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# **Comparative analysis of the National Youth Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2015–2025 and international and national strategies/programs in the field of youth policy**

Srđan Mitrović

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## I. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| AI           | Artificial Intelligence   |
| COE          | Council of Europe   |
| COEYSS       | Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030  |
| CSO          | Civil Society Organisations   |
| EC           | European Commission   |
| EMS          | Economic Migration Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2027   |
| ES           | Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2026   |
| ESC          | European Solidarity Corps   |
| EU           | European Union  |
| EUYS 2010–18 | EU Youth Strategy 2010–2018   |
| EUYS 2019–27 | EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027   |
| IPS          | Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2030  |
| KOMS         | National Youth Council of Serbia  |
| LOY          | Law on Youth  |
| LSU          | Local self-government unit  |
| MOYS         | Ministry of Youth and Sports  |
| NAPOR        | National Association of Youth Work Practitioners  |
| NYS          | National Youth Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2015–2025                                |
| PHS          | Public Health Strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2018–2026  |
| PMHP         | Program on the Protection of mental Health in the Republic of Serbia 2019–2026                            |
| RS           | Republic of Serbia  |
| SARD         | Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2024  |
| SCTM         | Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities   |
| SDAI         | Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2025               |
| SDE          | Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia 2030                                  |
| SDGs         | Sustainable Development Goals (UN Agenda 2030)  |
| SDSD         | Strategy of Digital Skills Development in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2024                                |
| SIPPD        | Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2024 |
| SPPCV        | Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2020–2023                                |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| SSTD     | Strategy for Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2025 with the motto “Power of Knowledge” |
| UN       | United Nations  |
| UNA2030  | The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development   |
| UNYS2030 | The UN Youth Strategy 2030  |
| WHO      | World Health Organisation   |
| YO       | Youth Office  |
| 4S       | Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020–2027   |

**II. INTRODUCTION**

**2.1. Subject and goal of the analysis**

The subject of the comparative analysis is review of key international youth strategies and programs in the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: RS) that are relevant for young people and, on the other hand, of the National Youth Strategy in the RS for the period between 2015-2025 (hereinafter: NYS) in order to consider possible directions of action in the process of revision or development of a new NYS.

Furthermore, international youth strategies are analysed, which determine the principles, directions and expected results of action of youth policy actors to improve the social position of young people and create conditions for exercising their rights and interests in all relevant areas defined by the national strategy. In addition, key national strategies/programs of the RS were analysed to determine the specifics, areas of action and measures concerning youth, the coverage of youth policy in the mentioned strategies/programs and other elements that represent links with NYS, with special focus on youth migration.

The aim of the analysis is to make recommendations on potential courses of action for decision makers and key partners in the process of development/revision and concretization of NYS. Also, the aim of the analysis is to ask the right questions in the process of updating or drafting a new NYS, use existing ideas and practices of international strategies in the field of youth and identify goals, activities, and measures of existing RS national strategies. The questions that RS youth policy actors involved in the NYS development/revision process should ask from the position of a young person in the RS are some of the following: *Where will I go to school? Where will I get a job? Will I earn enough for a decent life? How can I stay healthy and where can I be treated? Whom can I consult if I have personal problems? Can I enter*

*the post office if I'm in a wheelchair? How can I protect myself from violence? And many more. The analysed international and national strategies/programs address these issues and demonstrate their importance for the lives of young people and thus for the NYS revision process.*

In addition to the desire for this analysis to contribute to the harmonization of NYS with national and international strategies/programs relevant to youth, there remains the desire for it to encourage similar analyses in the future by expanding the list of analysed strategies/programs. The analysis aims to provide the collected information and conclusions with concrete use value primarily to the actors of youth policy in Serbia involved in the process of drafting/updating the NYS during 2021, and secondarily to point out to the creators of other national strategies in the RS the importance of recognizing youth as a specific target group.

## 2.2. Criteria of analysis

The included international strategies in the field of youth were analysed using the following criteria:

| <b>Strategy analysis/elements/aspects</b>                                  | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>General concept</b>   | How is the strategy conceived?  |
| <b>General and specific goals</b>  | What are the strategic and specific goals and/or what is the mission and vision and/or values and principles?                           |
| <b>Priorities</b>  | What are the priority areas/topics of the strategy?   |
| <b>Implementation</b>  | How is it implemented (key mechanisms and measures)?  |
| <b>Actors</b>  | Who is involved in the implementation of the strategy (number, structure, and description by sectors)?                                  |
| <b>Success indicators</b>  | What are the indicators of success and how are they monitored (number of indicators across topics/areas, quantitative and qualitative)? |
| <b>Monitoring and evaluation</b>   | Which instance and institution are assigned to monitor the implementation of the strategy and how is the monitoring implemented?        |
| <b>Participation in the preparation and implementation of the strategy</b> | Participation of young people, their organizations as well as organizations working for young people                                    |
| <b>Comparative analysis of international strategy and NYS</b>              |   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Similarities between NYS and the international strategy</b> | What is in common with the NYS 2015–2025, which goals/areas/topics?  |
| <b>Differences between NYS and the international strategy</b>  | What is different from the NYS 2015–2025, and what is missing in comparison to the international strategy? |

The covered national strategies/programs were analysed using the following criteria:

| <b>Strategy/program analysis</b>                                     | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>Basic information on youth and youth policy</b>                   | What are the characteristics/specifics and what is defined by the strategy/program in correlation to the youth policy?              |
| <b>Comparative analysis of the national strategy/program and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | How are young people defined (age limits) and are they a multidisciplinary issue or are they recognized as a separate target group? |
| <b>Aims</b>  | Which goals (general or specific) are mentioning youth?   |
| <b>Role of the MOYS</b>  | Is MOYS recognised as a carrier of activities, or as a partner, and in what measures/activities?                                    |
| <b>Measures and activities</b>                                       | What measures and activities in the field of youth envisaged by the strategy/program overlap with the NYS?                          |

### 2.3. Sample

The analysis covered a total of 17 strategies/programs, of which four international and 13 relevant national strategies/programs of the RS. An overview of the analysed strategies is given below:

| <b>Source</b>      | <b>Strategy/program title</b>   |
|--------------------|---|
| European Union     | EU Youth strategy 2019–2027 <sup>1</sup>                              |
| Council of Europe  | Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030 <sup>2</sup>             |
| United Nations     | UN Youth Strategy <sup>3</sup>  |
| United Nations     | Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 <sup>4</sup>                  |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014–2024 <sup>5</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> Link for more details: [EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027](#)

<sup>2</sup> Link for more details: [Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030](#)

<sup>3</sup> Link for more details: [Youth 2030: The UN Youth Strategy](#)

<sup>4</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations the 2030 agenda for sustainable development](#)

<sup>5</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2014\), br. 85/14.](#)

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Republic of Serbia | Public Health Strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2018–2026 <sup>6</sup>  |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2025 <sup>7</sup>   |
| Republic of Serbia | Economic Migration Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2027 <sup>8</sup>   |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy of Digital Skills Development in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2024 <sup>9</sup>  |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2024 <sup>10</sup>  |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2020–2023, including the Action plan 2020 and 2021 for the implementation of the Strategy <sup>11</sup> |
| Republic of Serbia | Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2030 <sup>12</sup>   |
| Republic of Serbia | Program on the Protection of mental Health in the Republic of Serbia 2019–2026 <sup>13</sup>   |
| Republic of Serbia | Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020–2027 <sup>14</sup>  |
| Republic of Serbia | Employment Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2026 including the Action plan 2021–2023 for the implementation of the Employment Strategy 2021–2026 <sup>15</sup>    |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy for the Development of Education of the Republic of Serbia 2030 <sup>16</sup>   |
| Republic of Serbia | Strategy for the Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2025 with the motto “ <i>Power of Knowledge</i> ” <sup>17</sup>                 |

## 2.4. Limitations

The task related to the comparative review of strategic frameworks in the field of youth is limited to the observed international and national strategies/programs whose subject, goal, and purpose is improving the social position of young people. The analysis<sup>18</sup> included only official and publicly available documents and did not include

<sup>6</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2018\), br. 61/18.](#)

<sup>7</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2019\), br. 96/19.](#)

<sup>8</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2020\), br. 21/20.](#)

<sup>9</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2020\), br. 21/20.](#)

<sup>10</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2020\), br. 44/20.](#)

<sup>11</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2020\), br. 80/20.](#)

<sup>12</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2020\), br. 35/20.](#)

<sup>13</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2019\), br. 84/19.](#)

<sup>14</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2020\), br. 21/20.](#)

<sup>15</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2021\), br. 18/21.](#)

<sup>16</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2021\), br. 63/21.](#)

<sup>17</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Službeni glasnik RS \(2021\), br. 10/21.](#)

<sup>18</sup> The analysis was implemented in the period August–September 2021 and was limited by the period available.

other related international and national acts, which in part regulate the issues of interest to young people. In this regard, internal documents, research, acts, policies, strategies, programs, and action plans that are part of the analysed strategies/programs, and which are regulated by special acts, are not considered in this analysis.

International strategies are analysed in the English version, with or without partial translation available. In this regard, there is a possibility that some terms have been considered and used in an inaccurate translation.

International strategies are a response to the position of young people in society. This situation is subject to change, and the most common reasons for that are economic and social, but also current, including the COVID-19 pandemic. All these factors, and most of all the pandemic, have created a "*new reality*" in the lives of young people.<sup>19</sup> Considering that the period of implementation of most international strategies started before the pandemic, the gap between the existing youth strategies and the current and future needs of young people has further increased. It can be expected that in the coming period, international strategies will be updated to be part of the "*new normality*" of young people and to include all the short-term and long-term effects of the pandemic. Consequently, only the existing international and national strategies/programs were considered in this analysis.

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<sup>19</sup> Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll and Howard Williamson, "European Youth Strategies – A reflection and analysis" (2021)



### III. ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

#### 3.1. European Union Youth Strategy 2019–2027

Support for the development of youth policy in EU countries had the following chronological sequence:

- ⇓ In 2001, the European Commission (hereinafter: the EC) published a White Paper entitled “*A new impetus for European youth*”<sup>20</sup> which set the framework for European cooperation in the field of youth, standards for defining a comprehensive framework for youth policy in the EU and opening the EU decision-making process to young people. The document was preceded by extensive consultations at the European level which confirmed that, despite very different circumstances in EU member states, young people generally share the same values, ambitions, but also the same difficulties that need to be addressed by a coherent strategy at the EU level.
- ⇓ In 2002, the first framework of European cooperation in the field of youth was adopted<sup>21</sup> within which, in line with the open method of coordination, EU countries focused on four priorities: information, participation, volunteering and better understanding of youth issues. In response to Member States' reports on the process of harmonizing their youth policies, the EC has implemented several measures, primarily in the field of informing youth. A number of these measures are still relevant today, such as the European Youth Portal (launched in 2003), Eurodesk, the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) and the European Youth Card (EYCA).<sup>22</sup>
- ⇓ In 2005, the European Pact for Youth<sup>23</sup> was adopted as an instrument of intersectoral policy that defined a set of policies and measures concerning the needs of young people in the domains: employment, integration, and social advancement. The European Pact for Youth, as an integral part of the Lisbon Strategy and as one of the instruments for promoting development and employment, pointed out that young people occupy a high place in the EU agenda. As a mechanism to implement this goal, the EU Council called on the

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<sup>20</sup> Link for more details: [European Commission \(2001\), White Paper – A new impetus for European youth \(COM/2001/0681 final\) \(2021\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> Link for more details: [EU Resolution of the Council and the representatives of the governments regarding the framework of European cooperation in the youth field \(2002/C 168/02\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> Links for more details: [European Youth Portal](#), [Eurodesk](#), [European Youth Information and Counselling Agency](#), [European Youth Card Association](#)

<sup>23</sup> Link for more details: [EU Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on addressing the concerns of young people in Europe – implementing the European Pact for Youth and promoting active citizenship \(2005/C 292/03\)](#)

European Commission and EU Member States to establish a continuous “*Structured Dialogue*”<sup>24</sup> with young people, but also with other relevant actors, and above all with civil society organizations. The Structured dialogue is still applied today under the name of EU Youth Dialogue.<sup>25</sup>

⇓ In 2009, the EU Council of Ministers adopted the EU Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field,<sup>26</sup> later described as the “*EU Youth Strategy 2010–2018*” (hereinafter: EUYS 2010–18) which emphasizes that “*youth policies should be evidence-based and should produce clear and visible results to be presented, considered and regularly and structurally distributed, to establish the basis for continuous evaluation*”. The strategy was created during the World Economic Crisis 2007–2008, and its focus (and the focus of other EU and national strategies adopted in that period) was on strengthening youth employability, entrepreneurship, and the transition from education to the labour market. Consequently, the strategy, in addition to the eight priority areas, had two main objectives: providing equal opportunities for young people in education and the labour market, and encouraging young people to active participation, social inclusion and solidarity. The strategy envisages the implementation of activities in eight priority areas: education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, youth participation in democratic processes, volunteering, social inclusion, youth and the world, creativity, and culture.

⇓ In 2018, the EU Council of Ministers adopted a resolution of the European Youth Strategy (hereinafter: EUYS 2019–27), which provides a framework for the development of youth policy in the EU for the period 2019–2027. Economic problems, which were the focus of the previous strategy, were overshadowed by new challenges in Europe at the time of the adoption of the new strategy, such as the rise of extremism and youth radicalization, the migrant crisis, and the strengthening of right-wing movements across the EU.<sup>27</sup> Influenced by these challenges, the new youth strategy has placed emphasis on youth inclusion and that all young people have all the necessary conditions to participate in society.

Below is an overview of the EUYS 2019–27 strategy.

