



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

It is my great pleasure to present to you the third edition of the newsletter of the society-wide dialogue platform "SDGs for All", established with the aim of emphasising the importance of the 2030 Agenda and achieving the sustainable development goals in Serbia.

The support of the German and Swiss governments and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has allowed the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, together with other six domestic civil society organisations and municipalities, to join a broad social dialogue on the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals. As an organisation dedicated to fieldwork, we recognise the need to promote the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals at various levels and areas across Serbia.

In partnership with the Centre for Democracy Foundation, we coordinate the work of the social pillar of the Platform. Through our efforts we are promoting the idea of a holistic approach in addressing the challenges facing the population throughout the country. Our work focuses on the first five goals of sustainable development: "No Poverty", "Zero Hunger", "Good Health and Well-being", "Quality Education" and "Gender Equality".

Since 2007, the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation has been helping citizens who face the most adverse of circumstances. We carry out an extensive fieldwork throughout Serbia, where we cooperate with local organisations and municipalities. As such, we are very aware of how many poor people there are in the country, people who barely meet the basic necessities of life. The people we support in the field are generally vulnerable in many ways. Stricken by poverty, which is often accompanied by illness, or some kind of disability, many are left without basic living conditions. In this sense, the basic goals of sustainable development that the Foundation works on include "No Poverty" and "Zero Hunger". These are the preconditions for the implementation of all other goals.

According to the latest data from 2019, the percentage of the population at risk of poverty was 23.2% (data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia).

7.3% of the population in Serbia - some 500,000 people, among them 100,000 children - live below the line of absolute poverty, with their basic living needs not covered (data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia).

Large families from rural, less developed municipalities, single-parent families, families with at least one member with a disability, victims of domestic violence and homeless people, are particularly at risk. In order to contribute to the improvement of the social situation in local communities, we provide various forms of support, including support to social enterprises, agricultural households, support for strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations targeting women, youth and other vulnerable categories of citizens. We have also distributed humanitarian aid in emergency situations such as floods, the migrant crisis or the most recent COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of our work on the "SDGs for All" Platform, we have established a good cooperation and partnership with the administrations of cities and municipalities such as Užice, Pirot, Zaječar and Apatin. This cooperation goes beyond the city administration, extending to the entire local communities.

We jointly identify acute and chronic problems and evaluate possible solutions through inclusive processes. In this context we have organised round tables and trainings in cooperation with the city administration. Here, representatives of the public, civil and business sectors have discussed recommendations on policies at the local and national level that can improve the lives of citizens and which fit into the framework in which our partners in the social pillar are active.



Ana Koeshall, Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation Executive Director

We work with civil society organisations to further build and expand their capacities. These experienced organisations are our partners working in the fields of sustainable development and campaigning to achieve sustainable development goals at a local level.

Local media are also in the focus of our support. Even the best campaign or conference that we organise does not mean much to us if the media are not involved, since they convey information to the public in a timely and accurate manner.

I would particularly like to emphasize that we work closely with other pillars from the Platform organizing and systematizing all our accumulated work, experiences and knowledge in an extensive data-base on the Platform's website. To this end we also organise a series of webinars that deal with the topics related to specific goals of sustainable development in the field of social inclusion, which can also be found on the website. This is our contribution to the body of knowledge on sustainable development that we are developing together with our partners.

In the past year, the Platform has done a lot, both nationally and locally, and what we see as even more important is what we have planned to do in the coming years. All partners from the civil sector involved in the work of the Platform have created a model of performance and mobilisation of local resources, identified possible obstacles and anticipated solutions and we expect to see more positive effects of these in the coming years and within changed environment.

NEWS



CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN PIROT

The social pillar of the Platform, implemented by the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation and the Centre for Democracy Foundation, organised three two-day training events to strengthen the capacities of the civil society organisations from Pirot. The participants were selected through an open competition in late July and early August 2021. In preparation for the upcoming public campaigns aimed at promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, representatives of the Women's Association "Lav", "Žene juga" (Women of the South) and "Udruženje Zvono" (Bell Association) have gained new knowledge in the field of organisational management, fundraising and communication and advocacy campaigns.

