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Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

According to the National Youth Strategy which has been adopted in 2008 and the Law on Youth that has been adopted last year, in the Republic of Serbia youth is referring to young people between 15 and 30 years of age. Current EU Youth Strategy has been implementing in the Republic of Serbia only through the “Youth in Action” Programme. Actually, we can participate only in Action 2 and 3.1 of the Youth in Action Programme, so, Serbian organisations can apply directly to the Executive agency in Brussels.

The National Youth Agency has not yet been established in Serbia and therefore we cannot participate in the „Youth in Action“ programe directly, but the support for this program is established through our NGO contact points. At the moment, our contact points are NGOs „Let’s...“, „Balkan Idea“ Novi Sad and Educational Center Kruševac.

<http://www.hajdeda.org.rs>

www.ec.org.rs

www.balkanideans.org

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education? If yes

Partially, yes. In **National Youth Strategy** (2008) is stated that „young people have both, the interest and the obligation to deal with the issues of environment and sustainable development, since they have to live with the consequences of that what was left to them by previous generations and they have to think about future generations“. Also, in **Education Strategy in the Republic of Serbia until 2020** (2012) is clearly said „there is need to understand the modern world and the direction to which its development is going, to be reliable enough to identify desirable and feasible future of the Republic of Serbia“.

How is Global Education promoted?

In the Republic of Serbia Global Education is promoted through the work of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development, schools, local youth offices and NGOs.

In November 2011, during the Global Education Week in the 9th Belgrade Gymnasium was held the third meeting of peer educators within the project "**Tolerance and Non-Violence**", organized by the United Nations Association of Serbia, and financed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport. The program is aimed through various exercises and discussions to raise awareness about the importance of respecting the values of tolerance and encourage personal contribution to the prevention of violence and the promotion of a culture of peace in the community. Global Education week in 2011 was conducted under the slogan "Let's do something for our planet", in which the Ministry of Youth and Sport took on the role of National Coordinator since the aims of Global Education Week are completely in compliance with the goals of the National Youth Strategy.

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Additionally, the Youth Dialogue Programme organized a Training Course "**You are Part of this World, be a Part of its Future**", dedicated to Global Education from November 18th to November 27th, 2011 in Fruska Gora, Serbia. This project was funded by the Youth in Action Programme and was opened for participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*¹, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.

This year, NGO Interkultura in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sport organized three-day (September 28-30) seminar "**Global and intercultural education for young people in Serbia: building and empowerment platform for global education programs for young people at the local level**". This seminar was part of a project funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sport under the National Youth Strategy implementing it in cities and municipalities in country. In three secondary schools (Ivanjica, Subotica and Veliko Gradište) during Global Education Week in the second half of November 2012, were organized different kinds of activities (workshops, presentations, lectures).

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

During these kind of activities the most tackled aspects of Global Education are the following ones:

- introduction of the goals and actions of global learning;
- increasing the level of awareness in the area of sustainable development among young Europeans;

¹ *This label [i.e. "Kosovo"] does not prejudice the status of Kosovo and is in accordance with Resolution 1244 and the opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

- increasing the knowledge level of young people in topics like: global interdependencies (from cultural, economical and political approach), MDG-s, social and global justice, intercultural education, climate change, consumerism and sustainable lifestyle;
- stimulating youth workers to act as global education multipliers in their own organization and communities;
- introduction to global education, youth mobility, educational goals recommended by the European Union, intercultural exchange programs, as well as the way in which high school students can prepare for life in modern Europe.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

The main stakeholders in the field of Global Education in the Republic of Serbia beside the financial support of the Ministry of Youth and Sport to local youth offices and associations of youth and for youth are: professors in high schools, pupils and youth workers.

Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country?

If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?

Unfortunately, there is no such kind of document in our country.

2.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

Project "**Zeek - Green ECO education camp**" financed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport and implemented 2 years ago, for the main objective had training the trainers to improve the quality of life, including the preservation and protection of the environment, changing old habits and form new, and creating conditions for the unfolding environmental awareness among young people.

This year, for the first time Belgrade entered the map of world cities such as Athens, Copenhagen, Rome, Istanbul, Tel Aviv organizing "**Eco Week**" between 26th-30. November 2012. This event was presented by a number of lectures and workshops promoting innovative and sustainable issues. The first "Eco Week" in Serbia was held through workshops discussing projects at existing locations in Belgrade and was intended for all students and young professionals who are interested in the topic of sustainability.

Regional Project "**Green Banat**" lasted 17 months, from December 2010. to May 2012. One of the goals of this project was the education of young people and raising their environmental awareness.

Green List of Serbia's is development program BCIF, launched in cooperation with the Institute for Sustainable Communities and with financial support from USAID. The program is designed for organizations whose activities are aimed at the preservation and protection of the environment and sustainable development. The goal of the program is to support, develop and connect local environmental organizations that, as equal partners, together with other stakeholders in the community, working to improve sustainable development in Serbia. Members of the Green List of Serbia are environmental organizations focusing on recycling, biodiversity, education of youth in the field of environmental protection.

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

“Pupils’ involvement in ecological activities in schools” is a paper written by Jelena Stanisic in 2009 and published in Proceedings of the Institute for Educational Research Belgrade. The paper pre-made research results relating to the students' opinions about the activities that would prefer to be involved in, the independent variables depends on their willingness to engage, and in the relation between the knowledge possessed by pupils and their willingness to engage in environmental activities. The results indicate that students are more interesting activities that occur in nature, where they are direct participants and where they have the feeling they are doing something for the environment.

