Article 30*

¹⁴ European Commission, *Communication from the Commission: Europe 2020 - A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*, 2010, pg. 3

¹⁵ European Parliament, Council of the European Union, European Commission, *The European Pillar of Social Rights*, 2017

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, Art. 9

is "the existence and implementation of a national framework of public policies aimed at poverty reduction"¹⁷. The current state in Serbia and its government's approach to poverty is subject to the criticism of EU institutions and bodies on a regular basis. Thus, the Screening Report for Chapter 19 - Social Policy and Employment assessed it necessary to increase efforts to reduce poverty, inter alia, by taking a strategic approach to social benefit reform¹⁸.

Therefore, it may be said that the poverty issue is ranked at the very top of the lists of standards set by the international organisations to which Serbia is a member, or to whose membership the RS aspires. Furthermore, it is evident that these standards are a subject of constant discussion and analysis by a wide-range of experts, but also of politicians, thanks to whose work they continually evolve and find their way to becoming the strategic priority of individual countries. It is of special importance to Serbia that in recent years, the goals and ambitions of these standards have increased significantly globally-speaking, such that it is no longer enough to speak of reducing poverty or of combatting it, rather, now it is necessary to take on a more concrete commitment - its eradication. Additionally, the existence of poverty is considered a violation of human rights, and for this reason strategies dedicated to its eradication must be founded on a *Human Rights-Based Approach*. In this regard, important guidelines and assessment are regularly sent to the RS Government by competent UN committees and the Council of Europe, as well as EU institutions and bodies, inter alia, assessments that Serbia lacks a comprehensive strategic poverty eradication framework. They could and should be decisively integrated into the strategic direction of poverty eradication in relation to the dramatic situation and the inadequate strategic, institutional and legislative framework, the most important elements of which will be presented in the following section of this analysis.

Situation in Serbia

As was mentioned in the Introduction, the situation in Serbia concerning poverty is dramatic. According to RS Government data, the absolute poverty rate in 2018 stood at 7.1%¹⁹, which means that roughly half a million people in Serbia are unable to satisfy their basic needs. In terms of relative poverty, Serbia's rate of 23.2% in 2019 placed it at the very top of European countries in which this rate is measured based on data provided by Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (just behind Montenegro and

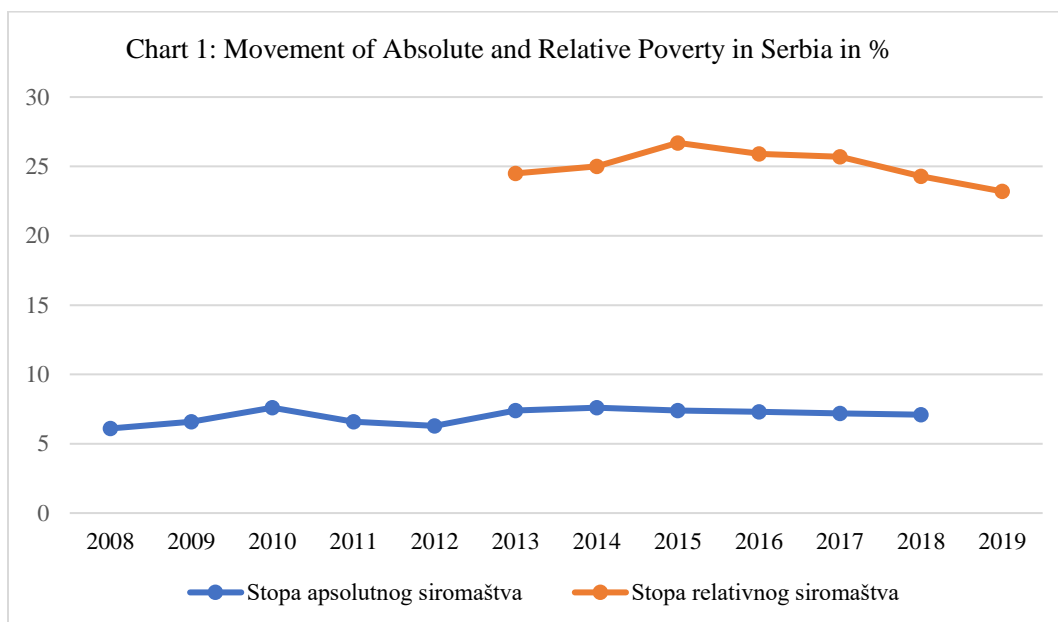
¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Annex XI - Ex ante conditionalities. Furthermore, obligatory elements of this framework have been prescribed i.e., that it: represents enough of a basis for the development of poverty reducing policies and progress monitoring, based on data; includes measures that support the achievement of national poverty reduction and social exclusion objectives; includes relevant stakeholders in combatting poverty; depending on identified needs, includes measures to transfer from institutionalised care to care via community-based services.