### **EUYS 2019–27 Strategy Analysis**

<sup>24</sup> Link for more details: [Structured Dialogue](#)

<sup>25</sup> Link for more details: [EU Youth Dialogue](#)

<sup>26</sup> Link for more details: [EU Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field \(2010-2018\) \(2009/C 311/01\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll and Howard Williamson, “European Youth Strategies – A reflection and analysis” (2021)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>General concept</b></p>            | <p>The EU Youth Strategy focuses on three main areas of action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Engage</b> – meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural and political participation of young people in the life of the EU in order to have a voice in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies that affect them;</li> <li>2. <b>Connect</b> – connecting young people in the EU is a key tool for solidarity and the future development of the EU. This connection is best nurtured through various forms of mobility that are supported through various EU youth programs. The strategy also recognizes co-operation with non-EU countries, including the RS within the Western Balkans region;</li> <li>3. <b>Empower</b> – the youth sector has (for the first time) been put in focus by the new strategy, as a catalyst for the empowerment of young people across Europe who are facing different challenges. To reap the benefits of youth work, there is a greater need for recognition of non-formal and informal learning in working with youth, which is particularly useful for those with few formal qualifications, to support employability and youth inclusion.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>General and specific goals</b></p> | <p>General goal:<br/>EUYS 2019–27 encourages the participation of young people in democratic life and is in line with Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. The strategy aims to encourage social and civic engagement, as well as participation in the democratic life of all young people.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enable young people to be the creators of their lives, support their personal development until the moment of independence, build their resilience and life skills in order to successfully cope with a changing world;</li> <li>- encourage and equip young people with the necessary resources they need to become active citizens, bearers of solidarity and positive change inspired by EU values and European identity;</li> <li>- improve policy decisions regarding their impact on young people in all sectors, especially in employment, education, health and social inclusion;</li> </ul>  |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contribute to the eradication of youth poverty and all forms of discrimination and promote the social inclusion of young people.</li> </ul> <p>Guiding principles:<br/>The EUYS has a strong foothold in the international human rights system and its activities should be guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the principle of equality and non-discrimination (combating all forms of discrimination and promoting gender equality);</li> <li>- the principle of inclusion (young people are not a homogeneous group, especially young people with disabilities, and they need support to be included in society);</li> <li>- the principle of participation (support the right of young people to participate in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies);</li> <li>- global, European, national, regional and local dimension (so that the voice of young people can be heard at all levels, from local to global);</li> <li>- double approach, agreed already in EUYS 2010–18, because youth policies cannot be limited to the youth field. Two levels of action are needed, the integration of youth issues at all levels of EU policy and, in parallel, support for specific initiatives in the youth sector.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Priorities</b> | <p>During the sixth cycle of the structured dialogue (now the EU Youth Dialogue) entitled "<i>Youth in Europe: What's next?</i>" decision-makers, young people and youth researchers have gathered relevant youth topics throughout an EU-level consultation process and grouped them into 11 key objectives. They are based on the attitudes and opinions of more than 50,000 young people and represent the EU's vision for young people. Eleven European goals for the advancement of the position of young people reflect the views of European youth and define strategic priorities for all member states. They are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connecting EU with Youth,</li> <li>- Equality of All Genders,</li> <li>- Inclusive Societies,</li> <li>- Information &amp; Constructive Dialogue,</li> <li>- Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing,</li> <li>- Moving Rural Youth Forward,</li> </ul>  |

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality Employment for All,</li> <li>- Quality Learning,</li> <li>- Space and Participation for All,</li> <li>- Sustainable Green Europe,</li> <li>- Youth Organisations &amp; European Programs.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Implementation</b> | <p>For the implementation of EUYS measures 2019–27, specific programs at the EU level have been defined, which contain measures for the implementation of the EUYS: Erasmus+ program, European Solidarity Corps, European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Creative Europe, and others.<sup>28</sup></p> <p>In addition, the strategy calls on Member States to implement measures through synergies between EU funding sources and sources at national, regional, and local levels.</p> <p>In addition to EU programs, the EUYS envisages a number of new or updated implementation and monitoring instruments, such as the Youth Wiki, the EU Youth Strategy Platforms, and the EU Youth Indicators Overview, which are described in detail below in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.</p>       |
| <b>Actors</b>         | <p>The EU Council of Ministers makes key decisions in the field of youth policy in the EU. The meetings of the Council are prepared by the Youth Working Party<sup>29</sup> and are attended by representatives of the Ministries of Youth of the EU Member States and members of COREPER.<sup>30</sup></p> <p>EUYS 2019–27 specifies the responsible institutions, relevant social actors, but leaves room for the participation of other actors. The strategy defined the following implementation partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 27 EU Member States,</li> <li>- relevant EU institutions,</li> <li>- other international organizations (e.g., Council of Europe, United Nations...),</li> <li>- local and regional bodies of local self-government,</li> <li>- youth councils,</li> <li>- youth organizations,</li> </ul> |

<sup>28</sup> Links for more details: [Erasmus+](#), [European Solidarity Corps](#), [European Structural and Investment Funds](#), [Horizon 2020](#), [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#), [Creative Europe](#).

<sup>29</sup> Link for more details: [Youth Working Party](#)

<sup>30</sup> Link for more details [COREPER – Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union](#)

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- organizations working with young people,</li> <li>- persons working with young people,</li> <li>- researchers in the field of youth,</li> <li>- civil society actors,</li> <li>- structures within the Erasmus+ program and the European Solidarity Corps.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Success Indicators</b></p> | <p>EUYS success indicators are qualitative and are contained in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- three areas of action (inclusion, connecting and empowerment);</li> <li>- 11 key objectives (connecting the EU with young people, gender equality, inclusive society, information and constructive dialogue, mental health and well-being of young people, support for young people in rural areas, quality employment for all young people, quality learning, space for all young people, sustainable green Europe and youth organizations and European programs).</li> </ul> <p>On the other hand, specific EU programs contain qualitative and quantitative indicators of success and clear and quantifiable measures for the implementation of the EUYS. The two key EU programs for the implementation of the EUYS are Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. The former predicts that about ten million individuals will participate in mobility activities, while the number of participants in the international mobility of the European Solidarity Corps will be about 270,000 in the period of seven years.</p> <p>EUYS implementation indicators are monitored at several levels and using various instruments, which are described in detail below in the Monitoring and Evaluation section.</p> <p>In addition to the EUYS, the establishment of a future National Action Plan (FNAP) is envisaged.<sup>31</sup> The plan serves for Member States to share their priorities in line with the EUYS for youth. The objectives are to increase transparency in the implementation of youth policies, to create a basis for launching potential bilateral or multilateral projects and activities in the field of youth policy, to identify areas for mutual</p> |

<sup>31</sup> Link for more details: [Future National Activities Planner](#)

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
|                                  | learning between member states and to give a European dimension to national and regional youth policy activities.   |
| <b>Monitoring and evaluation</b> | <p>The institution responsible for monitoring and implementing the EUYS is the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (EAC),<sup>32</sup> consisting of a youth unit within Directorate B (Youth, Education and Erasmus+). Within the Directorate of Units, EAC.B.3<sup>33</sup> oversees all aspects of EU youth policy and programs.</p> <p>Several mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the EUYS are envisaged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EC will, based on reports from member states and the Youth Wiki<sup>34</sup> platform, report every three years on the implementation of the strategy;</li> <li>- The Youth Wiki platform will monitor the development of national youth policies in the Member States;</li> <li>- Organizations for youth, and other actors in the field of youth will participate through the Platform for EU Youth Strategy<sup>35</sup> in coordination of the strategy. The European Commission will organize special meetings, bringing together representatives of EU institutions, Member States, Erasmus+ national agencies, youth organizations and other relevant actors, as well as local and regional authorities;</li> <li>- Overview of EU youth indicators<sup>36</sup> is used to monitor the general situation of young people in the Member States. It was created to provide a rapid and comprehensive cross-sectoral overview of the economic and social situation of young people in the EU. It includes data from multiple sources and covers topics relevant to the EUYS. The EC and Member States are invited to establish quantitative and qualitative indicators at national levels after the first year of implementation of the strategy, using these indicators in order to monitor the implementation of the strategy;</li> <li>- through the evaluation of EU-funded research projects, the impact of the strategy should be continuously implemented from 2019;</li> </ul> |

<sup>32</sup> Link for more details: [DIRECTORATE-GENERAL EAC Education, Youth, Sport and Culture](#)

<sup>33</sup> Link for more details: [Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office – EAC.B.3](#)

<sup>34</sup> Link for more details: [Youth Wiki](#)

<sup>35</sup> Link for more details: [EU Youth Strategy Platform](#)

<sup>36</sup> Link for more details: [The Dashboard of EU Youth Indicators](#)

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- mid-term evaluation is planned by the end of 2023 based on EC reports. The EU Council of Ministers will (if needed) adjust the strategy to new needs and circumstances.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Participation in the preparation and implementation of the strategy</b> | <p>The participation of young people, their associations, and associations for youth in the implementation of the EUYS is described in the monitoring and evaluation section (Platforms for the EU Youth Strategy).</p> <p>The main and most representative mechanism for EU youth participation in the decision-making process is called EU youth dialogue (formerly known as structured dialogue). EU dialogue with young people is a continuous process of consultation between young people and EU decision-makers with the aim of jointly defining and implementing policies relevant to young people at all levels. The process established in this way obliged the European Commission and all EU countries to hold regular consultations with young people. Since 2009, the European Union has been conducting 18-month cycles of EU dialogue with young people, in which they have the opportunity to present their opinions and proposals that can influence the creation and shaping of EU youth policies. The cycles have thematic priorities that are closely linked to the EUYS priorities. To support the implementation and management of EU dialogue with young people, the strategy recommends building partnerships at different levels, with youth councils, youth organizations and other stakeholders in the field, as well as partners from other sectors.</p> <p>The strategy encourages Member States to enable the participation of young people in all phases of the EU Youth Dialogue by giving existing youth umbrella organizations, national youth councils, youth organizations and partners from other sectors a leading role in this process, among other actions.</p> |
| <b>Comparative analysis of international strategy and NYS</b>              |  |
| <b>Similarities between NYS 2015–2025 and</b>                              | The two strategies are not completely comparable because they have different drivers, <sup>37</sup> legal framework, partners, geographical focus, and available resources for implementation.   |

<sup>37</sup> Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll and Howard Williamson, "European Youth Strategies – A reflection and analysis" (2021)



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| <p><b>international strategy</b></p>                                       | <p>On the other hand, there are several similarities: both are focused on solving the challenges that young people face, supporting them until the moment of independence. Both strategies are focused on young people and the needs of young people, unlike e.g., the Council of Europe's youth strategy, which focuses primarily on the youth sector. The EUYS and 11 key objectives and nine strategic objectives of the NYS cover similar areas, problems, and issues, with several differences (described below in the Differences section). In addition, both strategies want to (EUYS) <i>“encourage and equip with the necessary resources they need to become active citizens, bearers of solidarity and positive change”</i>, only the NYS starts from youth issues, while the EUYS starts from a youth-defined vision of Europe.</p>  |
| <p><b>Differences between NYS 2015–2025 and international strategy</b></p> | <p>NYS and EUYS have different bases in terms of content. The EUYS is focused on the vision that young people are the creators of the future of the EU, which should be inspired by EU values and European identity. On the other hand, the NYS is shaped by a <i>“problem-oriented”</i> approach that it shares with many national youth policies in Europe. The NYS wants to address a range of problematic issues raised or experienced by young people<sup>38</sup> and to respond to these issues with different measures.</p> <p>In addition, the difference of five years between the adoption of the NYS and the EUYS is visible in the goals of the two strategies. This is evident in the example of the topic of climate change, which came into focus of international and national policies only in the past few years, while at the time of drafting the NYS it was not sufficiently represented.</p> <p>The EUYS recognizes several activities, measures, mechanisms that have potential use value in the process of updating the NYS 2015–2025. More will be said below on how they can be adjusted for the needs of the revised NYS in Serbia.</p> <p><b>Youth work</b>, unlike in the previous EUYS 2010–18, is without doubt put in focus in the new EUYS strategy 2019–27. It is described as a catalyst for the empowerment of young people</p> |

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

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|  | <p>across Europe who face a variety of challenges. Youth work, due to its flexibility, creativity, and prevalence, is recognized as a key factor in preventing the exclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. It is also highlighted in the EU Resolution of the Council adopted in 2020 on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda.<sup>39</sup> In order to reap the benefits of youth work, the EUYS points out that there is a greater need to recognize non-formal and informal learning in youth work, which is particularly useful for those with few formal qualifications, to support employability.</p> <p>EUYS 2019–27 envisages several measures to support youth work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- development and implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda;</li><li>- support for the development of quality youth work at local, regional, national and European level, including the training of youth workers, the establishment of legal frameworks and the allocation of adequate resources for youth work;</li><li>- recognition of youth work at all levels and organizations in the field of youth as providers of services for the development of competencies and social inclusion of young people;</li><li>- creating and further developing, when and where possible, easily accessible youth contact points that provide a wide range of services and/or information for young people.</li></ul> <p><b>The EU Youth Coordinator</b> is a novelty in the EUYS. The role of the coordinator within the EC is a more efficient implementation of the strategy through strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation in the field of youth, and knowledge development, exchange of information on youth issues within the EC and to give young people (additional) voice in shaping EU policies. The youth coordinator was nominated in June 2021<sup>40</sup> and the results of the work are not yet known.</p> |
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<sup>39</sup> Link for more details: [EU Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda \(2020/C 415/01\)](#)

<sup>40</sup> Link for more details: [The EU Youth Coordinator has been nominated!](#)

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|  | <p><b>Climate change</b> – EUYS and NYS view climate change differently. While in the NYS they are mentioned only within the specific goal number 5 of the strategic goal <i>“Improved health and well-being of young women and men”</i>, in the EUYS <i>“sustainable green Europe”</i> is one of the 11 key goals. It is interesting that young people in the EU, according to public opinion polls,<sup>41</sup> define climate change and environmental degradation as the EU's top priority over inequality, employment, health and human rights.<sup>42</sup> In Serbia, <i>“Research on the position and needs of young people in the RS”</i><sup>43</sup> from August 2020 deals with a part of the topic of environmental protection, where 10% of respondents answered that they participated in an action for environmental protection. According to the <i>“Alternative Report on the Position and Needs of Youth in the Republic of Serbia 2020”</i><sup>44</sup> <i>“Among the values that young people choose, the most prominent are environmental protection, social and economic rights, human rights, solidarity, family and family values”</i>. Also, according to the latest <i>“Alternative Report on the Position and Needs of Youth in the Republic of Serbia 2021”</i><sup>45</sup> by KOMS, young people in Serbia pointed out that they value <i>“personal freedom (4.63), then environmental protection (4.55), and then the absence of corruption (4.38)”</i>, and the conclusion is that the topic of climate change and environmental protection is in the focus of the needs of young people in Serbia.</p> <p><b>Youth Wiki</b> – this new platform was launched in 2017 with the aim (among other things) of supporting the adoption and monitoring of evidence-based youth policies. It collects data on national youth structures, youth policies and youth-oriented activities. The Youth Wiki currently brings together 33 countries, including Serbia,<sup>46</sup> which joined in early 2019. The use value of the platform for EU youth policy actors is potentially high. It provides systematized information on youth policies in the Member States, contains chapters that follow the logic of EU youth policy priorities and facilitates the process of monitoring the implementation of the EUYS. It also points to</p> |
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<sup>41</sup> Link for more details [Eurobarometer, March \(2019\)](#)

<sup>42</sup> Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll and Howard Williamson, “European Youth Strategies – A reflection and analysis” (2021)

<sup>43</sup> Link for more details: [„Istraživanje položaja i potreba mladih u RS“- MOS \(2020\)](#)

<sup>44</sup> Link for more details: [Alternativni izveštaj o položaju i potrebama mladih u Republici Srbiji - KOMS \(2020\)](#)

<sup>45</sup> Link for more details: [Alternativni izveštaj o položaju i potrebama mladih u Republici Srbiji – KOMS \(2021\)](#)

<sup>46</sup> Link for more details: [Youth Wiki – Serbia country profile](#)

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|  | <p>examples of good practice that can be further used as inspiration by other countries in planning their youth strategies and provides key information on how much the EUYS has “descended” to the level of national, regional, and local strategies, laws, action plans of EU member states. The information is updated by national correspondents once a year, which further increases the usability of the platform.</p> <p><b>Consolidation of the European Youth Portal</b><sup>47</sup> as a single digital access point for youth information at EU level. The portal was launched in 2003 but has only become a “one stop shop” in the past few years because it brings together all EU youth programs, the EUYS and EU youth dialogue processes. The portal has a key role to play in providing quality information for young people about their rights, opportunities, youth services and EU youth programs.</p> <p><b>European Solidarity Corps 2021–2027</b> (hereinafter: ESC)<sup>48</sup> is an EU program that gives young people the opportunity to volunteer internationally and to contribute to communities and people across Europe. Currently, all 27 member states of the European Union have full participation in the ESC, along with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, and North Macedonia. The so-called ESC partner countries, which are the countries from the EU's neighbourhood, including Serbia, can participate in some parts of the ESC (volunteering).</p> <p>NYS 2015–2025 defines Serbia's participation in EU programs aimed at young people in strategic goal 7 “<i>Improved mobility, scope of international youth cooperation and support for young migrants</i>”, but it is necessary to clarify under what conditions.</p> |
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### 3.2. Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030

The Council of Europe (hereinafter: the CoE) is the leading human rights organization in Europe. It includes 47 states that have signed the European Convention on Human Rights, an agreement aimed at protecting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

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<sup>47</sup> Link for more details: [European Youth Portal](#)  
<sup>48</sup> Link for more details: [European Solidarity Corps](#)

The CoE has been active in youth policy for the last 40 years. In 1972, they established the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg as the European Centre for training and events in the field of youth. Further impetus to the development of youth policy in European countries has been given by the Council of Europe through a large number of acquis<sup>49</sup> and primarily through the work of the Youth Department, which provided a framework and impetus for the development and establishment of a number of national youth policies in Europe.