In 2010 report **“Young and Waste Management”** was published. This is report of the Youth Chamber Network that presents information and data on the attitudes of young people about the problem of waste management in five cities in Serbia (Belgrade, Vrbas, Zajecar, Uzice, Kraljevo) for stakeholders in schools and youth offices. The whole project and report were done with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia presenting an important pioneering step in this direction.

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

The research project entitled **“Survey of attitudes of citizens about environmental problems in towns on the Danube”** was conducted by a research team from the Sociological Association of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, in the period January-June 2008 under the auspices of the Fund for the nonprofit sector of Vojvodina and the Fund for Environmental Protection, Belgrade. Although to a large extent, the respondents believe that personally they can influence the resolution of environmental problems (70.6% of respondents believe it), and that the main obstacles in solving ecological problems are passive transmission of knowledge to the children (43.7%), while the motivation for the inclusion into specific ecological association is considerably lower (21.1%).

Last year was published the paper **“Citizens' Participation in Local Environmental Protection System”** written by Jovana Ckic, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad. The analysis, based on the results of the empirical research, is focused on the role of citizens as social actors in an environmental protection system at the local community level (city of Novi Sad). The research started from the premise that although there is an elementary citizens' environmental awareness, its manifest dimension is not well developed: Primarily due to the to lack of tradition in political participation, but also inadequate cooperation with relevant institutions within the system, as well as hierarchy of everyday life problems that citizens have to deal with resulting for the most of them in , a lack of space and motives concerning the engagement of this kind..

2.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

Unfortunately, there is no such kind of document in the Republic of Serbia.

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe (EU) in the field of youth?

Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia has signed **Agreement on cooperation in the field of youth policy and sports** with the Republic of Azerbaijan. Also, same kind of agreement was signed with **Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and /or youth research

There are several kinds of cooperation in the field of youth policy in the Republic of Serbia. Ministry of Youth and Sport is in charge for youth issues and it is dealing with it through different ways:

- **Bilateral cooperation**, which is accomplished through the exchange of knowledge and experiences with institutions responsible for youth, as well as through bilateral agreements on cooperation in the field of sports and youth policy. Within this kind of cooperation were signed: the Memorandum on cooperation in the field of sports and youth policy of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic Srpska, the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of youth policy and sports with the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Macedonia. This year were signed agreements with, Ukraine.
- **Intensive cooperation with the Council of Europe**, which has resulted in the participation of the Republic of Serbia in all relevant bodies for teens and partial agreements, and also support Youth Card EURO <26.
- **Serbia is active in Partial Agreement "North-South Centre"**, which is the framework for European cooperation on issues such as human rights, democracy and social inclusion.
- **Cooperation with international organizations** in the preparation and implementation of projects, such as United Nations agencies (IOM, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, etc.), British Council, OSCE, USAID, GIZ, ETF, the Government of Norway, the Republic of Italy, etc. Areas in which cooperation takes place are youth entrepreneurship, empowerment of youth offices, development of local action plans.

Support to the development of youth work on other continents

Some non-governmental organizations in our country are dealing with this issue by organizing youth voluntarily work abroad. (More about this can be found in the answer on the next question below.)

3.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

There are also non government organizations in our country which organize youth exchange programs. For example, nongovernmental organization Civic Initiatives launched in 2009 **Serbian Youth Leadership Programme**. It is an exchange programme with the U.S. aimed at high school students and adults who are active in youth work and is conducted in cooperation with World Learning in Washington and Civic Initiatives. The program is financially supported by the Department of Education and Culture, U.S. Department of State, conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade (Public Affairs Section).

AIIESEC organizes **AIIESEC international exchange program** which allows students to spend 6 weeks abroad, participate in the work and life of a completely different culture, make friends all over the world, and gain practical skills by volunteering at one of the many projects have a positive impact on society.

The "**Eurodisej**" (Eurodysee) is an interregional youth exchange programme between regions of members of the Assembly of European Regions (Assembly of European Regions - AER) that

allows young people aged 18 to 30 years the opportunity to gain professional experience lasting from 3 to 7 months, and liquid learn a foreign language in one of the 39 European regions.

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

Unfortunately, such kind of information is not available at the moment.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues?

There isn't any institutional support of financing mechanism for young people in Serbia to participate in policy making on global issues. However, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Republic in Serbia actively encourages and supports young people to participate in all the events organized by the Council of Europe (trainings, conferences, etc.) through logistic and instructive support (for example, the latest one, Council of Europe conference on hate speech in November, Serbia had the representative).

Also, given that the umbrella organization of a great number of youth organizations in Serbia "Krovna organizacija mladih Srbije" – KOMS became a member of European Youth Forum in 2012, we have to emphasize that Ministry of Youth and Sport through the years provided large support for the named organization, financially and logistically.

Although there isn't any institutional mechanism, through given examples young people in Serbia have the chance to participate in activities on global policy-making.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

Unfortunately, such kind of information is not available at the moment.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

It can be said that young people in Serbia are involved in NGOs which are dealing with these issues, but unfortunately, the exact data are not available.