¹⁸ Screening Report: Serbia, Chapter 19 - Social Policy and Employment, pgs. 14, 17

¹⁹ RS Government, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) - Absolute Poverty,

<http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/rs/socijalno-ukljucivanje-u-rs/statistika-siromastva/apsolutno-siromastvo/>

Romania). The absolute and relative poverty rates in our country have remained constant for years now (Chart 1).



Source: SIPRU online presentation - Absolute Poverty; Eurostat - At risk-of-poverty rate by poverty threshold, age and sex - EU-SILC and ECHP surveys

These data which indicate the material poverty of a large number of the population in our country may be supplemented with further data which speak of multidimensional poverty. According to the UN Development Programme, in addition to the standard of living, education (42.7%) and health (20.6%) have the greatest impact on deprivation in individual dimensions on the overall multidimensional poverty rate in Serbia²⁰. Given the extensive impact that education has on drawing in a large number of inhabitants into the vicious cycle that is poverty, particularly dramatic are the data relative to the educational status of the domestic Roma population: 64% complete a primary level of education, compared to 94% of the majority population²¹. In terms of health, a high percentage of the population cannot satisfy their need for medical check-ups or healthcare for financial reasons, distance or as a result of waiting lists (in 2019, 4.8% of the population, in relation to the EU 27 average of 1.7%)²². Furthermore, the housing dimension should also be included, where the situation is also extremely

²⁰ UNDP, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020 - Multidimensional Poverty Index: developing countries*

²¹ UNDP-WB-EC, *Regional Roma Survey, 2017*

²² Eurostat, *Self-reported unmet need for medical examination and care by sex*, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=sdg_03_60&plugin=1

unsettling: with an overcrowding rate of 53.3% in 2019, Serbia is ranked at the very top in Europe²³.

The main challenge, strategically speaking, is that Serbia's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) expired and an appropriate public policy document aiming to reduce or eradicate poverty was never adopted as a replacement. The PRS was adopted in 2003 and represented the operationalisation of the strategic commitment of the RS Government in combatting poverty and improving the system of social protection for the most vulnerable groups as one of its three core objectives. The PRS provided a current definition of poverty, in line with the UN approach, as "a multidimensional phenomenon which, in addition to insufficient income to meet basic living necessities, includes human rights aspects such as the inability to find employment, inadequate housing and inadequate access to social protection, healthcare, education and utility services"²⁴. In line with this, it encompassed a wide range of measures and activities in the areas of employment, social protection, education, healthcare, while recognising the rural and environmental aspects of poverty. The PRS unequivocally recognised widespread poverty in Serbia as a relatively recent phenomenon, caused by the 1990s crisis. During its active implementation, the baseline absolute poverty rate of 10.6% in 2003 was reduced to 6.1% in 2008, exceeding the projected target of 6.5% in 2010. Despite there being numerous methodological shortcomings surrounding PRS implementation, such as the fact that action plans and reports were never adopted for this purpose, nor was an evaluation ever performed on its implementation, it may be assumed that the PRS contributed at least in part in reducing the absolute poverty rate in the mentioned period. However, despite the fact that its term of validity was unlimited, after 2009, at the very onset of the economic crisis that would affect Serbia, the PRS ceases to be actively implemented. It is at this time that Serbia begins to transition over to a wider concept of social inclusion and to refocus its public policy on the at risk-of-poverty rate i.e., to relative poverty, in line with EU objectives and policies. Nevertheless, due to the economic crisis, the absolute poverty rate begins once again to rise, coming close to reaching early 2000s levels. At the same time, already with the first SILC measurements from 2013, Serbia's relative poverty rate indicates the highest values of all countries in which this survey was conducted.