In 2020, the Committee of Ministers adopted a new resolution on the CoE youth sector strategy until 2030,<sup>50</sup> which should enable young people across Europe to actively support, defend and promote the core values of the CoE.

| <b>Analysis of the COEYSS 2030</b> |   |
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| <b>General Concept</b>             | <p>Youth Sector Strategy 2030 (hereinafter: COEYSS)<sup>51</sup> is based on “<i>ecosystem change theory</i>”. It shows the need for change and the ways in which change can be achieved, in this case in the context of young people. It uses a back-mapping technique, which requires thinking backwards from the desired long-term goal which determines the logical sequence of steps and preconditions necessary for change to occur. This sequence of steps is better known as the “<i>path of change</i>”. The preconditions further define the ecosystem that needs to be created for change to happen and what activities and measures need to be implemented to bring about change in the youth field.</p> <p>COEYSS describes six key challenges that young people face: technological, demographic, personal, social, civic, and political.</p> |
| <b>General and specific goals</b>  | The change defined by this strategy is summarized in the values, vision, and mission of the Council of Europe, and is guided by seven principles of action.   |

<sup>49</sup> Links for more details: [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2019\)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood](#), [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)4 on youth work](#), [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)7 on young people’s access to rights](#), [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2015\)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights](#), [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2010\)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#), [CM/Rec\(2010\)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity](#), [CM/Rec\(2006\)14 on citizenship and participation of young people in public life](#), [Recommendation Rec\(2004\)13 on the participation of young people in local and regional life](#), and [Recommendation Rec\(2003\)8 on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people](#)

<sup>50</sup> Link for more details: [Resolution CM/Res\(2020\)2 on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030](#)

<sup>51</sup> Link to Council of Europe adopted texts in the field of youth and related fields (recommendations, resolutions, work papers) – [Council of Europe youth policy adopted texts](#)

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|                          | <p>Vision:<br/>The youth sector aims to <i>"enable young people across Europe to actively support, defend, promote and benefit from the core values of the Council of Europe (human rights, democracy and the rule of law)"</i>.</p> <p>Three missions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>expanding the participation of young people</b>, so that they participate in decision-making at all levels, based on a broad social and political consensus in support of participatory governance and accountability;</li> <li>II. <b>strengthening young people's access to rights</b> so that young people and all forms of youth civil society can rely on an environment conducive to the full realization of all their human rights and freedoms, including concrete policies, mechanisms and resources;</li> <li>III. <b>deepening the knowledge of young people</b>, so that the democratic engagement of young people is supported by good practice that contributes to knowledge and expertise.</li> </ol> <p><b>The guiding principles of the strategy</b> are mutual respect, trust, inclusiveness, constant commitment, participation, equality, transparency and cooperation.</p> |
| <p><b>Priorities</b></p> | <p>The thematic priorities of COEYSS are aspirations that can (realistically) be achieved through the work of the Youth Department of the CoE<sup>52</sup> and the resources available to the CoE.</p> <p>Four thematic priorities of COEYSS are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>reviving a pluralistic democracy</b> – based on the participation of young people in decision-making and active citizenship, as well as addressing the issues of dwindling space for civil society and <i>"democratic deficits"</i> in modern Europe;</li> <li>2. <b>Youth access to rights</b> – based on youth access to civil, political, digital and social rights, including the right to human rights education, as well as plans to expand on collective rights issues, such as the right to a clean and healthy environment;</li> </ol>   |

<sup>52</sup> Link for more details: [Council of Europe Youth Department](#)

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|                       | <p><b>3. Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies</b><br/> – based on respect for diversity, peace building, combating all forms of racism and intolerance, intercultural dialogue and learning, and specific work with communities of young people affected by such phenomena (Roma, refugees, LGBTQI<sup>53</sup> and others). It further covers the intention of the CoE to further address the following topics: inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups, intersectoral and intergenerational dialogue, global solidarity, regional and cooperation between neighbouring countries, exchanges with other regions of the world, and the consequences of climate change and environmental degradation due to technological development;</p> <p><b>4. Youth work</b> – this priority includes the activities of the CoE to strengthen the development of quality and recognition of youth work in the Member States and at the European level through the partnership between the CoE and the EC in the field of youth,<sup>54</sup> promoting the CoE's access to non-formal education, such as human rights education, education for democratic citizenship, education on digital citizenship and intercultural education.</p> |
| <b>Implementation</b> | <p>COEYSS sets “<i>expected outcomes</i>” for each of its four thematic priorities. At the same time, the strategy recognizes that the long-term outcomes and impact of the strategy directly depend on social, political, and economic circumstances beyond the control of the CoE because they cannot be predicted in advance. As a result, in several places in the strategy, the capacity of institutions to adequately respond to new situations in the life of young people is questioned and strengthening the capacity of institutions in the field of youth is proposed as a measure.</p> <p>To implement the measures, the strategy relies on a number of specific resources, programs, projects, initiatives already developed by the CoE to support the implementation of youth policy in Europe: European Youth Centres (EYC), European Youth Foundation (EYF), European Steering Committee for</p>   |

<sup>53</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersexed community

<sup>54</sup> Link for more details: [Council of Europe and the European Commission youth partnership](#)

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|                           | Youth (CDEJ), Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), CoE-EC Partnership in the field of youth, Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR), Self-Assessment tool for Youth Policy, CoE Trainers Pool and a number of programs in the field of youth, human rights, etc. <sup>55</sup>   |
| <b>Actors</b>             | <p>The strategy defined the following actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 47 CoE Member States,</li> <li>- existing structures within the CoE (European Youth Centres, European Youth Foundation, etc.),</li> <li>- European Commission (through the EC-CoE Youth Partnership),</li> <li>- the youth sector in the Member States (youth councils, youth organizations, organizations for youth, youth workers, researchers, etc.),</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Success indicators</b> | <p>Within the already mentioned priorities, the strategy specifies the key expected outcomes (summary versions):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Reviving pluralistic democracy</b> through a stronger contribution to democratic citizenship and the active participation of young people. The expected outcomes are increased capacity of the youth sector for participatory democracy and democratic citizenship of young people, more policies involving young people and their representatives in planning, removal of barriers to youth participation through strengthening youth policy and youth work and improved institutional responses to new developments in democracy (e.g., digitalization);</li> <li>2. <b>Youth access to rights</b> with expected outcomes: progress in implementing CoE standards, increased capacity of youth actors for human rights education, improved institutional responses to emerging challenges affecting youth rights, such as climate change, digital space, increased mobility of youth, new forms of employment, etc.;</li> <li>3. <b>living together in peaceful and inclusive societies</b> where young people live without discrimination, violence, exclusion and contribute to peaceful and</li> </ol> |

<sup>55</sup> Links for more details: [European Youth Centres \(EYC\)](#), [European Youth Foundation \(EYF\)](#), [European Steering Committee for Youth \(CDEJ\)](#), [Advisory Council on Youth \(CCJ\)](#), [Joint Council on Youth \(CMJ\)](#), [Council of Europe and the European Commission partnership in the field of youth](#), [Pool of European Youth Researchers \(PEYR\)](#), [Self-assessment tool for youth policy](#), [Trainers Pool of the Youth Department](#)



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|   | <p>inclusive societies. The expected outcomes are: youth actors are better equipped to tackle the challenges of building inclusive societies; all young people, including those exposed to discrimination and exclusion, enjoy opportunities for democratic citizenship; key topics (European unity, global solidarity, peace...) are part of policies, practices and research inside and outside the youth sector; the capacities of young people for violence prevention, conflict transformation and building a culture of peace have been strengthened through significant financial support, networking and capacity building of youth organizations;</p> <p>4. <b>Youth work</b> and non-formal education/learning strengthen youth autonomy and democratic citizenship. The expected outcomes are: youth work is recognized and is an integral part of youth policies, especially the European Youth Work Agenda;<sup>56</sup> improved quality of youth work practices provided by volunteers and (paid) youth workers; increased access and attractiveness of youth work and non-formal education to a wider youth population.</p> |
| <p><b>Monitoring and evaluation</b></p> | <p>Monitoring of the implementation of COEYSS is carried out by the Youth Department within the Directorate of Democratic Participation. It develops guidelines, programs, and legal instruments for the development of youth policies at the local, national, and European level, and in various ways and through various mechanisms and resources provides financial and educational support to international youth activities. It also organizes the work of the Joint Council on Youth, whose role, among others, is to monitor the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>The CoE recognizes that national youth strategies in Europe are one of the main mechanisms for implementing COEYSS in the Member States. Consequently, within the most significant comparative advantages of the Council of Europe in working with young people, several measures to support the evaluation of national youth policies have been highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>National reviews of youth policies</b> – are the most complex and comprehensive measure of the Council of</li> </ul>                           |

<sup>56</sup> Link for more details: [European youth work agenda](#)

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|   | <p>Europe to encourage the evaluation and development of youth policy in Europe. Since 1997, 21 evaluations of the national policies of the CoE member states have been conducted. The process includes the preparation of a national report on youth policy and the position of young people, the evaluation of the report by an expert team, two intensive field visits, commenting on the report by national state authorities and a public hearing. In Serbia, the evaluation was conducted in 2016;<sup>57</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Self-assessment tool for youth policy</b><sup>58</sup> – in order to create, monitor and implement a “<i>healthy policy</i>”, the CoE has developed several principles, goals and values that should be the basis for monitoring policies for young member states. The CoE introduces an instrument for self-assessment of youth policy to help member states assess their own compliance with CoE standards related to youth policy but it would serve as a basis for the development of an independent youth policy. This instrument encourages CoE member states to monitor the impact and effectiveness of youth policies and opens the possibility for their fine-tuning (or even abandonment) if they prove to be partially or completely ineffective;</li> <li>- <b>Research inside and outside the youth sector</b> – regular research in the field of youth is recognized by the CoE as an instrument for implementing the strategy, and researchers, in addition to decision makers and practitioners in the field of youth, are key actors in all relevant CoE processes in the field of youth.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Participation in the preparation and implementation of the strategy</b></p> | <p>The CoE applies the principle of co-management, which includes young people at all levels of decision-making, i.e., representatives of organizations in the field of youth through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Advisory Council on Youth</b> is a body that represents the voice of young people in Europe. It consists of 30 representatives of youth NGOs and networks;</li> <li>- <b>European Steering Committee for Youth</b> – brings together representatives of ministries or bodies</li> </ul>  |

<sup>57</sup> Link for more details: [“Youth policy in Serbia – Conclusions of the Council of Europe International Review Team” \(2016\)](#)

<sup>58</sup> Link for more details: [Self-assessment tool for Youth Policy CoE \(2019\)](#)

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|   | <p>responsible for youth issues from 50 countries signatories to the European Cultural Convention;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Joint Council on Youth</b> – brings together representatives of the previous two bodies to make joint decisions on priorities, programs and budget in the field of youth.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Comparative analysis of international strategy and NYS</b></p>        |  |
| <p><b>Similarities between NYS 2015–2025 and international strategy</b></p> | <p>As in the case of EUYS, COEYSS and NYS are not fully comparable. They have a different legal framework, partners, support systems, drivers, geographical focus, available resources for implementation and focus. COEYSS is primarily a strategy of the youth sector and is not directly focused on young people like NYS.</p> <p>In addition, the added value of COEYSS is that it directs, inspires, and monitors the national strategies of member states, so it can be seen as a key strategy for the development of national youth policies in Europe.</p> <p>By further comparing the content of the two observed strategies, essential differences are noticeable at all levels, from vision, through goals to measures. On the other hand, the key similarity is visible in the fact that the four thematic priorities of COEYSS (revival of pluralistic democracy, access of young people to rights, living together in peaceful and inclusive societies, youth work) are contained in the principles of NYS (support for personal and social empowerment and minority rights, equality and non-discrimination, equal opportunities for all, the importance of young people and their social role, active participation of young people and cooperation and social responsibility and solidarity).</p> |
| <p><b>Differences between NYS 2015–2025 and international strategy</b></p>  | <p>In addition to the above-mentioned differences in strategies, the divergence of NYS and COEYSS (adopted in 2020) was further enhanced by a difference of five years between the adoption of the two strategies (NYS adopted in 2015). In this sense, COEYSS is more relevant because, based on feedback and dialogue with young people, it is based on the current needs of young people and (especially) the youth sector in Europe.</p>   |

COEYSS identifies several activities, measures, mechanisms that may be useful in considering the NYS 2015–2025:

- **The principle of co-management** – is contained in the first principle of COEYSS with the aim of reviving pluralistic democracy and is based on the participation of young people in decision-making and active citizenship. The principle of co-management has been consistently implemented at all levels of the CoE structures in the field of youth, mostly through the Advisory Council on Youth and the Joint Council on Youth;
- **Youth work** – COEYSS is a strategy of the youth sector and is not directly focused on young people, no matter how much they are at the centre of its consideration. Unlike the NYS, which is focused on youth issues, COEYSS is focused on supporting the youth sector in Europe, which is evident from the resources and support instruments that have developed from it (European Youth Centres, European Youth Foundation, etc.);
- **New challenges** – COEYSS does not differ from other international and national strategies in the part of key challenges that young people face (technological, demographic, personal, social, civic, and political). At the same time, the CoE strategy focuses on several youth challenges that are somewhat contained in the NYS, but not necessarily in its focus, such as: Europe's aging population and the need for intergenerational dialogue, the impact of artificial intelligence on young people, the importance of digital literacy for full youth participation in society, NEET youth access to different opportunities, challenges of the migrant crisis, challenges of climate change, lack of trust of young people in institutions, lack of youth involvement in civil society organizations, increasing extremism and radicalization of young people, strengthening right-wing movements and reducing debate space.
- **Access to non-formal education** – COEYSS recognizes that it is not enough to work only on building the capacity of youth workers and developing innovations in youth work. For the wider youth population, especially NEET youth, to learn about the

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|  | opportunities created by the youth sector, it is necessary to work on increasing the attractiveness of youth work and the sustainability of youth work service providers. |
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### 3.3. United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2015–2030

UN Agenda 2030 (hereinafter: UNA2030) is a global strategic action plan for people, the planet and prosperity. It seeks to strengthen universal peace and freedom and recognizes that the elimination of poverty in all its forms, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and a basic precondition for sustainable development.<sup>59</sup> UNA2030 defines 17 main goals of sustainable development (hereinafter: SDGs) as a guide for members of the United Nations (hereinafter: UN) for the period until 2030.

The UNA2030 agenda was preceded by the “*Millennium Project*” campaign<sup>60</sup> in 2002 to inspire people around the world to take action, as well as the Millennium Development Goals Agenda for 2015<sup>61</sup> which set the basic direction of action with eight main goals, which UNA2030 builds on in the areas of poverty elimination, ensuring quality education, health, gender equality, etc.

