



SDGS  
FOR  
ALL

# NEWSLETTER 2

## EDITORIAL

### SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SERBIA

Dear readers,

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce you to this second edition of the "SDGs for All" Platform newsletter, created with the goal of emphasizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Serbia.

The objective of the Global UN Agenda for Sustainable Development is a life in dignity for all, a vision which is fully shared by Switzerland and enshrined in its Constitution. In addition to doing our own "homework" to achieve the SDGs, we are also supporting other states, like Serbia, with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Supporting Serbia in achieving sustainable and inclusive growth, maintaining democratic processes and implementing reforms towards European integration is the overarching strategic framework of our bilateral cooperation. Swiss cooperation is guided by the SDGs in all areas. Agenda 2030 gives us a great opportunity to open a wide and inclusive dialogue on Serbia's future development, particularly taking into the account complementarities with the EU accession process.

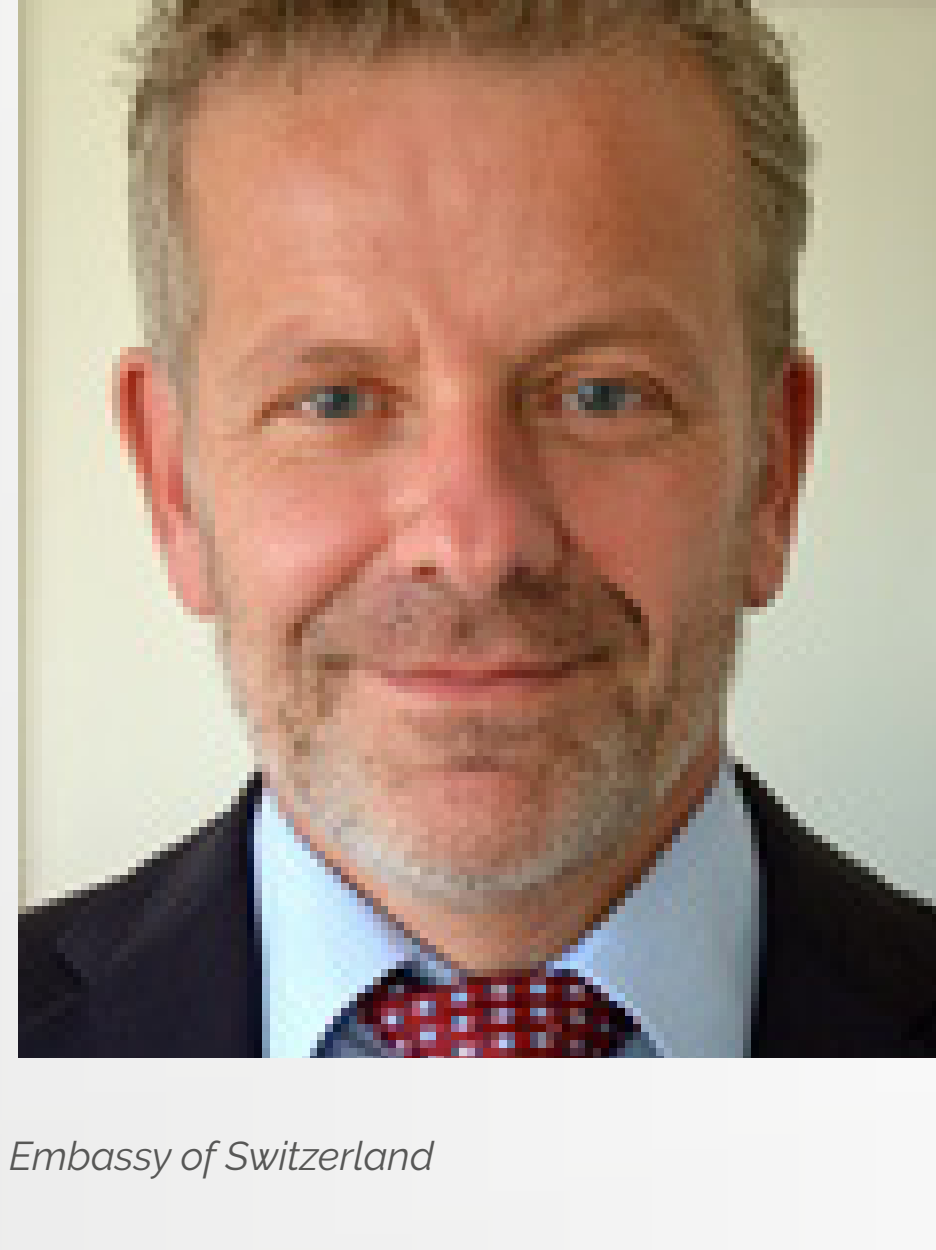
Over the previous 30 years, Switzerland has supported Serbia through its cooperation program in the order of more than 400 million EUR. Most of this funding directly or indirectly contributed to the achievement of sustainable development.