Based on the above described strategic legacy and the growing absolute poverty rate i.e., the extremely high relative poverty rate, in 2013 the RS Government adopted the Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union (ESRP), as the main strategy of Serbia's social development in the process of its accession to the EU. However, unlike the PRS, the ESRP in no way establishes poverty reduction or combatting poverty as one of its primary objectives, although it does note these issues as 'widespread'²⁵. There are two causes, that is, surprising facts surrounding why Serbia failed to recognise poverty as a strategic

²³ Eurostat, *Overcrowding rate by sex - EU-SILC survey*,

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tessi170&plugin=1>

²⁴RS Government, *Poverty Reduction Strategy in Serbia 2003*, pg. 1

²⁵ The RS Government, *Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union, 2013*, pg. 25

priority, nor, consequentially, to adopt a new poverty reduction strategy once the PRS ceased to be implemented i.e., to recognise poverty as a main objective, or, as one of the main objectives of the ESRP. One is of a political nature and the fact that the Government does not see the issues of poverty and social justice as it's priority. It is also for this reason that the new Government, dominated by the SNS from the beginning, took a clear position in favour of the austerity measures propagated at the European level by Germany, led by the Christian Democrat Angela Merkel. This path taken by the Government was further narrowed when, in 2014, the SNS filled the prime minister's position. The second reason stems from the nature of the EU and Serbia's EU accession process. Unlike the PRS, which was backed by the World Bank, as an international organisation founded with the aim of combatting global poverty, the ESRP was backed by the EU, whose social objectives, including the goal to reduce poverty (at least, at that time) was ranked at the top of its list of priorities. In addition, the EU had prepared a common ESRP structure for all acceding countries and did not envisage poverty reduction as an explicit objective. And finally, this document sought to contribute to the gradual enrichment of enlargement policy with the 'social' pillar of the Europe 2020 Strategy, with focus on relative poverty and not absolute poverty, which is almost unknown in the EU. Hence, the objective - reducing the number of people at risk of poverty found its place in the ESRP; however, only as one of the 11 'key strategic targets'. Today we know that this target was not achieved, as there are still over 1.6 million people in Serbia who are at risk of poverty, which is far from the target number of under 1.5 million, as envisaged in the ESRP. Reports on its implementation indicate disappointing effects, in particular in terms of social policy. Key measures to combat poverty, such as relaxing property conditions when deciding on the right to financial social assistance and introducing a housing allowance, have not been met, with the explanation (and, in fact, quite a sincere ideological commitment) that it is impossible to provide funds for their implementation²⁶.

The fates of the PRS and the ESRP were followed by other strategic documents crucial to the eradication of poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, such as: Social Protection Development Strategies, adopted in 2005 (and expired no later than 2012), National Social Housing Strategies, adopted in 2012 (expired in 2019) and the Discrimination Prevention and Protection Strategies adopted in 2013 (expired in 2018). None of these areas is strategically regulated as of yet. Within this context, the remaining strategies relevant to poverty eradication, in the areas of employment, education and healthcare (of which only the employment strategy recognises the fight against poverty as its objective) could not contribute as needed due to the fact that they operated with decreasing budgets as a result of austerity measures, and in an increasingly less mutually coordinated manner, in the absence of an umbrella strategy.

And concerning legal and institutional preconditions for the strategic prioritisation of poverty eradication as a priority of the Republic of Serbia, there exists a pattern that was followed by domestic strategies in the previously described way, and that is the

²⁶ The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, *Report on the Implementation of the Employment and Social Policy Reform Programme in the Process of Accession to the European Union, (2016-2017)*, 2019

dismantling of the Serbian social model. As we have witnessed, the backbone of this model was the PRS, which, formally, expired at the latest in 2010 (according to the Law on the Planning System of the RS, strategies are adopted for a period of 5-7 years). In the decade that followed, a number of reform attempts and failures ensued, which did not contribute to the fragile legacy of the fight against poverty. The newly established Gender Equality Department was terminated, coordination bodies were established for gender equality and the inclusion of the Roma population devoid of any kind of budget, personnel and impact on improving the position of their target groups. Amendments to the Employment Act were adopted, which further reduced the labour law protection of employees, the Law on Financial Support for Families with Children was adopted which discriminated against entire categories of working-class women in terms of their right to adequate income during the period of child care. The Decree on Social Inclusion was adopted which conditioned beneficiaries of financial assistance to 'earn' assistance by performing public works or engaging in socially useful work.