The RS has played an active role and expressed its commitment to the global UNA2030 even in the period of defining the SDGs as a member of the Open Working Group on SDGs and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Financing Sustainable Development. During the process of national consultations on SDGs, the citizens of Serbia had the opportunity in the period 2012–2014 to declare development priorities and thus influence the global process of formulating goals.<sup>62</sup>

| <b>Analysis of UNA2030</b> |  |
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| <b>General concept</b>     | <p>UNA2030 represents a global strategy for action in areas that are critical to humanity and the planet.</p> <p>UNA2030 focuses on five basic lines of action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>people</b> – ending poverty and hunger in all its forms, as well as ensuring that all human beings can realize their potential with dignity and equality in a healthy environment;</li> </ol> |

<sup>59</sup> Link for more details: [UN SDG 2030 Agenda](#)

<sup>60</sup> Link for more details: [UN Millennium Project \(2002\)](#)

<sup>61</sup> Link for more details: [UN Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#)

<sup>62</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Izveštaj o napretku u ostvarivanju ciljeva održivog razvoja do 2030. godine u Republici Srbiji \(2020\)](#)

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|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>planet</b> – preserving the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production with sustainable management of natural resources and responding to climate change in order to support the needs of present and future generations;</li> <li>3. <b>prosperity</b> – enabling all human beings to enjoy prosperity and fulfilled lives, as well as to bring economic, social and technological progress in harmony with nature;</li> <li>4. <b>peace</b> – cultivating peaceful, just, and inclusive societies free from fear and violence. Sustainable development is not possible without peace, nor is peace possible without sustainable development;</li> <li>5. <b>partnership</b> – mobilizing the resources needed to implement the agenda with the help of a strengthened global spirit of solidarity focused primarily on the poorest and most vulnerable people.</li> </ol> <p>UNA2030 is conceived as a global call to action for sustainable development within three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental. The achievements in the period of the “<i>Millennium Project</i>” were considered and the upgrade was continued, as well as the work on the unfulfilled goals of the “<i>Millennium Development Goals</i>” from the period until 2015.</p> |
| <p><b>General and specific goals</b></p> | <p>UNA2030 defines 17 SDGs and 169 specific goals (targets), which is the first time in the history of mankind that the leaders of countries have committed themselves to implementing such a universal agenda.</p> <p>The basic principles of the new UNA2030 are guided by the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter<sup>63</sup> with full respect for international law, then by the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>64</sup>, other international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the outcome of the 2005 World UN Summit.<sup>65</sup> Other instruments have been taken into account, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,<sup>66</sup> as well as the outcomes of all major UN conferences and summits.</p>  |

<sup>63</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations Charter \(1945\)](#)

<sup>64</sup> Link for more details: [Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(1948\)](#)

<sup>65</sup> Link for more details: [2005 World UN Summit](#)

<sup>66</sup> Link for more details: [Declaration on the Right to Development \(1986\)](#)

Considering the number of documents on the basis of which the principles were established, from the above-mentioned documents **several principles that are important for young people** stand out: the principle of freedom and equality in the form of dignity and realization of all rights, non-discrimination in the exercise of rights, the principle of the right to life, liberty and security, the principle of the right to education, etc.

As mentioned above, based on UN principles and the Millennium Development Goals, SDGs UNA2030 are defined in the following categories:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests,

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|                       | <p>combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;</p> <p>16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;</p> <p>17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</p>  |
| <b>Priorities</b>     | <p>As can be seen from the principles and goals of UNA2030, development priorities are in a wide range of economic, social, and environmental goals, and are reflected in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ending poverty,</li> <li>- health,</li> <li>- education,</li> <li>- safe food and nutrition,</li> <li>- preservation of the natural environment,</li> <li>- peaceful and inclusive society,</li> <li>- integrated approach and partnership.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Implementation</b> | <p>Given the scope and ambitions of UNA2030, global partnership and the commitment of UN member states are needed to ensure implementation. To achieve all goals, it is necessary to bring together the public, private and civil sectors, the UN system, and other actors to use all available resources.</p> <p>The Partnership for Sustainable Development supports the specific policies and actions outlined in the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development<sup>67</sup> held in Addis Ababa in 2015. The UN General Assembly supported the Action Plan during the event,<sup>68</sup> which is an integral part of UNA2030 for sustainable development.</p> <p>Given that this is a global initiative, work continued on the foundations established by the 2002 Monterrey Consensus<sup>69</sup> and the 2008 Doha Declaration.<sup>70</sup> The implementation of the Istanbul Declaration,<sup>71</sup> SAMOA modality,<sup>72</sup> Vienna program,<sup>73</sup></p> |

<sup>67</sup> Link for more details: [Third international conference on financing for development](#)

<sup>68</sup> Link for more details: [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#)

<sup>69</sup> Link for more details: [International conference on financing for development – Monterrey, Mexico](#)

<sup>70</sup> Link for more details: [International conference on financing for development – Doha, Qatar](#)

<sup>71</sup> Link for more details: [The declaration of Istanbul](#)

<sup>72</sup> Link for more details: [SIDS Accelerated modalities of action \(S.A.M.O.A.\) pathway](#)

<sup>73</sup> Link for more details: [Vienna program of action](#)



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|  | <p>African Union Agenda 2063,<sup>74</sup> New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)<sup>75</sup> etc. was supported.</p> <p>Regarding the instruments of financial assistance for the implementation of the agenda, some of the most important at the global level are listed below:</p> <p>UN Peacebuilding Fund,<sup>76</sup> International Fund for Agricultural Development,<sup>77</sup> World bank,<sup>78</sup> World Food Program,<sup>79</sup> Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank,<sup>80</sup> New Development Bank,<sup>81</sup> Inter-American Investment Corporation<sup>82</sup> and many other instruments.</p> <p>As stated in the Addis Ababa Action Plan, efforts at the national level are an integral part of efforts to achieve the goals of UNA2030 with the support of UN systems, policies, and international funds.</p> <p>In the first five-year cycle of UNA2030, the RS has already taken significant steps in meeting the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda. In 2015, the Government of the RS established the Interdepartmental Working Group for the Implementation of UNA2030, whose members are representatives of ministries. The working group aims to coordinate the activities of all relevant ministries, monitor implementation, propose the adoption of a national strategy for sustainable development with a financial plan and carry out other activities in addition to reporting on progress. At the national level in 2017, a Focus Group of the National Assembly of Serbia was formed for the development of control mechanisms and supervision of the implementation of the SDGs. A very important aspect of the implementation of UNA2030 is the localization of SDGs, i.e., the integration of goals into local policies. The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (hereinafter: SCTM) plays an important role in</p> |
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<sup>74</sup> Link for more details: [Agenda 2063: The Africa we want](#)  
<sup>75</sup> Link for more details: [African Union Development Agency](#)  
<sup>76</sup> Link for more details: [UN Peacebuilding Fund](#)  
<sup>77</sup> Link for more details: [International fund for agricultural development](#)  
<sup>78</sup> Link for more details: [World Bank](#)  
<sup>79</sup> Link for more details: [UN World food program](#)  
<sup>80</sup> Link for more details: [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)  
<sup>81</sup> Link for more details: [New Development Bank](#)  
<sup>82</sup> Link for more details: [InterAmerican Investment Corporation – IDB Invest](#)

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|                      | <p>this process. An analysis of umbrella and sectoral policies with UNA2030, as well as with reforms within the EU accession process, was conducted, with the support of the UN team in Serbia during the preparation of the MAPS mission.<sup>83</sup> These analyses have established that there is a high level of harmonization of umbrella national policies with UNA2030, and that the key strategic documents that define the directions of development of Serbia on the road to the EU largely correspond to the SDGs (NPAA, NAD and ESRP).<sup>84</sup> In addition to these umbrella policies, the analyses showed significant correspondence of sectoral policies with the SDGs, and in accordance with the Planning System Act, Serbia will develop an integrated development strategy, which will enable more coherent policy orientation towards the SDGs and stronger linking of goals with EU reforms. When it comes to the implementation of UNA2030 in Serbia, the RS is additionally part of a large number of partnerships and initiatives related to the Agenda, such as the Berlin Process,<sup>85</sup> EU Strategy for the Danube Region,<sup>86</sup> Regional Youth Cooperation Office,<sup>87</sup> EU Skills Development Agenda 2030<sup>88</sup> and many other partnerships.</p> |
| <p><b>Actors</b></p> | <p>The revitalized Global Partnership facilitates intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of all SDGs by connecting the public sector, civil society, the private sector, the UN system, and other actors with the mobilization of all available resources. According to the UN Platform for Partnerships<sup>89</sup> over 5,000 partnerships have been registered in the implementation of UNA2030 worldwide, with tens of thousands of actors.</p> <p>In Serbia, the most important actor is the Multidisciplinary Working Group established in December 2015 and composed of senior representatives of line ministries and other organizations and institutions in the RS: SCTM, the RS National Assembly, civil society organizations, the RS Public Policy Secretariat, the UN team in the RS and others.</p>   |

<sup>83</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [MAPS misija](#)  
<sup>84</sup> Links for more details: [National Program for Adoption of the Acquis](#), [The National Priorities for Development Assistance](#) and [The Employment and Social Reform Program](#)  
<sup>85</sup> Link for more details: [Berlin Process](#)  
<sup>86</sup> Link for more details: [EU Danube Region Strategy](#)  
<sup>87</sup> Link for more details: [Regional Youth Cooperation Office – RYCO](#)  
<sup>88</sup> Link for more details: [European Skills Agenda](#)  
<sup>89</sup> Link for more details: [SDG Partnership platform](#)

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| <p><b>Success Indicators</b></p>        | <p>Within the UNA2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Plan from 2015, 17 main goals were set in the areas of health, education, ending poverty, etc. which were broken down into 169 targets in the areas listed above in the analysis.</p> <p>Report on the progress in achieving the SDGs by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia from December 2020<sup>90</sup> states that the SDG contains 247 indicators to measure the success of implementation. Examples in which young people are directly listed as the target group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SDG 8.6 – Target value:</b> reduce the share of young people who are not employed or in the process of education or training; this is one of the main goals of the NYS 2015–2025. The indicator in Serbia is the share of young people (15–24 years) who are not covered by education, employment or training;</li> <li>- <b>SDG 4.3 – Target value:</b> by 2030, ensure equal access to affordable and quality vocational education at all levels, including university, for all women and men. The indicator in Serbia represents the rate of participation of young people and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months (by gender).</li> </ul> <p>The impression is that the UNA2030 indicators are clearly set. The report states which indicators can be specifically measured, and which cannot, and the Statistical Office of the RS published the data on the Internet platform for monitoring the progress of SDGs<sup>91</sup> based on which it is currently possible to monitor 102 out of a total of 247 indicators in Serbia. The above-mentioned report and the Internet platform are excellent sources of information.</p> <p>It is important to note that all UN member states have similar platforms for monitoring the indicators, and that the UN monitors various initiatives around the world through its SDG Internet platform.</p> |
| <p><b>Monitoring and evaluation</b></p> | <p>According to the Addis Ababa Action Plan from 2015, the focus is on quantitative and qualitative data, including open data,</p>   |

<sup>90</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Izveštaj o napretku u ostvarivanju ciljeva održivoq razvoja do 2030. godine u Republici Srbiji](#)

<sup>91</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Internet platforma za praćenje napretka ostvarivanja COR](#)

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|  | <p>statistical systems, and administration at the national and local levels, which are the most important tools for measuring and strengthening capacity, transparency, and accountability within the global partnership. National statistical systems play a major role in data collection, dissemination, and administration, but they do not see everything. Therefore, data and analyses of civil society, academia and the private sector should be used as additional sources of information.</p> <p>Considering the global scope of UNA2030, and that each UN member state uses its own monitoring mechanisms, during this analysis we will focus on monitoring mechanisms at the national level in the Republic of Serbia, and we will briefly mention that the UN Statistics Department through its global database<sup>92</sup> monitors the achievement of indicators at the global level.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the Statistical Office of the RS<sup>93</sup> represents a national statistical system that monitors the achievement of indicators within the SDGs UNA2030 in Serbia, along with other data producers, through which 102 out of 247 indicators in Serbia within the 17 SDGs are monitored.</p> <p>Measurement of progress was conducted according to the methodology provided by Eurostat<sup>94</sup> applied in the EU. Bearing in mind that Serbia does not define specific national goals, i.e., quantitative measures that should be achieved at the national level within a defined time frame, in some cases the Eurostat methodology for SDGs without quantitative indicators is used to measure progress. Thus, the measurement is not performed in relation to the quantitatively defined goal, but the progress is monitored in relation to the initial year for which data are available, and the degree to which progress is moving in a positive or negative direction is measured.</p> <p><b>Transparency in reporting</b> within the Internet platform<sup>95</sup> represents the main source of information where the achievement of SDGs can be monitored by objectives, specific</p> |
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<sup>92</sup> Link for more details: [SDG Indicators](#)

<sup>93</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Republički zavod za statistiku](#)

<sup>94</sup> Link for more details: [Statistical office of the European Union](#)

<sup>95</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [COR Indikatori u Srbiji](#)

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|   | <p>objectives, and indicators. To illustrate the level of data that is publicly available, an example of the level of data is briefly presented in the “<i>Indicators</i>” section for SDG 4 – for indicator 4.1.2. The completion rate (first cycle of primary education, second cycle of primary education, secondary education) can be viewed by location, by mother's education, material condition of the household, and the data were updated during 2021 with the listed data sources and links.</p> <p>In terms of evaluation, periodic reporting of UN member states on a voluntary basis at the national level is envisaged, which is the main type of evaluation using objectives and indicators, as well as measuring their achievement, while the UN Secretary General reports annually on progress of achieving SDGs towards a high-level political forum of the UN Economic and Social Council.</p> <p>The RS has voluntarily submitted its first progress report on the implementation of the SDGs, which is fully publicly available on the Internet platform.<sup>96</sup> The report<sup>97</sup> was submitted in December 2020 and represents one of the most important sources of information during this analysis. It provides a precise overview of the measured indicators with explanations and an assessment of progress towards the SDGs.</p> |
| <p><b>Participation in the preparation and implementation of the strategy</b></p> | <p>The citizens of the RS had the opportunity to contribute to the definition of these priorities in the period 2012–2014 and, during the process of national consultations on SDGs, to declare their development priorities and thus influence the global process of formulating goals. During the first cycle of consultations “<i>The Serbia we want</i>”<sup>98</sup>, in addition to the goals highlighted in most other countries, there were also nationally specific goals that belonged to the corpus of cultural aspects of development, including fostering tolerance, solidarity, and the establishment of conflict-free societies with the rule of law. Precisely because the results of the consultations in Serbia indicated these important aspects of development, in the second cycle of consultations the attention was focused on the relationship between culture and development, and the results</p>   |

<sup>96</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [COR Indikatori u Srbiji](#)

<sup>97</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Izveštaj o napretku u ostvarivanju ciljeva održivog razvoja do 2030. godine u Republici Srbiji](#)

<sup>98</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Srbija kakvu želim](#)

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|   | <p>significantly contributed to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goal no. 16 which envisages the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.<sup>99</sup></p> <p>It is important to note that the general population contributed to the definition of priorities and, according to the data on the target groups from the Internet platform, it included young people from rural areas, secondary school and university students and other groups composed mainly of young people.</p>  |
| <p><b>Comparative analysis of international strategy and NYS</b></p>        |  |
| <p><b>Similarities between NYS 2015–2025 and international strategy</b></p> | <p>The two strategies are not completely comparable. UNA2030 is a global umbrella strategy, part of which is the RS and NYS planning system. Although the RS, as a member of the UN, is one of the initiators of UNA2030, the document refers to solving critical world challenges, and actors from Serbia, with the help of national resources and international support, contribute to the overall goals of UNA2030.</p> <p>Given that UNA2030 addresses core issues affecting global society as a whole, the Agenda is relevant to young people as part of the general population. NYS in the RS is relevant for a large number of SDGs, from which the areas of employment, ending poverty, health, inclusive and quality education, peaceful and inclusive society, partnership (participation), environmental protection, etc. stand out.</p> <p>Inclusion as the most important topic of UNA2030, which is reflected in all SDGs whose implementation reduces inequality at the global level, is also a principle that NYS strives for when it comes to improving the position of young people in Serbia.</p> <p>The most precise similarities between the two strategies are reflected in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SDG 3</b> – Ensure a healthy life and promote well-being for people of all generations; directly related to the strategic goals of the NYS – Health and well-being of young women and men;</li> <li>- <b>SDG 4</b> – Provide inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities</li> </ul> |