The SDGs are a global and complex agenda. This is why they need to be put into a country-specific context and implemented based on local priorities.

There exists no blueprint for the implementation of the SDGs. In our experience, this process is most successful when all concerned parties are consulted, and when the government acts jointly with the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners.

With our project "SDGs for All", which is supported and implemented together with our German colleagues, we are promoting a society-wide dialogue on Serbia's development priorities and giving an active voice to citizens – young and old, from civil society, business and academia, from urban and rural areas. This dialogue should lead towards development policies that aim to achieve ambitious goals such as decreased inequalities, improved education, good health and a better environment which ultimately benefit all citizens in Serbia and ensure that no one is left behind.

So far, civil society has been a key driver behind the 2030 Agenda in Serbia. Switzerland acknowledges this crucial role and I would like to re-emphasize the need for a conducive atmosphere in which civil



Rihard Kohli,  
Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland

society engagement can be critically constructive. Stakeholder engagement on all levels and across all sectors should be further facilitated, and balanced participation in the decision-making process needs to be ensured.

The SDGs offer a framework for projection on a long-term vision, but they also need to be grounded in a well-developed strategy with clear targets, feasible timelines, and realistic action plans. The essential step forward is to apply this approach and strengthen ownership across all governance levels, actors and sectors, thus promoting shared responsibility and coordinated action.

In addition, it will be beneficial to establish the necessary coordination mechanisms to address the cross-cutting and holistic nature of Agenda 2030, in order to ensure the achievement of its objectives.

The Serbian government has certainly taken a number of important steps, including the mapping of the strategic framework on the SDGs and the submission of its Voluntary National Report in 2019. However, considerable work still lies ahead.

We welcome the announcement from the Serbian Government that it will initiate work on a National Development policy document. We hope that policy formulation will have an explicit development orientation, based on broad consultation of public and civic stakeholders at the national and local level.

In the end, it's all about people, so these development policies should benefit all citizens in Serbia and ensure that no one is left behind. Switzerland stands ready to support Serbia in its efforts to reduce inequalities, eradicate poverty and improve social inclusion and solidarity, which must be seen as even more important now, in the light of COVID 19 pandemic.

## NEWS



### CHAMPIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY IN PIROT - WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESSES

The Responsible Business Forum and Smart kolektiv, in cooperation with the Pirot District Contracting Chamber of Economy, organized a workshop on Sustainable Development Goals, on June 18. More than ten companies from the Pirot district attended the workshop to hear experiences on how to improve businesses in line with the sustainability principles of the 2030 Agenda. They also had the opportunity to hear from sustainability leaders ideas on how to improve various aspects of their businesses, such as workplace and environmental practices, compliance with the market demands and engagement with local communities.

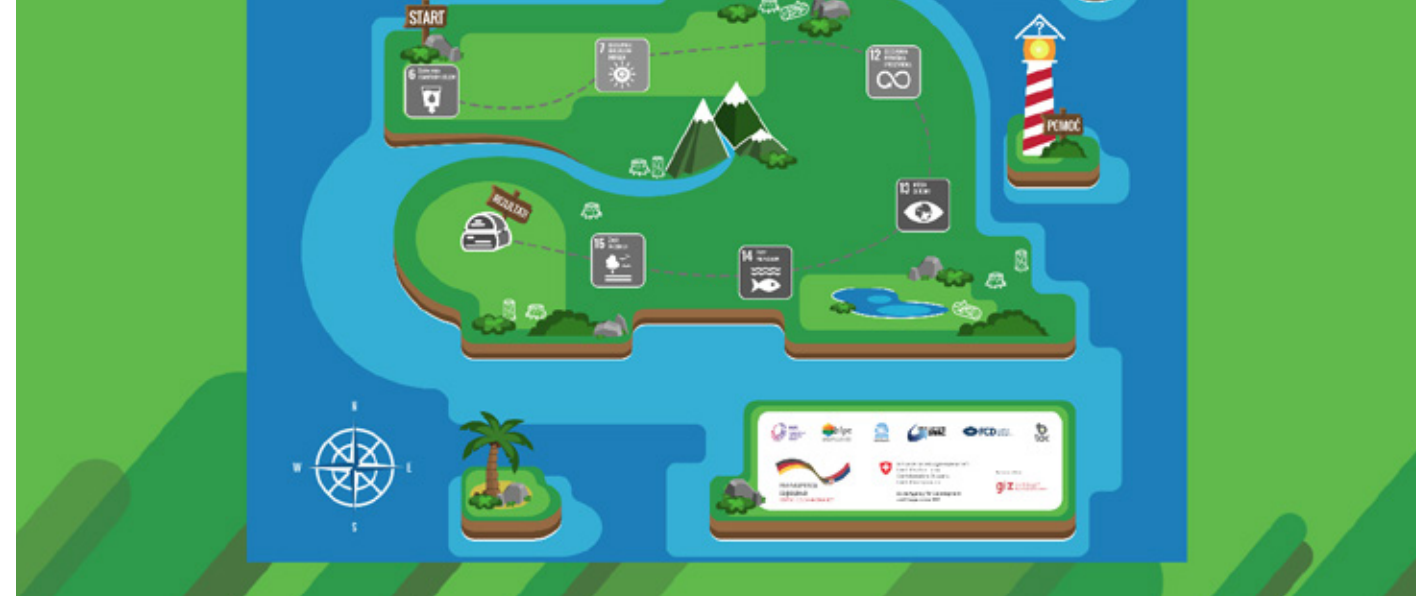
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### PUBLICATION "ENTERPRISES IN SERBIA AND THE 2030 AGENDA - PRIORITIES, CHALLENGES AND THE COVID-19 CRISIS"