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HOW TO CONNECT THE NEEDS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE 2030 AGENDA

The Timok Youth Centre held a series of workshops with young people from Zaječar, Knjaževac and Bor on the topic of sustainable development goals, in the period from July to September 2021. This was done as part of the Economic Pillar of the Platform. Professor of Physics, Mladen Šljivović, moderated the workshops and through interactive content, the participants were introduced to the sustainable development goals and the possible contribution of young people in achieving them.

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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The article "Environment and Sustainable Development", which includes a presentation of the basic concepts related to the topic was created by the Belgrade Open School. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the article draws a special reference to the role of youth and examples of good practices in Serbia at the local level.

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SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPIONS IN SREMSKI KARLOVCI - WORKSHOP HELD FOR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

The Responsible Business Forum and Smart kolektiv held a workshop on the sustainable development goals for the representatives of local companies, at the end of July in Sremski Karlovci. The workshop was attended by the representatives of 13 small companies, mainly food producers from Sremski Karlovac and the surrounding municipalities. During the event, participants were able to learn about the business opportunities provided by the 2030 Agenda, hear the experiences of companies that are leaders in sustainability, as well as take the opportunity to network and learn more about specific areas of business, such as practices in the work environment, environmental practices, compliance with market requirements and engagement in the local community.

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THIS ISSUE'S CONTENT

THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: WHAT ARE THEY, AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

If we are to survive on this planet at all, we need to change our attitude towards the environment in which we live. If development is to continue, it must be in a sustainable manner. To start, let's get acquainted with the basic terms.



What is the environment anyway?

Just as people rarely differentiate between weather and climate, it often happens that they do not differentiate between ecology and the environment. These represent two related, but not identical concepts. Ecology is a natural science, a branch of biology, which studies the interrelationships of living beings as well as their relationship with the environment. In contrast, environmental protection is a multidisciplinary science that studies the impact of humans on the environment. For example, it investigates air, water or nature pollution and finds solutions to problems caused by the human activity.

If you want to get educated in the field of ecology, Faculty of Biology at the University of Belgrade offers both a bachelor's and a master's course on the subject.

Bachelor's and master's programs related to the environment are available at several faculties of the University of Belgrade (Faculty of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Geography, Faculty of Security, etc.), but also at other universities in Serbia (Faculty of Occupational Safety in Nis), Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad, etc.).

Why is it important to take care of the environment?

You do not need to become an ecologist or have a university degree to be able to take care of the environment. By changing seemingly harmless everyday habits, you can contribute to the global fight against climate change and prevent further environmental degradation. Each contribution is calculated, either individually or cumulatively.

"BOS" is an example of a citizen's association that monitors and analyses laws, strategic and planning documents and other public policy documents that regulate various areas of environment. Knowing that the air in almost all cities in Serbia is polluted, it implies that we need regulations that would adequately regulate this area in the hope of allowing us to breathe cleaner air and improve the quality of life of all citizens. We participate in public debates, provide support to other organisations and implement joint initiatives because we know how important it is that the measures adopted by the authorities (on our behalf) are appropriate and geared towards solving the existing problems.

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INFOGRAPHICS DATA

THE 2030 AGENDA HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY 193 STATES



The goals are divided according to the 3 dimensions of sustainable development:

The Economic dimension

The Social dimension

The dimension of Environmental protection

The environmental pillar of the SDGs for ALL Platform is made up of the Belgrade Open School and the Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society. It is in charge of the following Sustainable Development Goals within the Platform:

Grid of 6 Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 14 (Life Below Water), Goal 15 (Life on Land)

Logos of partner organizations: BOS, bfpe, CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM, DIVAC, FCD, smart kolektiv, toc, German-Serbian Partnership (Deutsche Zusammenarbeit), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, and GIZ.