<sup>99</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Izveštaj o napretku u ostvarivanju ciljeva održivog razvoja do 2030. godine u Republici Srbiji](#)

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|  | <p>for all; directly related to the strategic goals of NYS – Quality and opportunity for acquiring qualifications and development of competencies and innovations of young people and Support to social inclusion of young people from categories at risk of social exclusion;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>SDG 8</b> – Promote continuous, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; which is directly related to the strategic goals of the NYS – Employability and employment of young women and men and Support to social inclusion of young people from categories at risk of social exclusion;</li> <li>- <b>SDG 16</b> – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; which is directly related to the strategic goals of the NYS – Active participation of young women and men in society and Support to social inclusion of young people from categories at risk of social exclusion.</li> </ul> <p>The number of points of connection of NYS with UNA2030 is evident, and it is recommended to connect resources and actors, especially when it comes to monitoring the achievement of goals through data prepared by the Statistical Office of the RS with the support of other actors.</p> |
| <p><b>Differences between NYS 2015–2025 and international strategy</b></p> | <p>NYS and UNA2030 have different bases in terms of content, actors, levels of action, duration, etc.</p> <p>UNA2030 is a global umbrella strategy aimed at solving critical problems for humanity, and NYS is focused on improving the position of young people in the RS.</p> <p>In addition to differences in the scope, actors and ambitions of the strategies, there are a number of differences in the goals set, where the SDGs addresses poverty, hunger, gender equality, sustainable water management, sustainable energy, infrastructure, inequality, sustainable cities and towns, consumption patterns and production, etc.</p> <p>In terms of duration, UNA2030 lasts five years longer than NYS, which ends in 2025.</p>   |

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|  | <p>It is considered that the <b>way of defining goals and indicators</b> within UNA2030, as well as the monitoring and evaluation process applied at the national level, which is described in this analysis, represents a significant difference compared to NYS. Within the NYS and section 2. <i>Analysis of the situation with recommendations</i>, Article 4. “Develop a unique and comprehensive system of monitoring and evaluation that will provide quantitative and qualitative data on the implementation of the NYS”, the need for a statistical monitoring system was pointed out.</p> <p><b>Ownership of the strategy</b> – The implementation of UNA2030 is the ownership of the citizens of the RS. This is supported by the participation in defining the goals of UNA2030 and the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group, which is responsible for coordinating and implementing the SDGs in Serbia. Regarding NYS, MOYS is responsible for coordinating the implementation of NYS in the Republic of Serbia, with other departments and actors of youth policy within various initiatives and the Youth Council as a cross-sectoral body to encourage and coordinate activities related to the development, implementation, and enforcement of youth policy.</p> |
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**3.4. United Nations Youth Strategy 2018–2030**

The UN Youth Strategy (hereinafter: UNYS2030) is an ambitious strategy at the systemic level, leading the UN and its partners towards meaningful cooperation with and for young people around the world.

Youth is an intersectoral issue within the UNA2030 SDGs and other international agreements. This recognizes that they have an important and positive role to play in achieving sustainable development, crisis prevention and the advancement of peace, as confirmed by three UN resolutions (2250, 2419 and 2535)<sup>100</sup>.

The goals of UNYS2030 are integrated in several SDGs and are interconnected, and this strategy is part of the previously analysed UNA2030 in terms of focusing on youth

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<sup>100</sup> Links for more details: [UN Security Council Youth, Peace & Security Resolution 2250](#), [UN Security Council Youth, Peace & Security Resolution 2419](#), [United Nations Security Council resolution 2535 \(2020\) on youth, peace and security](#)



as part of the Agenda, containing the same basic principles, common resources, statistical measurement mechanisms, etc.

| <b>Analysis of UNYS 2030</b>      |   |
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| <b>General concept</b>            | <p>Considering the context of UNA2030, UNYS2030 is similarly an umbrella framework that guides the UN in the direction of improving work with and for young people in <b>three main areas</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- peace and security,</li> <li>- human rights,</li> <li>- sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p>The goals of the strategy are aimed at significantly strengthening the UN's capacity to involve young people and to use their views, opinions, and ideas. Also, the goals are aimed at the coordinated, coherent, and holistic work of the UN in the field of youth.</p> <p>The position of UNYS2030 is that young people are interconnected as never before, that they want to contribute and are already contributing to strengthening the “resilience” of their communities, proposing innovative solutions, leading social progress and inspiring change in both urban and rural areas. Young people are an essential resource worth getting to know and explore, thus opening the door to an incomparably greater effect of multiplying well-being.<sup>101</sup></p> |
| <b>General and specific goals</b> | <p>In terms of the goals of UNYS2030, the main guideline is to create a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; where every young person is empowered to reach their full potential; the engagement of young people in society, their resilience, as well as a positive contribution in the role of initiators of change were also recognized.</p> <p>As mentioned in the introduction, SDGs UNA2030 define goals, targets, and indicators for young people as well, and the goals of UNYS2030 and UNA2030 are interrelated.</p> <p>The UN states that the main principles of UNYS2030 are strengthening the foundations of UN cooperation with and for</p>   |

<sup>101</sup> Link for more details: [UN Youth 2030 Strategy](#)

young people, and four areas are listed as the basic foundations of the strategy:

1. **youth leadership** – The UN and its members will support youth leadership across the organization and member countries, strengthen capacity and awareness of youth issues;
2. **knowledge and innovation** – The UN and its members will strengthen knowledge production and governance systems; become a credible source of expertise on youth development and inclusion; facilitate global awareness of the situations and needs of young people around the world, based on evidence;
3. **investment and solutions** – The UN and its members will accelerate the use of resources and facilitate partnership solutions to advance the implementation of UNYS2030, work to strengthen funding and mechanisms for youth-focused programs and their actions, at all levels;
4. **leadership in responsibility** – The UN will work to ensure that UN members and entities successfully respond to youth issues through programing; to involve young people effectively and meaningfully in their work; to responsibly monitor budget allocations and costs.

Each of the areas within the framework of UN cooperation with and for young people contains specific goals that determine in more detail the directions of action, and it is recommended to take them into account as recommendations for directions of action of NYS development and connection with UNYS2030.

1. **Youth leadership:**

- establishing youth structures in the foreground, for each UN country, in order to support coordination at the systemic level;
- creating platforms for youth inclusion, such as Youth Councils;
- creating opportunities for dialogue between young people and UN representatives;
- capacity building of UN representatives, staff working with young people to better understand and respond to the needs of young people;
- etc.

## 2. **Knowledge and innovation:**

- establishing a comprehensive tool for monitoring global, regional and national progress on youth issues, using the SDG<sup>102</sup> and WPAY<sup>103</sup> platforms;
- online knowledge platform, development of a systemic base for easy access to youth-related knowledge and youth programs across the UN;
- establishing analysis at the national level and youth-specific indicators for the purpose of assessing development and linking it to the regional and global level of analysis;
- etc.

## 3. **Investments and solutions:**

- establishing a global platform for directing funding in the field of youth;
- communication to the donor community, based on the achieved and collected results, in order to clearly show the impact of activities in the field of youth;
- establishing funds to support the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes;
- etc.

## 4. **Leadership in responsibility:**

- preparation of general guides for UN members in order to respect the principles of youth development in accordance with the needs of young people and the purposeful inclusion and participation of young people;
- developing a system for impartial evaluation of the impact of UN programming;
- conducting the annual review of the implementation of UNYS2030;
- transparency regarding the establishment of availability of information on the implementation of UNYS2030 to the public.

To conclude the analysis of this section, it is important to note that, in addition to UNYS2030, SDGs UNA2030 defines in detail the objectives, targets and indicators of UNYS2030, which are described within the analysis section of UNA2030 of this document.

<sup>102</sup> Link for more details: [Sustainable Development Goals UN Agenda 2030](#)

<sup>103</sup> Link for more details: [World Program of Action for Youth](#)

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| <p><b>Priorities</b></p>     | <p>The priority areas of UNYS2030 are related to the efforts of UN members to strengthen their own capacities to meet the requirements of the strategy and more effectively meet expectations in cooperation with and for young people.</p> <p>Therefore, the UN has defined the following priorities under UNYS2030:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>involvement, participation and advocacy</b> – to strengthen the voices of young people in order to promote a peaceful, just and sustainable world;</li> <li>2. <b>foundations of acquiring information and health</b> – to support greater access of young people to quality education and health services;</li> <li>3. <b>economic empowerment through decent employment</b> – support greater access of young people to decent and productive employment;</li> <li>4. <b>youth and human rights</b> – protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement;</li> <li>5. <b>peacebuilding and resilience</b> – support young people as drivers for peace, security and humanitarian action.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Implementation</b></p> | <p>Like UNA2030, in order to ensure the implementation of UNYS2030, a global partnership and a partnership of public, private, civil sectors, UN system and other actors is needed to use all available resources within this 12-year strategy.</p> <p>The implementation of UNYS2030 is managed by a UN committee composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Envoy of the Secretary General for Youth;</li> <li>- Interagency Network for Youth Development IANYD<sup>104</sup> – representatives of the governing body;</li> <li>- a selected number of UN entities that rotate on a biennial basis;</li> <li>- representatives of global youth platforms that rotate on a biennial level.</li> </ul> <p>Within the UN, 33 entities have already submitted reports on ongoing activities related to UNYS2030. Of these, 11 are departments and offices of the UN – Development Coordination</p>  |

<sup>104</sup> Link for more details: [Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development](#)

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|                                  | <p>office (DCO),<sup>105</sup> Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA),<sup>106</sup> Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC),<sup>107</sup> Department of Operational Support (DOS),<sup>108</sup> Department of Political and Peacebuilding Activities (DPPA)<sup>109</sup> etc., four entities, such as the UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR),<sup>110</sup> UN Women (UNW),<sup>111</sup> then five funds and programs, such as the UN Development Program (UNDP),<sup>112</sup> UN Population Fund (UNFPA),<sup>113</sup> UN International Children’s Fund (UNICEF)<sup>114</sup> and other UN entities at the global level, which shows the commitment to this youth strategy.</p> <p>The UN has established a platform with resources to implement UNYS2030 with a Guidance section in preparation. This section will provide concise and practical resources for UN teams at the national level on the implementation of UNYS2030 in collaboration with local actors, stakeholders, and practitioners. It serves to link the Strategy Toolkit which contains documentation in the form of strategies, instructions, etc., then the Scorecard tool for strategic planning, measuring implementation and accountability for UN national teams ready for global implementation.</p> |
| <p><b>Actors</b></p>             | <p>For the implementation of UNYS2030, the approach is reflected in connecting the public sector, civil society, the private sector, the UN system, and other actors with the mobilization of all available resources.</p> <p>Considering the UNYS2030 global framework, tens of thousands of actors are included from the above categories. Some of the main actors of UNYS2030 in Serbia are UN Country Teams, MOYS and other important actors listed in the NYS, coming from all departments and sectors.</p>  |
| <p><b>Success Indicators</b></p> | <p>UNYS2030 uses the indicators listed under UNA2030 described in the analysis of that strategy, which is an excellent example of linking different levels of strategies and using resources efficiently.</p>   |

<sup>105</sup> Link for more details: [UN Development coordination office](#)  
<sup>106</sup> Link for more details: [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)  
<sup>107</sup> Link for more details: [Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance](#)  
<sup>108</sup> Link for more details: [Department of Operational support](#)  
<sup>109</sup> Link for more details: [Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs](#)  
<sup>110</sup> Link for more details: [UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency](#)  
<sup>111</sup> Link for more details: [UN Women](#)  
<sup>112</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations Development Program](#)  
<sup>113</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations Population Fund](#)  
<sup>114</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations International Children Emergency Fund](#)

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|   | <p>In addition to SDG indicators and databases, United Nations Country Teams<sup>115</sup> prepare annual progress reports on the implementation of UNYS2030. The report monitors and evaluates key performance indicators (KPIs), and it is positive that the national team in Serbia regularly reports on progress to the UN, by participating in the Global Progress Report.<sup>116</sup></p> <p>Within the review of progress, one can find the realization of indicators by countries and for Serbia, below are some examples of indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- policy coherence with SDGs and coherence for youth development;</li> <li>- youth coordination mechanisms in the country;</li> <li>- investments in solutions implemented by young people;</li> <li>- transparency of the results of the youth strategy in the country;</li> <li>- capacities for implementation of UNYS2030;</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul> <p>As mentioned above, a detailed list of indicators and how to assess directives for UN national teams can be found in the Youth Scorecard.<sup>117</sup></p> |
| <p><b>Monitoring and evaluation</b></p> | <p>UNYS2030 and UNA2030 use common monitoring and evaluation tools with a focus on quantitative and qualitative data, including open data, statistical systems, and administration at the national and local levels. More information can be found in the UNA2030 analysis section.</p> <p>In this section, we will focus on the first Global Progress Report for 2021.<sup>118</sup> The report was contributed by 33 UN entities by submitting implementation data and all 130 UN Country Teams – UN national teams. Some of the many conclusions from the report are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- globally, 80% of UN Country Teams have directly invested in youth-led solutions, 60% have funded youth advocacy campaigns, and 30% have supported the</li> </ul>  |

<sup>115</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations Country Teams](#)  
<sup>116</sup> Link for more details: [Youth 2030 A Global Progress Report](#)  
<sup>117</sup> Link for more details: [Youth 2030 UNCT Scorecard](#)  
<sup>118</sup> Link for more details: [Youth 2030 A Global Progress Report](#)

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|   | <p>exchange of knowledge on topics important to young people;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in the central UN Country Teams system (UN guide to the sustainable development cooperation framework UNSDCF<sup>119</sup>), led by UN engagement at the national level, 90% of national teams presented results for youth, and 80% included youth programming in their work plans. Half of the national teams do not have information on youth funding, and only a third of the national teams publicly report on youth.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding Serbia's contribution to the implementation of UNYS2030, more information can be found in the review of the Global Progress Report.<sup>120</sup> According to the information provided by the UN national team in Serbia, an overview of the situation is given within 27 indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within 11 indicators, the goal was achieved (focus on youth within the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, purposeful involvement of young people in projects supported by the UN Country Teams in Serbia, capacity building of the UN Country Teams team, etc.);</li> <li>- within 11 indicators, progress has been made (strengthening the capacity of the government to design and implement strategies based on the principle "Leave no youth behind" within the national sectoral plans, then strengthening the capacity of the government to improve public funding for youth development, etc.);</li> <li>- within five indicators, work has not yet started, and preparations are underway (coordination mechanism for coherent UN youth programs in preparation, etc.).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Participation in the preparation and implementation of the strategy</b></p> | <p>Considering that UNYS2030 derives from UNA2030, the definition of whose priorities the RS citizens had the opportunity to contribute to in the period 2012–2014, we can say that this process has influenced the setting of UNYS2030 priorities as well.</p> <p>We especially emphasize the participation of Serbian youth delegates to the UN through the UN Association in Serbia and the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry</p>  |

<sup>119</sup> Link for more details: [United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance](#)

<sup>120</sup> Link for more details: [Youth 2030 A Global Progress Report](#)