The economic pillar of the "SDGs for All" Platform, the Centre for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES), has published an analysis 'Enterprises in Serbia and the 2030 Agenda - Priorities, Challenges and the COVID-19 Crisis'. The publication presents the results of a survey conducted in October 2020, which included 1,100 Serbian companies of different sizes, sectors and regions in which they operate. The survey provided data on the Serbian companies' familiarity with the 2030 Agenda, their social priorities, obstacles to faster growth and the effects of the pandemic on their business expectations.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – QUIZ LAUNCHED

The environmental pillar of the "SDGs for All" Platform, Belgrade Open School, has developed an educational quiz on the Sustainable Development Goals related to environmental protection. Before the quiz, the potential users are exposed to a brief description of each goal and with the 2030 Agenda, as an umbrella document for sustainable development. After that, they can proceed to test their knowledge through short questions related to different areas addressed by the environmental Sustainable Development Goals, related.

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### ROUND TABLE: CONTRIBUTION OF GENDER EQUALITY TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PIROT

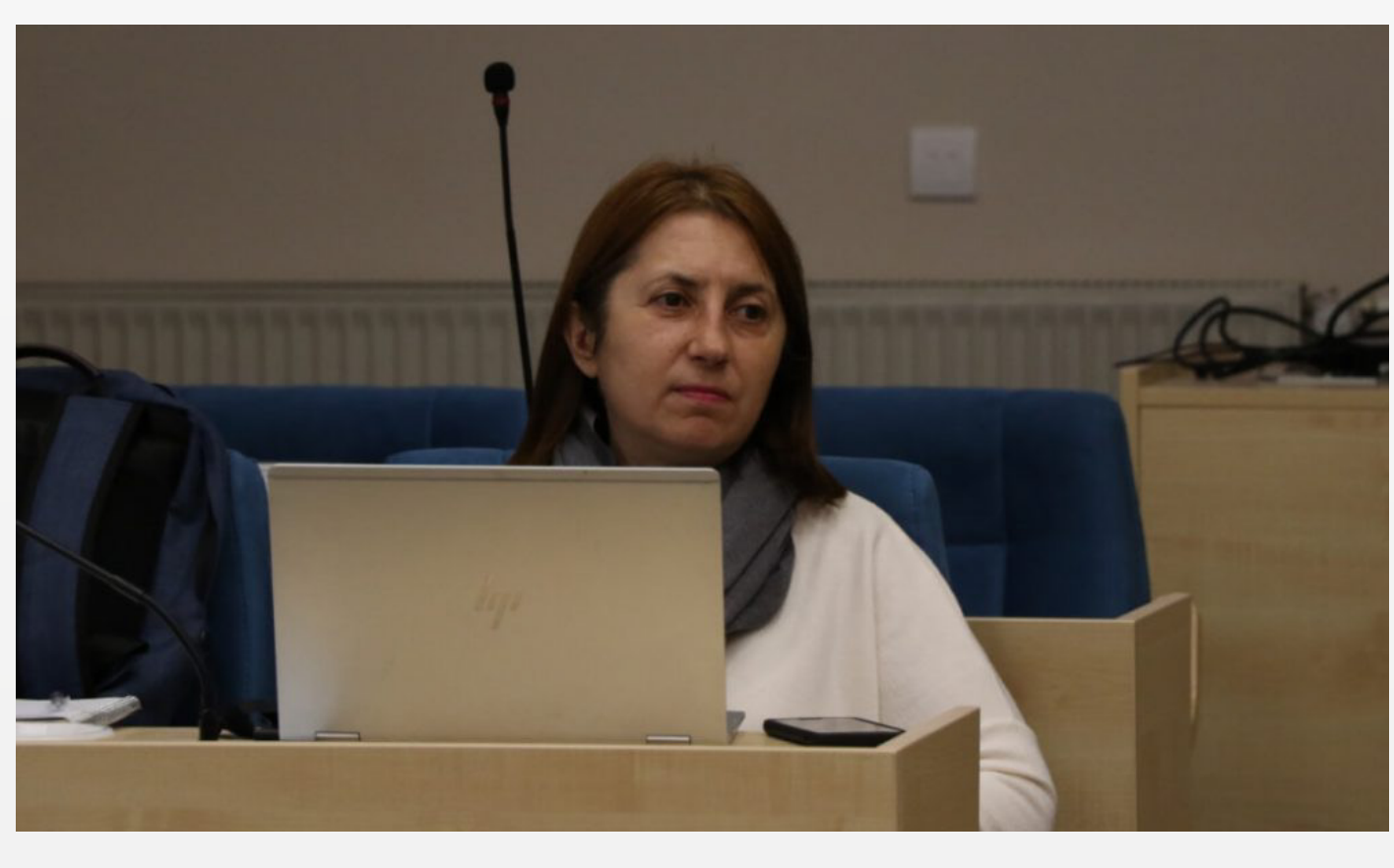
The round table 'Sustainable Development Goals at a Local Level - Contribution of Gender Equality to Achieving Sustainable Development' was organized by the social pillar of the "SDGs for All" Platform. The round table, organized in mid-June, was attended by the representatives of the Office for Local Economic Development, the local Council for Gender Equality, local civil society organizations and Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation. The discussion was mainly based on challenges in achieving gender equality in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and on ensuring gender integration into the local development policies in Pirot. The recommendations collected at the event will be used to introduce a gender component into the future Mid-term development plan of the city of Pirot.

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## INTERVIEW OF THE ISSUE

