

NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2023



INTRODUCTION

Dear readers,

It is our great pleasure to present to you, after a short break, the new edition of the "SDGs for All" Platform newsletter.

Thanks to the support of the governments of Switzerland and Germany, as well as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, seven domestic civil society organizations gathered within the Platform have been actively participating in a broad social dialogue on the 2030 Agenda for three years now. The Platform has done a lot both at the national and at the local level, but there is still a lot of work ahead, on the path to further approaching the SDGs in Serbia.

We invite you to follow our activities on Platform's website, LinkedIn, and Facebook.

"SDGs for AII" Platform Secretariat

MEETING OF THE THEMATIC EXPERT GROUP "ERADICATION OF POVERTY"

The Center for Democracy Foundation (CDF), within the Social Pillar of the "SDGs for All" Platform, organized a meeting of the Thematic Expert Group "Eradication of Poverty" on March 28th in Belgrade, to discuss the analysis and preparation of advocacy initiatives relevant to SDG 1 - A World Without Poverty. Data on projections of absolute poverty were analyzed, which particularly affects the oldest and youngest citizens of Serbia, and especially those living outside the city and municipal centers. It was emphasized that the reforms of the two categories of social benefits – child benefit and social welfare payments – could stop the worrying trend of poverty growth.

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SMEs TO BE AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

The Economic Pillar of the "SDGs for All" Platform held an exhibition and panel discussion "It's time for SMEs!" on March 2nd, 2023. The representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises, state institutions important for the development of the SME sector, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, and others interested in the further development of the SME sector, discussed what is needed for this part of the economy to continue to grow and contribute even more strongly to the sustainable development of Serbia. The event was a followup of the previous successful SME100 Expo, organized by CEVES in early June 2022 in Kragujevac.

NEXT SME100 EVENT "SME100 EXPO 2023 PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT ↔ SME DEVELOPMENT" WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 IN POŽEGA

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CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF DEVELOPING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STRATEGY

Aiming to involve a wider circle of organizations in the early stages of drafting the National Environmental Protection Strategy, Belgrade Open School, Young Researchers of Serbia and Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute organized the 2nd consultative meeting with civil society organizations with expertise in the field of environmental protection, on May 15. Participants emphasized that it is extremely important to harmonize all five pillars of the Strategy, and that measures and activities need to be concrete.

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CONSULTATIONS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO BE AS BROAD AS POSSIBLE

In a meeting held on April 19 on drafting a proposal for the Regulation on the procedure for the preparation of the draft Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia the representatives of civil society organizations gathered around the "SDGs for All" Platform emphasized the need to specify who appoints the members of the expert working group coming from the ranks of non-state actors (CSOs, academia and the business sector), as well as the need to clarify the role of the National Assembly in the process. They called for making the consultations as broad as possible and for the participants to be as informed as possible, as well as to ensure that the Analysis of the initial state sets goals and priorities, while serving as basis for the SDGs nationalization and prioritization.

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NEW STATISTICAL SDG PROGRESS REPORT FOR SERBIA HAS BEEN PUBLISHED

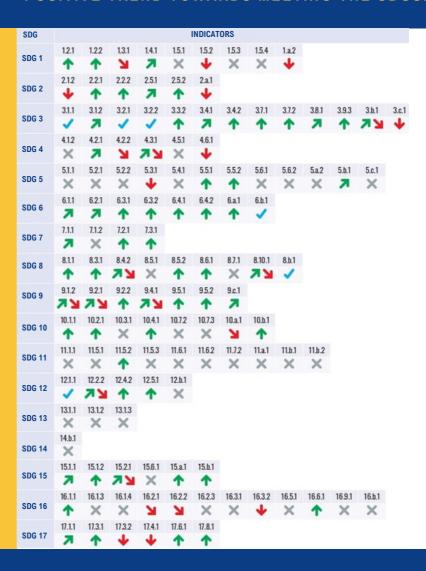
The Statistical Office published its 3rd <u>Progress report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia</u>, with the support of the governments of Germany and Switzerland within the Public Finance Reform – 2030 Agenda project.

Monitoring progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an important aspect of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A solid factual basis is crucial for planning, decision-making and further improvement of policies that lead to the realization of these global goals.

OUT OF 248 GLOBAL INDICATORS, CURRENTLY 128 INDICATORS WITHIN 17 SDGS ARE MONITORED FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, WHICH IS 18 INDICATORS MORE COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE REPORT ALSO REVEALS THAT 48 PERCENT OF THE MONITORED INDICATORS SHOW A POSITIVE TREND TOWARDS MEETING THE SDGS.

PROGRESS DASHBOARD TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Source: Progress Report on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia



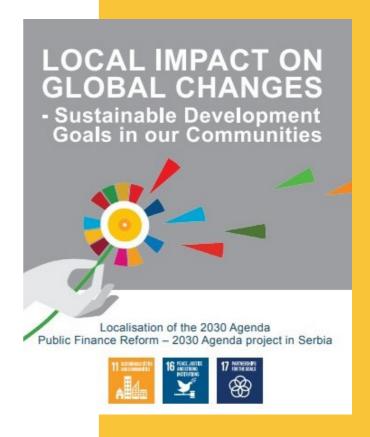
LOCALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda is a universal strategy that encompasses 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and includes three dimensions - economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. It is based on three key values: respect for human rights, respect for the principle of leaving no one behind and gender equality.

The Republic of Serbia has participated in the elaboration of these goals through the work of state institutions and civil society and is committed to their implementation, in cooperation with its partners.

Since the achievement of the SDGs largely depends on decisions made at the local level, the Public Finance Reform - 2030 Agenda project has placed a strong focus on the localization of the 2030 Agenda, with the aim to strengthen the capacities of local self-governments and other local stakeholders for the prioritization and implementation of SDGs, based on multisectoral collaboration and exchange.

This approach also complements the efforts of the "SDGs for ALL" Platform to facilitate a broad social dialogue at the local level on local development priorities in line with the SDGs.



In the past three years, the localization of the 2030 Agenda has been carried out through the support to the key state and non-state partners, such as the Prime Minister's Cabinet, the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia, local self-governments and civil society organizations, supported through the Fund for Sustainable Local Development, and others. The most significant results of these partnerships, lessons learned and changes that were achieved during the work on this project are summarized in a short publication Local impact on global changes - Sustainable Development Goals in our Communities. We hope that the partners' experiences, motivation, actions and results will inspire other local self-governments, communities and organizations to work together on the localization of the 2030 Agenda.



















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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