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|   | <p>of Youth and Sports within the project “Serbian Youth Delegates to the UN”<sup>121</sup>, through which the participation of young people within a one-year mandate in the UN and their active work is enabled. The mentioned project has been in force since 2017, and so far, ten young people from Serbia have had the opportunity to participate in the work of the UN within events such as the UN General Assembly, Youth Forum (ECOSOC), UNESCO Youth Forum and other national and international events of the UN.</p>   |
| <p><b>Comparative analysis of international strategy and NYS</b></p>        |  |
| <p><b>Similarities between NYS 2015–2025 and international strategy</b></p> | <p>The most precise similarities between the two strategies are reflected in the high level of harmonization of priorities, which within NYS and UNYS2030 are based on the realization of rights for young people, support for personal and social empowerment, active participation, social responsibility, etc.</p> <p><b>Complementarity of NYS and UNYS2030.</b> According to the above information, within the analysis there is a significant level of connection of goals and actors of NYS with UNYS2030, and that achieving the goals of one strategy directly contributes to the goals of another, which is especially visible in education, employment, health, etc.</p>  |
| <p><b>Differences between NYS 2015-2025 and international strategy</b></p>  | <p>The two strategies are not completely comparable; UNYS2030 is a global umbrella strategy oriented towards improving the position of young people, where in addition to the global focus there is also a focus at the national level, while the NYS is focused on improving the position of young people at the national level.</p> <p>NYS and UNYS2030 have different bases in terms of content, actors, levels of action, duration, etc.</p> <p>UNYS2030 lasts five years longer than NYS, which ends in 2025.</p> <p><b>Stable foundations of youth policy.</b> The essential difference is reflected in the focus of UNYS2030 aimed at establishing the foundations, a stable basis for implementing youth policies in terms of establishing a system of support for youth policy actors, creating professional content, gathering knowledge</p> |

<sup>121</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Omladinski delegati Srbije u UN](#)



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|  | <p>about youth, establishing mechanisms for measuring and evaluating the impact of strategies, transparency by the entities that implement youth policy, etc.</p> <p><b>Government capacity development.</b> One of the differences between the strategies is the good practice of UNYS2030 in terms of building the capacity of authorities at the local and national level to implement the strategy, to make the best use of existing resources to achieve the objectives of the strategy. For young people to realize their potential, they must have adequate associates and support.</p> |
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#### IV. ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES/PROGRAMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

A comparative analysis of national strategies/programs in the RS quickly revealed significant inconsistencies in the basic characteristics of young people. The Law on Youth (hereinafter: LOY) defines young people as persons aged 15 to 30, while the age of young people in the analysed national strategies/programs of the RS varies. In addition, in a significant part of the analysed national strategies/programs, young people are not identified as a target group of special interest.

##### 4.1. Economic Migration Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021–2027

The vision of the RS Economic Migration Strategy (hereinafter: EMS) is *“the RS is a state in which the goals of sustainable development are achieved with the full contribution of emigrants, foreigners living in it and the population fit for work that wants to stay in it”*.

| Strategy analysis        | Meaning/description   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>EMS estimated that about 4.5-5 million members of the diaspora live outside the RS. There is no exact data on the percentage of young people, but the strategy estimates that young people significantly participate in the total population of emigrants. Not all causes for the migration of young people outside Serbia have been determined, because there is no single system for collecting data on migration.</p> <p>According to the strategy, young people are mainly encouraged to migrate due to economic motives, such as job search or in order to improve living standards and living conditions, but also due to other factors that directly affect their quality of life (e.g., corruption, nepotism, etc.).</p> <p>In accordance with the vision of the EMS, it defines six specific, strategic development goals and 24 measures and activities for the realization of general and specific goals. The strategy is related to the NYS primarily in the strategic goals <i>“mobility, scope of international cooperation of young people and support to young migrants”</i> and <i>“provided stimulating conditions for the development of youth entrepreneurship”</i>.</p> |

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|  | <p>EMS singles out several key issues, in which young people are one of the main actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of comprehensive measures to reduce the causes of emigration;</li> <li>- Insufficiently developed measures and programs for attracting foreign students and experts, as well as programs for their integration into society;</li> <li>- Lack of developed measures and programs for (re)integration of returnees.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>The EMS did not single out young people as a special interest group, but they can be partially identified in all three key groups of the strategy: the working age population, the diaspora, and returnees from abroad, in addition foreigners of different educational profiles are listed as well.</p> <p>Additionally, the EMS within its SWOT analyses see as the main threat the <i>“emigration of young population of reproductive and working age”</i>, and as an opportunity the <i>“more balanced regional development which would reduce emigration and encourage the return of young people to their places of origin”</i>.</p> |
| <b>Aims</b>  | <p>The general goal of the strategy is <i>“to create an economic and social environment to slow down the departure of the fit-for-work population, strengthen ties with the diaspora, encourage return and circular migration, as well as attract foreigners of different educational profiles”</i>. The impression is that young people, as the main actors in the process of leaving of the working age population, are the focus of this strategy.</p> <p>The EMS defines the six strategic specific objectives described below.</p>   |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>                                  | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans' Affairs and Social Affairs.</p> <p>MOYS is recognized as (one of) the responsible state bodies dealing with various aspects of migration, while NYS is recognized as one of the strategies that directly or indirectly deals with the topic of migration.</p>   |

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| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>Young people are represented at several levels, through goals, measures, and institutions/organizations in the field of youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the specific goal of the strategy <i>“creating conditions for more efficient management of internal migration flows”</i> puts young people in focus, within the measures <i>“improvement of skills and competencies of the workforce in rural areas, with the aim of raising entrepreneurial potential”</i> and <i>“creating incentive employment policies in immigration, primarily for young people”</i>;</li> <li>- in the specific goal of this strategy <i>“improvement of living and working conditions in the economic and social sector”</i> there are measures that can be found in the specific goal 3. of the NYS <i>“provided incentive conditions for the development of youth entrepreneurship”</i>. The measures of the strategy concern the support of employment through the development of innovative entrepreneurship and the establishment of small and medium enterprises and the creation of facilities for starting one's own business (whose actors according to the NYS are mostly youth);</li> <li>- the specific goal of the strategy <i>“harmonization of the education system with the needs of the labour market, with an emphasis on monitoring the innovations brought by the fourth industrial revolution, especially in the field of developing new occupations and professional profiles and creating conditions for attracting foreign students”</i> contains measures directly through <i>“providing appropriate professional training and professional development of young people and creating conditions for their return”</i> and <i>“provide support for further development of career info centres for young people”</i>, as well as <i>“develop cooperation with student organizations abroad”</i>;</li> <li>- Young people are also recognized through actors in the field of youth for whom this strategy prescribes measures and activities. Thus, in the specific goal <i>“building and strengthening institutional capacities for monitoring and improving the quality of data on economic migration”</i> as a measure it is planned to <i>“achieve greater coordination at the local level, i.e. strategic and operational connection of local Migration Councils with Youth Offices and Local employment councils”</i>.</li> </ul> |
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|  | To implement the EMS, an Action Plan for the period 2021-2023 was adopted. |
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## 4.2. Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development 2014-2024

The vision of the RS Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (hereinafter: SARD) is *“that in 2024 the RS agriculture will be a sector whose development is based on knowledge, modern technologies and standards, which offers innovative products to domestic and demanding foreign markets, and for producers ensures a sustainable and stable income, and that the natural resources, environment and cultural heritage of rural areas are managed in accordance with the principles of sustainable development, in order to make rural areas an attractive place to live and work for young people and other rural residents”*.

| Strategy analysis  | Meaning/description   |
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| <b>Basic information</b>                                 | <p>In line with the SARD vision, five key internal and external challenges, four key principles of strategy implementation, five strategic goals and 14 priority areas of strategic change have been defined.</p> <p>The strategy is related to the NYS primarily in the strategic goals <i>“ensuring income stability and security of employees in agriculture, creating favourable living and working conditions for young people and their retention in rural areas and improving the quality of life in rural areas”</i>.</p> <p>The strategy responds to five key internal and external challenges, in two of which young people are recognized as actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing a stable income and business environment for farmers and other entrepreneurs;</li> <li>- achieving economic, environmental, and social goals of sustainable development, in which multifunctional agriculture and rural development have a special place.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>As part of the problem analysis, young people were identified as key actors in several of them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- less favourable age structure of the rural population through the continuation of the process of declining youth participation;</li> </ul>  |

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|                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- low representation of broadband internet connection in the countryside (28.5%) compared to the city (52.4%);</li> <li>- migration of the highly educated population, because it is difficult to keep the educated workforce in areas without sufficiently attractive jobs that match their education and ambitions;</li> <li>- their exclusion from the labour market, where young people aged 15 to 24 are only in 21% of cases employed in the non-agricultural sector;</li> <li>- a small number of young returnees from cities, who (sporadically) move as young families who prefer a rural environment and are ready to start some alternative activity on a small property;</li> <li>- lack of stability of rural development policy measures towards young people due to frequent changes in the criteria for awarding grants to farms of young people;</li> <li>- due to a poorly designed system of access to the agricultural budget, exclusion from the system of incentives for younger owners of small and medium agricultural farms, which in some parts of the RS are the most vital part of the labour force in agriculture;</li> <li>- weak social structure in the countryside, which contributes to the low attractiveness of rural areas as places for young families to live;</li> <li>- the unresolved social status of employees in agriculture makes the occupation of farmers insufficiently attractive;</li> <li>- seasonal workers, as well as those employed in the status of auxiliary workers on the property (including young people), usually do not have social insurance, which further emphasizes the informal status of their employment.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Aims</b></p> | <p>The strategy sets out four key principles for its implementation: sustainable agriculture, polycentric development, modernization of bodies and organizations, and stability and consistency of the agricultural budget.</p> <p>SARD defines five strategic goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- growth of production and stability of producers' income;</li> <li>- growth of competitiveness with adjustment to the requirements of the domestic and foreign markets and technical-technological improvement of the agricultural sector;</li> </ul>  |

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|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sustainable resource management and environmental protection;</li> <li>- improving the quality of life in rural areas;</li> <li>- poverty reduction and efficient management of public policies.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.</p> <p>MOYS is not recognized as one of the responsible state bodies dealing with the implementation of this strategy and is not on the list of institutions that monitor the indicators of success in achieving the strategic goals.</p>  |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>SARD and NYS recognize two common target groups – young people employed in agriculture and young people in rural areas.</p> <p>The NYS contains a small number of measures and activities within which young farmers and young people from rural areas are directly identified. NYS measures are included primarily within the strategic goal of Youth Mobility. The main problems faced by young people in rural areas are <i>“small chances for entrepreneurship and employment outside agriculture”</i> and that <i>“young women and men who are thinking of staying/returning or living in rural areas do not have adequate conditions and support”</i>. The support measures envisage <i>“encouraging the development of additional support measures for the labour mobility of young people towards less developed areas and rural areas”</i>.</p> <p>SARD recognizes young farmers and young people in the countryside through a number of different goals, measures and activities. Starting from four key principles, the role of young people is highlighted by respecting the specific needs of young farmers and addressing the instability of budget support to agriculture so that potential beneficiaries (e.g., young returnees) can count on continuous support instead of the current ad-hoc measures.</p> <p>Within the five strategic goals, young people can be identified as a target group in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring income stability and security of employees in agriculture, which consequently affects the number of young people who will opt for agricultural production as their main occupation;</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- creating favourable conditions for the life and work of young people and their retention in rural areas, providing more attractive jobs and equal opportunities for their families in order to achieve balanced regional development;</li> <li>- improving the quality of life in rural areas by diversifying the rural economy and strengthening the social structure.</li> </ul> <p>SARD also defines 14 priority areas of strategic change, of which young people are recognized in two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- diversification of the rural economy and preservation of cultural and natural heritage – through various types of investment and advisory support in agriculture, which will give rural areas the opportunity to offer more attractive jobs to younger and more educated population;</li> <li>- improving the social structure and strengthening social capital – through operational objectives: stopping negative demographic trends in rural areas, greater availability of social services to the rural population and the affirmation of women's and youth entrepreneurship in rural areas.</li> </ul> |
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### 4.3. Strategy for the development of artificial intelligence in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2025

The Strategy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence (hereinafter: SDAI) recognizes that *“artificial intelligence (hereinafter: AI) is a factor that will bring major changes in everyday life, work and business worldwide in the coming years, and the RS will position itself among countries that have used the AI challenge as an opportunity for progress”*.

| Strategy analysis        | Meaning/Description   |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>SDAI contains five specific objectives and 22 measures for the realization of general and specific objectives.</p> <p>The strategy recognizes AI as the next big step in the development of the RS IT industry, which in 2019 had for the fifth year in a row the growth of exports of ICT services of over 20% per year. As economic growth, digitalization and education are key priorities of the RS Government, according to the AI Strategy, it is one of the</p> |



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|  | <p>areas that has the greatest potential to contribute to these priorities.</p> <p>The strategy within the analytical technique “problem tree” identifies three key problems, of which young people as actors are identified in two:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- weak support to the private sector in the development of AI – because there is an insufficient number of staff;</li> <li>- greater focus of the education system and scientific research on AI is needed – because digital literacy is still developing.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |  |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>SDAI did not single out young people as a special interest group, but within the analysis of the current situation in key sectors in the RS, young people are recognized in the field of education and science as the main (future) human resource of the ICT sector.</p> <p>The situation in the RS is measured by the Government AI Readiness Index,<sup>122</sup> according to which, based on the report from 2019, the RS is ranked 58th out of 194 countries.</p> <p>SDAI recognizes that “<i>education is a key factor for the development of AI in the RS</i>”. According to the Global Competitiveness Index,<sup>123</sup> one of the most relevant indicators and preconditions for the development of AI (and in relation to young people) is the skill of graduates to respond to the needs of the economy with the skills acquired in formal education (after graduating from college and high school).</p> <p>The strategy states that the RS has made significant progress in the formal education of young people in the field of information technology (informatics is a compulsory subject from the fifth grade, 2% of high school students go to specialized IT classes, in higher education there are subjects related to AI), but despite the significant progress, the AI topic is not yet significantly represented.</p> |
| <b>Aims</b>  | <p>The general goal of SDAI is “<i>the use of AI in the function of economic growth, employment and a better quality of life</i>”.</p>   |

<sup>122</sup> Link for more details: [Government Artificial Intelligence Readiness Index – Oxford Insights and the International Research Development Centre \(IDRC\)](#)

<sup>123</sup> Link for more details: [Global Competitiveness Report 2019: How to end a lost decade of productivity growth, World Economic Forum](#)

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|                                       | <p>The impression is that young people, as one of the key factors for the growth and development of the ICT sector, are also recognized as a key <i>“human resource in the AI area and a key factor in the development of the economy in that area”</i>.</p> <p>The strategy has five specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. development of education directed towards the needs of modern society and economy conditioned by the progress of AI;</li> <li>2. development of science and innovation in the field of AI and its applications;</li> <li>3. development of economics based on AI (where it is a key competence and where it is used in various industries);</li> <li>4. improving the preconditions for the development of AI and public sector services by applying AI;</li> <li>5. ethical and safe application of AI.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>The role of MOYS</b></p>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.</p> <p>MOYS is not recognized as one of the responsible state bodies dealing with the implementation of this strategy and is not on the list of institutions responsible for monitoring and controlling the implementation of the strategy.</p>   |
| <p><b>Measures and activities</b></p> | <p>SDAI is linked to seven RS national strategies and 12 RS laws, but not NYS. Also, NYS does not contain the factor of AI impact on the lives of young people.</p> <p>Young people are represented in the AI development strategy in part of the 22 prescribed measures for the realization of general and specific goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure 1.1: Improving teaching content in primary and secondary schools on the topic of AI;</li> <li>- Measure 1.2: Establishment of minimum standards for the representation of AI in undergraduate studies in the fields of computer science and computer engineering;</li> <li>- Measure 1.3: Development of postgraduate study programs in the AI area;</li> <li>- Measure 1.4: Development of vocational training through short study programs and non-formal education;</li> </ul>           |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure 3.1: Support to start-up companies and SMEs in the AI area;</li> <li>- Measure 5.2: Protection against discrimination in the application of AI through the provision of equal treatment and prevention of discrimination based on age and other personal characteristics.</li> </ul> <p>The AI Development Strategy contains other measures, e.g., in the field of public sector development and economic development, which are intended for the general population and in them the role of young people, although expected, is not precisely defined.</p> <p>To implement the SDAI, an Action Plan for the period 2020–2022 was adopted.</p> |
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**4.4. Strategy of Digital Skills Development in the Republic of Serbia 2020–2024**