### THREE SUB-GOALS UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11 - INTERVIEW WITH TATJANA PAVLOVIĆ-KRIŽANIĆ

The social development of each country largely depends on the transformation of its cities. The directions of urban development reflect the quality of public policies in numerous areas, from economy and culture through environmental protection, to communal services. Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities, is one of essential parameters that should guide every government to commit to its citizens to 'raise the bar' in implementing key strategic priorities to improve the quality of life in urban areas.



We talked with Tatjana Pavlović-Križanić, legal and public policy expert, about the importance of the Goal 11 for Serbia and about the major challenges in this area. According to Pavlović-Križanić three key sub-goals under the Goal 11 are: solving the issue of solid communal waste, wrapping up the legalization process for illegal buildings in Serbia and increasing participation in the adoption of urban policies. Although there is an undisputed social consensus on these three issues, their resolution has taken decades due to insufficient coordination of different



sector policies, frequent changes of priorities and directions of strategic action and inadequate cooperation among actors at different decision-making levels.

"Over the past twenty years, the directions and regulatory mechanisms for managing urban development in Serbia have been changing frequently", points out Pavlović-Križanić. "One of the reasons that the areas outside the metropolitan zones have failed to redress their structural weaknesses is the inadequacy of proposed institutional solutions that would support the development of regional institutional infrastructure, especially in cities that are the seats of administrative districts. Kruševac is one of a few cities that have managed to establish themselves as regional centres and to attract significant funds to solve decades of deficiencies in water supply, waste management and wastewater treatment."

The main challenges affecting urban areas in the Republic of Serbia are depopulation and demographic aging, regional disparities, lack of basic communal and social infrastructure and unplanned urbanization.

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## INFOGRAPHIC

**70%** of all active landfills in towns and municipalities in Serbia are illegal

only **10** landfills meet the requirements for waste disposal in accordance with the international standards

The data in this infographic are part of the analysis "Path to social consensus on key goals of sustainable urban development", produced by the economic pillar of the "SDGs for All" Platform, which you can find at this link:

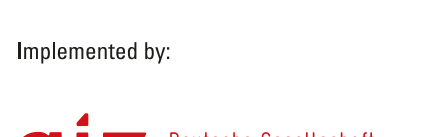
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