At the end of this long decade, was the expose of the mandatory for the composition of the new Government, Ana Brnabić, the poor are mentioned only once, listing practically all other vulnerable groups within our country²⁷, without establishing a strategic direction in which to provide assistance to all of them. The entire social policy in this document is reduced to the issue of reform expansion of so-called seasonal employment and the implementation of social mapping i.e., an information system which will provide an overview of all the socioeconomic indicators of Serbia's population.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Despite the World Bank's estimates that over the past few decades, humanity has been on the right path to reducing the rates of all forms of poverty on a global scale, in particular, extreme poverty, the Covid-19 pandemic has all but destroyed this progress. The unprecedented cataclysm that united the entire world in its battle against a common challenge at the start of 2020, served at the same time to reveal to what degree social development and international solidarity rest on shaky ground, in fact. What's more, countries that failed to formulate reform and development agendas on the principles of social justice and to actively apply such an agenda, sustained the hardest blows to their social and health protection systems. This blaring warning is at the same time a wakeup call led by the United Nations. Will the UN's Sustainable Development Agenda now truly be embraced by all nations the world over? Or will its goals, among which is the eradication of poverty at the very top of the list, become even more unattainable? What is certain is that the unravelling of societies at the seams that threatens us in the coming period can only be prevented by concrete action taken

²⁷Programme of the RS Government of the Candidate for Prime Minister Ana Brnabić, 2020, pg. 22

to rectify the social injustices and to stop human rights violations, and the existence of poverty in itself combines all of these challenges into one.

The good news is that relevant international standards exist and are constantly being improved upon. First and foremost, they relate to the fact that poverty should be viewed as a multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be reduced simply to material poverty, but rather must be resolved through a wide spectre of public policies including areas of social protection, employment, education, healthcare and housing. Also, the scale of global ambitions is significantly higher compared to the previous development period: it is unequivocal that countries are no longer to meet the goals of fighting poverty or reducing it, but must clearly commit to eradicating it, in line with the Sustainable Development Agenda. In conclusion, bearing in mind that the existence of poverty is a human rights violation, the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommends integrating international human rights norms into poverty eradication strategies²⁸.

Where Serbia is concerned, to the degree to which the first decade (after the fall of Milošević) marked the start of a period of economic and social rebirth based on a clear, strategic commitment to reducing poverty, expressed through the adoption and implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, so much so has the second decade of the 21st century marked a step in the opposite direction, toward the poverty rates of the 1990s and the loss of attention of both the politicians in power as well as the opposition, on the hundreds of thousands of people in the RS caught in the vicious cycle that is poverty. Regardless, lessons were learned, certain methodological devices and mechanisms were built, certain coalitions created during these decades. All of this can again very quickly be placed back into operation in order to solve the injustices suffered by half a million poor citizens i.e., a quarter of the total population who are living at risk of poverty. As this key issue is beyond the scope of this and other similar public policy analyses, what we can do is to formulate certain practical recommendations for the new generations of politicians who will feel and understand that poverty is the greatest form of injustice, and who will not rest until they or their immediate successors have eradicated it:

- **Recommendation No. 1:** to commence with the urgent evaluation of the PRS and ESRP and to conduct an *ex-ante* analysis of the effects of the new strategic document, in particular in light of the direct and expected medium and long-term consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic, in a process that will involve civil society organisations (and directly) persons exposed to poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon - evaluation and analysis deadline: Q1 of 2021;
- **Recommendation No. 2:** to initiate a participatory and inclusive process of drafting a new strategic document, under the auspices of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, with a clear goal of

²⁸ United Nations - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2001, pg. 5

eradicating poverty within a given deadline and according to measurable and quantified indicators - deadline for drafting a new strategic document: Q3 of 2021;

- **Recommendation No. 3:** adopt a new strategic document based on eradicating poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon with an accompanying action plan and funds for its implementation provided in the RS budget - new document adoption deadline: Q4 of 2021;
- **Recommendation No. 4:** form a government coordination body to monitor the implementation of the new strategic document, to include representatives of relevant UN agencies and bodies, the Council of Europe and the EU, as well as civil societies, selected on the basis of a transparent public call by a commission organisation - formation of the coordination body deadline: Q4 of 2021;
- **Recommendation No. 5:** integrate goals, measures and activities of the new strategic document in all planning documents of the RS, including the Government Work Plan, Economic Reforms Programme and the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis - integration deadline: Q1 2022.

In concluding this analysis, we would like to bring to attention the statement made by the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, professor Olivier De Schutter, that poverty should not be attributed as the failure of the individual, but rather viewed as the failure of the entire society. In line with this, we conclude that its eradication would not only be the salvation of every person living in poverty, but it would be a success attributable to our entire society.

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The following sub-goals are in question: 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere (measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day), 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions (according to national definitions), 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and/or environmental disasters, 1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions and 1.b Create sound policy frameworks at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions. Source: United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal1>