The vision of the Strategy of Digital Skills Development (hereinafter: SDS) is *“improvement of digital skills through joint cross-sectoral work on raising awareness in this area and improvement of knowledge and skills to monitor the development of new technologies”*.

| <b>Strategy analysis</b> | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>SDSD mission is to <i>“improve the system that achieves greater digital skills of citizens by developing computer thinking, providing skills needed for everyday life and developing a successful career in the digital economy, as well as providing conditions for further improvement of knowledge and skills of ICT professionals”</i>.</p> <p>In accordance with the vision and mission of the strategy, four specific goals, 14 measures and 64 activities have been defined.</p> <p>SDSD relates to NYS primarily in the strategic goal of NYS <i>“improved youth information system and knowledge about youth”</i>. Considering that digital skills touch on all aspects of youth life and cover different areas of youth policy (education, labour market, social inclusion, etc.), the SDS is aligned with several NYS objectives below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved quality and opportunities for acquiring qualifications and developing the competencies and innovativeness of young people (e.g., through the</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>establishment of distance learning programs for young people who have dropped from formal education);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved conditions for developing a safety culture for young people (e.g., through digital violence prevention programs);</li> <li>- Improved support for social inclusion of young people from categories at risk of social exclusion (e.g., through activities of adapting existing services and support programs for young people at risk of social exclusion, digitalization of monitoring systems for young people at risk of social exclusion in institutions, etc.);</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>SDSD singled out young people as a special interest group, recognizing that <i>“digital skills in modern conditions enable employment, productivity, creativity and success, especially for young people”</i>.</p> <p>The strategy recognizes the need to pay special attention to vulnerable categories of the population, where it emphasised young people, the population from rural areas (which includes young people) and girls and young women, among others.</p> <p>The strategy also recognizes that (different) training programs and other non-formal education programs must not discriminate against particularly vulnerable target groups, such as young people. The strategy states that young people <i>“need special attention, adapting training to their characteristics and interests”</i> through special programs (non-formal education) to develop digital skills of young people, such as programming camps, training for mobile application development, etc.</p> <p>The strategy also singles out young entrepreneurs from rural areas as a special target group of specialized ICT trainings.</p> <p>The strategy states that young people up to the age of 30 are one of the main beneficiaries of active employment policy measures in relation to the effects in the field of ICT.</p> |
| <b>Aims</b>  | <p>The general goal of SDSD is <i>“to improve the digital knowledge and skills of all citizens, including members of vulnerable social groups, in order to enable monitoring of the development of information and</i></p>  |

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|                                       | <p><i>communication technologies in all areas and to meet the needs of the economy and labour market”.</i></p> <p>SDSD is one of the few strategies in the RS that defines clear and measurable indicators of strategy implementation already at the level of the general goal. The success indicators of the general goal are measured in the form of the percentage of citizens with advanced digital skills. The base value of the strategy from 2018 is 34.2% of computer literate persons and 14.8% of computer partially literate persons in the RS, while the target value in 2024 is 46.2% of computer literate persons and 26.8% of computer partially literate persons in RS. The strategy also defines the source of checking the success of the general goal in the form of the Annual Report of the Statistical Office of the RS.</p> <p>The strategy contains four specific objectives and a large number of measures and activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. improvement of digital competencies in the education system (two measures and nine activities);</li> <li>2. improving basic and advanced digital skills for all citizens (four measures and 18 activities);</li> <li>3. development of digital skills in relation to the needs of the labour market (four measures and 18 activities);</li> <li>4. lifelong learning of ICT professionals (four measures and 18 activities).</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>The role of MOYS</b></p>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications.</p> <p>MOYS is not recognized as one of the responsible institutions for the implementation of measures and activities of this strategy.</p>  |
| <p><b>Measures and activities</b></p> | <p>SDSD reflects continuity and relies on the Digital Agenda for Serbia,<sup>124</sup> which consists of two strategies – on the information society and electronic communications.<sup>125</sup> In addition, the SDSD is associated with a number of domestic strategies and acts in the RS, but not with the NYS.</p> <p>SDSD recognizes the role of YOs in rural areas, as they (potentially) can offer infrastructure for local internet clubs, all with the aim of national digital inclusion.</p>  |

<sup>124</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Digitalna agenda za Srbiju](#)

<sup>125</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Strategija razvoja informacionog društva u Republici Srbiji do 2020. godine](#) and [Strategija razvoja elektronskih komunikacija u Republici Srbiji od 2010. do 2020. godine](#)

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|  | <p>SDSD also emphasizes the value of peer education for young people provided by CSOs and emphasizes the importance of cooperation with the civil sector.</p> <p>Within 14 measures and 64 activities, young people are recognized as part of the general population (e.g., development of digital skills in relation to the needs of the labour market), and in this format, due to the large number, it is not possible to count them all. Youth is specifically mentioned in the strategy in Measure 4.2: Raising the digital skills of ICT professionals by monitoring the number of young people, especially women, who are educated and trained for ICT occupations. Research shows that as many as 39% of the male population decides to study engineering and informatics, while only 15.5% of women do so, so the number of girls enrolled in ICT-related studies is an indicator of the results at the level of this measure.</p> |
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#### 4.5. Industrial Policy Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2030

The vision of the RS Industrial Policy Strategy (hereinafter: IPS) is *“an open, regionally and globally competitive, investment-active, educated, innovative and digitally transformed RS industry that strongly supports economic growth and raising the quality of life of its citizens”*.

| Strategy analysis        | Meaning/description   |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>IPS emphasizes that the number one priority for RS industrial policy is dynamic, smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth.</p> <p>In accordance with the vision of the IPS, five specific goals and 23 measures have been defined. IPS is horizontal, i.e., sector-neutral and the highest degree of connection is achieved with the Smart Specialisation Strategy in the RS.</p> <p>The strategy is related to the NYS primarily in the strategic goal of <i>“improving the employability and employment of young women and men”</i>.</p> <p>IPS has set the framework for creating an implementation mechanism in the form of an Action Plan for the implementation of</p> |

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|   | <p>IPS from 2021 to 2030.<sup>126</sup> The Action Plan specifically elaborates activities, indicators, funding models, accountants, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.</p>  |
| <p><b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>Youth</b></p>   | <p>The IPS responds to 12 key challenges of the new industrial policy, in which young people as actors are recognized in the disparity between labour supply and demand because of negative demographic trends, slow adjustment of the education system and passivity of employers. In addition, the strategy within the SWOT analysis of Serbian industry also sees as one of the main weaknesses the <i>“increasingly unfavourable demographic structure of the working age population”</i>, and sees as the main threats the related topics of <i>“high population emigration and negative natural increase”</i>, as well as the <i>“higher education system that does not meet the needs of the industry”</i>.</p> <p>IPS is based on the analysis of the current state of industry in the RS and is grouped into several thematic areas: human capacity, digital transformation, innovation, internationalization, investment and infrastructure, circular economy and business and institutional environment. Young people are primarily covered by the topic of human resource empowerment and face the following challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that the quality of secondary vocational education is not equal and that the opportunities for enrolling young people in secondary schools are more often defined by the offer of the programs than by the demand of employers;</li> <li>- that the acquisition of practical skills necessary for rapid inclusion in the labour market of young people is often missing or insufficient;</li> <li>- that the coverage of higher education is high, but its structure is suboptimal in relation to demand, and the quality is unequal between universities;</li> <li>- that employers have a critical attitude towards the knowledge and skills with which high school students and graduates exit the education system;</li> <li>- that a relatively large discrepancy is noticeable between the needs of employers for certain qualifications and occupations and their availability on the labour market;</li> </ul> |

<sup>126</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [Akcioni plan za sprovođenje Strategije industrijske politike Republike Srbije od 2021. do 2030.](#)

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|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that the essential limitation of the faster industrial growth of the RS will be the negative natural population increase together with high emigration (of young people).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Aims</b>                    | <p>The specific objectives of the strategy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. improved digitalization of business models of industrial production;</li> <li>2. development of industry based on innovations and development of higher stages of technological production;</li> <li>3. increased total volume of investments in industry with growth of investment quality;</li> <li>4. improved technological structure of exports;</li> <li>5. transformation of the industry from a linear to a circular model.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Economy.</p> <p>The MOYS participated in the development of the IPS through the Working Group of the RS Government but was not recognized as one of the responsible state bodies dealing with the implementation of this strategy and the Action Plan for the IPS.</p>   |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>The IPS is aligned with the NYS and four other related RS strategies.</p> <p>To support the general objective, a set of IPS-specific objectives has been defined, followed by a package of 23 measures that are in the function of achieving the specific objectives. Young people are represented in the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure 1.6: Harmonization of digital education with the needs of industry – in order to improve the quality of human resources in accordance with the needs of the economy;</li> <li>- Measure 1.7: Incentive programs for strengthening the digital skills of employees in industry through the non-formal education system – to strengthen the digital literacy of employees in the industry through non-formal education.</li> </ul> <p>The IPS indirectly included young people in other measures as well, e.g., balancing regional industrial development, but in them the role of young people (although expected) is not precisely defined.</p> |



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|  | To implement the IPS, the Action Plan for the period 2021–2023 was adopted. |
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#### 4.6. Smart Specialisation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia 2020–2027

Vision of the RS Smart Specialisation Strategy (hereinafter: 4S) is *“Serbia creates innovations – smart and creative RS, highly competitive in the world and recognized for knowledge-based innovations, partnerships from the domestic ecosystem and creativity of individuals in the areas: sustainable high-tech food production with high added value for the future, sophisticated software solutions for global markets and cross-sectoral industrial innovation”*.

| Strategy analysis  | Meaning/description   |
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| <b>Basic information</b>                                 | <p>4S in the part of the analysis of the ICT sector sees a similar chance as other analysed national strategies of the RS in the field of employment. The chance is that young people's interest in IT and similar sectors is growing, which needs to be accompanied by the accelerated construction of all elements of the entrepreneurial ecosystem, for such interest to bring the desired results.</p> <p>In line with the 4S vision, four priority areas, five specific objectives and 27 measures have been defined.</p> <p>4S is associated with the NYS primarily in the strategic goal of <i>“improving the employability and employment of young women and men”</i>.</p>  |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>4S was created through an entrepreneurial discovery process, within which the identification of key challenges in priority areas was conducted through SWOT analysis. The following are challenges grouped under priority areas, which can be linked to young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food for the future – unfavourable demographic structure in rural areas and outflow of human resources abroad and of young people out of rural areas;</li> <li>- Information and communication technologies – insufficient number of ICT professionals, unwillingness of IT companies to hire students for internships, and failure of education to follow the development and needs of the ICT sector quickly enough;</li> </ul> |

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|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Machines and production processes of the future – outflow of highly educated staff, inability to retain quality staff, the educational process (formal – informal) is not focused on practical knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>- Creative industries – low labour costs compared to developed countries.</li> </ul> <p>The analysis also identifies several positive aspects in the field of youth, such as the increase of young people's interest in IT and similar sectors and a stronger orientation towards the principles of dual education in higher education.</p>  |
| <b>Aims</b>             | <p>4S contains five specific goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. directed scientific activities on 4S priorities;</li> <li>2. supported economic development through research, development and cooperation among the participants of the quadruple helix (university – economy – state – society);</li> <li>3. education oriented towards innovation and entrepreneurship;</li> <li>4. improved business conditions through optimization and digitalization of procedures in the areas of 4S;</li> <li>5. internationalization of the economy through inclusion in regional and global value chains in the areas of 4S.</li> </ol> <p>Objectives are reflected in each of the priority areas through measures concerning people, association through common ideas, education, directing the procurement and use of physical capacity, ecosystem development, promotion of cooperation and promotion of results, as well as the creation of appropriate quality infrastructure.</p> <p>The priority areas of 4S RS are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food for the future;</li> <li>2. Information and communication technologies;</li> <li>3. Machines and production processes of the future;</li> <li>4. Creative industries.</li> </ol> |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b> | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.</p> <p>MOYS is not recognized as one of the institutions responsible for the implementation of measures and activities of this strategy.</p>   |

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| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>4S defines a package of 27 measures aligned with the available financial resources necessary to achieve the five specific objectives. Young people are represented in the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure 3.2: Introduction of entrepreneurial skills in programs at faculties and academies in the fields of 4S;</li> <li>- Measure 3.3: Involvement of experts from practice/economy in the educational process;</li> <li>- Measure 3.4: Student competition that will promote their innovation, entrepreneurial spirit and awareness of ecology;</li> <li>- Measure 3.6: Master program for connecting art and information technologies.</li> </ul> <p>4S, within other measures, indirectly includes young people and their participation in activities. These measures are programs to support experimental and innovative projects that combine art, science and advanced technologies, the Creative Hub "Ložionica" in Belgrade, the continuation of the process of entrepreneurial discovery, training for researchers aimed at strengthening cooperation with the economy and others.</p> <p>To implement 4S, the Action Plan for the period 2021–2022 was adopted.</p> |
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#### 4.7. Public Health Strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2018–2026

The vision of the Public Health Strategy (hereinafter: PHS) is reflected in the principle *"Human health, health in all policies. Public health is the science and art of disease prevention, prolongation of life and improvement of health through organized efforts of society. Public health can be considered through the structures and processes by which populations understand, preserve and promote it"*.

| Strategy analysis        | Meaning/description  |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | PHS recognizes the demographic situation in the RS, population aging and negative natural increase, which is contributed by the decline in fertility rates, as well as births in women at an increasingly later age (28.3 years) <sup>127</sup> . Emphasis is placed on the at-risk-of-poverty rate, where children and young people are listed as the group most at risk. |

<sup>127</sup>Link for more details (in Serbian): [Republic Statistics Bureau of the RS, Statistics Calendar of the RS 2018](#)

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|  | <p>In its scope, the PHS defines seven general goals, 30 specific, strategic development goals and 275 activities for the realization of general and specific goals.</p> <p>The strategy is primarily based on directions of action within the promotion of health and prevention of diseases and injuries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- advocating for health in order to obtain support to create essential conditions for health;</li> <li>- enabling people to reach their full health potential and equality in health (equal access to information, skills for a healthy life and opportunities for healthy choices);</li> <li>- mediation between different interests of society in the pursuit of health (multisectoral, interdisciplinary in all spheres of life – between individuals, families, communities, citizens' associations, the healthcare system, and other factors of society).</li> </ul> <p>Areas of action of public health are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- physical, mental and social health of the population;</li> <li>- health promotion and prevention of diseases and injuries;</li> <li>- environment and health of the population;</li> <li>- working environment and health of the population;</li> <li>- organization and functioning of the healthcare system;</li> <li>- dealing with crisis and emergency situations.</li> </ul> <p>PHS emphasizes the concept of “<i>Health in all policies</i>” as an approach that is recommended in response to the challenges posed by the development of cross-sectoral cooperation and the involvement of all actors in society. This is supported by the involvement of a significant number of actors from other sectors in the implementation of the strategy, including MOYS, which lays the foundation for further linking the activities of line ministries and their strategies.</p> |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>The PHS singled out young people as a vulnerable social group and a special interest group, which can be seen in the section on basic information, as well as in the section on objectives, where within the framework of objective 4.1.6. young people are explicitly listed. In addition, they can be indirectly classified in the category of general population and working population. In the goals that deal with children, there is room for connecting the target group with</p>   |

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|                                | <p>young people in terms of age (young people are 15-30 years old), as well as in the goals that are related to primary and secondary schools attended by young people.</p>   |
| <b>Aims</b>                    | <p>PHS singles out young people as an interest group in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- objective 4.1.6. Monitoring and evaluation of the health status of the working population and health inequalities;</li> <li>- result 4.1.6.2. Special research on vulnerable groups of the working population (young people, women of reproductive age, older workers, people with disabilities, the unemployed, employees in small and micro legal entities, farmers).</li> </ul> <p>MOYS is listed as one of the actors involved in the implementation of activities for the following goals, within whose activities young people are listed as the target group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4.1.2. Improving the diet and physical activity of the RS population;</li> <li>- 4.1.3. Prevention and control of smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke, harmful alcohol use and drug abuse;</li> <li>- 4.1.4. Improving the health of the RS population in areas of leading public health importance;</li> <li>- 4.1.5. Improving the health of vulnerable social groups through the development and implementation of additional measures to reduce health inequalities.</li> </ul> |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Health.</p> <p>MOYS is recognized as one of the responsible state bodies dealing with various aspects of the Public Health Strategy, while NYS is not recognized as a related strategy.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the MOYS is listed as a state body that participates in the implementation of activities in the five key objectives of the strategy and bears part of the responsibility for public health.</p> <p>More information on the active role of MOYS can be found in the description of activities in the Measures and Activities section.</p>  |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>Young people are represented in the PHS at several levels. This section lists some of the specific measures, activities and results relevant to young people, in which MOYS, local self-government</p>   |

units (hereinafter: LSU), other institutions and the civil sector participate:

- Objective 4.1.2. – activity 4.1.2.1.1. Establishment of a working group of the Ministry of Health for the development of a strategy for the improvement of nutrition and physical activity (SINPA) and related national programs; 4.1.2.1.2. Development of a strategy for improving nutrition and physical activity (SINPA); 4.1.2.4.1. Implementation and monitoring of the National Program for Obesity Prevention in Children and Adults;
- Objective 4.1.3. – specifically emphasised are the activities with the result 4.1.3.4. Implementation and monitoring of the national program for the prevention of harmful alcohol use and alcohol-related disorders; 4.1.3.7. Support to the implementation of the Strategy for the Suppression of Drug Abuse, etc.;
- Objective 4.1.4. – expected result 4.1.4.1. Implementation and monitoring of the National Program for Preservation and Improvement of Sexual and Reproductive Health of the RS Citizens, as well as support to the strategy of birth incentives, then 4.1.4.2. Continuous support for the implementation and evaluation of activities in the field of early development, etc.;
- Objective 4.1.5. – activities 4.1.5.1.3. Continuous improvement and implementation of the National Health Care Program for Women, Children and Youth;
- Objective 4.1.6. – expected result 4.1.6.2. defines young people as part of the results “*Special surveys of vulnerable groups of the working population (young people, women of reproductive age, older workers, people with disabilities, unemployed, employees in small and micro legal entities, farmers)*”, and all activities within this goal can be considered to apply to young people as well.

#### **4.8. Program for Mental Health Protection in the Republic of Serbia 2019–2026**

The essence of mental health is clear in the definition of health, given by the World Health Organization (WHO): “*Health is a complex physical, mental and social well-being, not just the absence of disease and disability*”.

The vision of PMHP is: *“Mental health is a national capital and as such must be improved by the joint efforts of the entire community and all stakeholders, including patients (users), their associations and family groups”.*

| <b>Program Analysis</b>  | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
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| <b>Basic Information</b> | <p>The Program for Mental Health Protection (hereinafter: PMHP) in the RS is a harmonized system of measures, conditions and public policy instruments that the RS should implement to protect mental health by preventing mental disorders, improving mental health, analysis and diagnosis of mental conditions, treatment and rehabilitation of persons with mental disorders, as well as those where there is a suspicion of mental disorders, while respecting human rights and strengthening the dignity of persons with mental disorders and the application of the least restrictive forms of treatment.</p> <p>From the above, it is concluded that mental health is an integral part of general health, and the WHO defines it as <i>“a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community”</i>. Mental health is a prerequisite and a fundamental determinant of quality of life.</p> <p>The vision of the mental health care reform of the current program includes the application of efficient and comprehensive methods at several levels: at the level of the general population, at the level of the health service and at the level of educational and academic centres.</p> <p>In accordance with the vision of the PMHP, one general goal, four specific goals, 10 measures and 24 activities for the realization of general and specific goals have been defined.</p> <p>Important statements of PMHP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that mental health is still considered a low priority, even though it is a national capital and represents an integral part of individual health and well-being, as well as health and well-being of the community, its development and renewal, and quality mental health protection is a legitimate human right;</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- that the dominant culture of neglect and exclusion of people with mental disorders survives and that it is most pronounced in maintaining the existence of large mental health institutions, which do not meet the needs of patients and require transformation towards deinstitutionalization.</li> </ul> <p>PMHP recognizes that young people aged 15 to 24 belong to a particularly vulnerable population, stating that 75% of mental disorders begin before the age of 25, emphasizing the need for care.</p> <p>PMHP determines the general framework of action and identifies further directions leaving room for solving old and new challenges, determines areas of action in mental health, framework, mission, vision and principles of the program, general and specific goals, action plan for action, as well as implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on program implementation.</p> <p>PMHP is based on the following values and principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- mental health protection;</li> <li>- prevention of mental and behavioural disorders and improvement of mental health;</li> <li>- quality of services;</li> <li>- accessibility and equality;</li> <li>- protection of human rights;</li> <li>- community health care;</li> <li>- care for vulnerable groups;</li> <li>- community participation;</li> <li>- mental health is inseparable from general health;</li> <li>- support for the involvement of relevant institutions and resources;</li> <li>- de-stigmatization.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Comparative analysis of the program and NYS</b> |  |
| <b>Youth</b>                                       | <p>PMHP singles out young people as a special interest group within the set goals, measures, and activities. Young people are defined as the age group of 15 to 24, which is not in line with the NYS (15 to 30).</p> <p>The program recognizes and singles out young people as a vulnerable social group, and one of the reasons is that suicide is the second most common cause of death among young people around the world.</p>  |



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|                                | <p>PMHP in section 2.3.2. The shortcomings of the current organization of mental health care especially emphasizes that the implementation of PMHP can be endangered by <i>“the outflow of quality young staff who increasingly go to other countries for professional affirmation”</i>.</p>  |
| <b>Aims</b>                    | <p>Within its goals and measures, the PMHP recognizes young people and singles them out as a special interest group.</p> <p>Within the objectives, young people are mentioned in objective 3.3.3. Specific objective 2. – Prevention of mental disorders and improvement of mental health, where it is stated that the work on prevention of mental disorders and improvement of mental health will be especially focused on vulnerable population groups, including young people.</p> <p>Other specific goals of the PMHP are primarily related to the improvement of the institutional and normative framework, development of human resources, intersectoral cooperation, etc.</p> |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of PMHP is the RS Ministry of Health.</p> <p>To ensure implementation, it is important to ensure inter-ministerial cooperation of a number of ministries (including MOYS), in cooperation with local self-government units, associations, patients, etc.</p> <p>Apart from the mentioned cooperation, a specific role of MOYS within the Program, or within the measures and activities, is not visible.</p>   |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>Young people are significantly represented in the measures and activities within the Program.</p> <p>Measures of the PMHP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4.2.2. Organization of services – formation of new and development of existing psychiatric services for children and youth;</li> <li>- 4.2.3. Prevention of mental disorders and improvement of mental health – this measure mostly deals with prevention in children and youth, and describes in detail</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p>the position of young people, the problems of the work of services, defines steps, etc.</p> <p>Measures in the PMHP Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure 1.2.1. Improving the mental health of children and youth through the prevention of mental disorders, where one of the main indicators is the number of established units for the protection of mental health in the community for children and youth.</li> </ul> <p>Activities in the PMHP Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1.2.1.1. The increase includes preventive activities, primarily early diagnosis, as well as comprehensive assistance to children and young people and their families, at the level of primary health care;</li> <li>- 1.2.1.3. Personnel, organizational and spatial empowerment and assistance to the existing specialized services for mental problems of children and youth in secondary and tertiary institutions through increasing the number of specialists in child and adolescent psychiatry and equal distribution of staff;</li> <li>- 1.2.1.8. Development of specialized services, primarily for prevention, but also treatment (outpatient and inpatient), of children and youth with addiction;</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul> |
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#### **4.9. Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Serbia 2020-2024**

The vision of the Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter: SIPPD) is reflected in the statement that *“the RS shall become an inclusive society in which persons with disabilities enjoy all the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, laws and international treaties”*.

The strategy plans to improve the position of persons with disabilities by removing the obstacles they encounter in various areas of social life and creating conditions for the enjoyment of all rights on an equal basis with others.

| <b>Strategy analysis</b> | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | In accordance with the vision, SIPPD defines one general goal, three specific goals, 18 measures and 75 activities for the realization of general and specific goals. |

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|  | <p>The goal of SIPPD is to improve the overall social and economic position of persons with disabilities in the RS and their equal participation in society by removing barriers in the areas of accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health, and other aspects that contribute to equalizing their opportunities and achieving equality.</p> <p>SIPPD points out that various strategic documents of the RS Government indicate the need to improve the position of persons with disabilities, and the NYS stands out as a particularly important strategy, with which the strategy is harmonized, and certain measures are a continuation or supplement of measures and activities planned within the NYS.</p> <p>SIPPD is focused on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accessibility (physical, information);</li> <li>- participation;</li> <li>- equality and non-discrimination;</li> <li>- social inclusion (employment, education and training, social protection, health care);</li> <li>- deinstitutionalization and community life.</li> </ul> <p>The principles of SIPPD are reflected in respect for human rights of persons with disabilities, respect for diversity and acceptance of persons with disabilities, equality, non-discrimination, equal opportunities, cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach, etc.</p> |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |  |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>SIPPD singles out young people with disabilities as a special interest group, which can be seen within the set goals, measures, and activities. Young people are defined as the age group of 18 to 24 or 25, which is not in line with the NYS (15 to 30).</p> <p>SIPPD provides a large amount of data on young people with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- according to the data collected within the strategy, less than half of the LSUs organizes day care for children and youth with disabilities, while other services are less developed;</li> <li>- over 25% of young people with disabilities (18–24) did not finish high school;</li> </ul>  |

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|                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the need for measures to increase the political participation of young people with disabilities was emphasized;</li> <li>- there is a need to provide data on persons with disabilities in order to analyse the situation of those persons with disabilities who are exposed to multiple disadvantages (including young people);</li> <li>- accessibility is a precondition for independent living, full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society and unlimited exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, on an equal footing with others, and applies to persons with all types of disabilities;</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Aims</b>             | <p>Within its goals and measures, the SIPPD recognizes young people with disabilities and singles them out as a special interest group with multiple disadvantages.</p> <p>Within the specific objectives of the strategy, young people are mentioned in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific objective 2. Involvement of persons with disabilities in political, public, cultural, educational and sports life in the community;</li> <li>- Specific objective 7. Improving the accessibility and quality of health care and establishing a new legal framework for the protection and improvement of the mental health of persons with disabilities.</li> </ul> <p>Other goals relate to the development of effective legal protection, the availability of social and health services, accessibility to the built environment, transportation, ensuring an adequate standard of living, etc.</p> |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b> | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy.</p> <p>To ensure the implementation of the strategy, the importance of inter-ministerial cooperation of a number of ministries, including the MOYS, is emphasized.</p> <p>The role of the MOYS is visible as the bearer of the NYS with which the SIPPD is connected, then as an actor that participates in the implementation of various activities within its goals. More</p>  |

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|                                | information on specific measures and activities can be found in the section below.   |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>Measures and activities that relate directly to young people and in which MOYS participates in the implementation are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- according to the action plan specific objective 1.1. Increased social inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of social life, measure 1.1.2. Involvement of persons with disabilities in political, public, cultural, educational and sports life in the community. It is important to note that the MOYS also participates in the budget within this measure, as well as to carry out a number of activities to ensure the accessibility of sports, recreational, cultural and similar facilities;</li> <li>- according to the information from the strategy within the specific objective 2. MOYS participates in the implementation of measures to encourage the full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities and their participation in all spheres of social life;</li> <li>- within the specific objective 7, the work on ensuring better health care, care and rehabilitation of children, young people and adults with disabilities is stated.</li> </ul> <p>To implement the SIPP, the Action Plan for the period 2021–2022 was adopted.</p> |

**4.10. Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence 2020–2023**

Violence against children is a phenomenon that is present in all societies, cultures, and parts of the world. Many children suffer violence daily, which is a gross violation of their rights. Violence causes the suffering of the child, seriously endangers the development, well-being, and even the life of the child, and the consequences are often severe and long-lasting, they can extend into adulthood, and into the next generations through the mechanism of the so-called intergenerational transmission of violence.

| <b>Strategy analysis</b> | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
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| <b>Basic Information</b> | According to the data from the Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence (hereinafter: SPPCV), children make up about 21% of the population. |

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|  | <p><i>"The vision of the Strategy is based on the child's right to be protected from all forms of violence and its right to live in a safe environment."</i></p> <p>In accordance to the vision, SPPCV defines one general goal, three specific goals, 11 measures and 73 activities for the realization of general and specific goals.</p> <p>The strategy recognizes the term violence to mean <i>"any form of physical or mental violence, injury, abuse, neglect or negligence, harassment or exploitation, including sexual abuse"</i>.</p> <p>Based on the mentioned forms of violence against children, the strategy defines, among other things, domestic violence, violence in educational institutions, social protection institutions, in the social community, abuse of child labour, violence in the digital space, violence in the media space, etc.</p> |
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**Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS**

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| <b>Youth</b> | <p>The SPPCV states that the RS Constitution stipulates that 18 years of age is the age limit that determines the difference between a minor and an adult. The Constitution does not explicitly define a child (nor young people), and such a definition is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, according to which a child is a human being under the age of 18, unless the law states an earlier age of maturity.</p> <p>The strategy explains that the Family Act prescribes that adulthood is reached at the age of 18. According to the criminal and misdemeanour legislation, a minor is a person who has not reached the age of 18, and a child is a person who has not reached the age of 14 at the time of the commission of a criminal offense or misdemeanour. According to the NYS, young people are 15 to 30 years old. Considering the different acts and definitions of the categories of children and youth, the impression is that the strategy is largely relevant to young people, taking into account the overlap of ages 15 to 18, as well as the consequences of violence and child abuse on later life stages.</p> <p>The strategy recognizes and singles out children and youth as a vulnerable social group. Some of the attitudes and opinions based on research that were considered in creation of the strategy are:</p> |
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|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- young people have a very positive attitude towards good parenting practices;</li> <li>- 90% of them believe that parents should explain in words to the child what is acceptable and what is not;</li> <li>- 88% of the surveyed children think that parents should encourage the child with praise and attention to good behaviour;</li> <li>- 82% of children would have personally felt more effect if their parents explained to them why something should not be done than if they were beaten;</li> <li>- the importance of personal example of parents in raising children is emphasized by 84% of them;</li> <li>- children and young people mostly believe that parents should learn how to raise their children (79%), which means that young people recognize that parenting is a skill that is learned and assess that their parents should develop this skill.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Aims</b> | <p>The general goal of the strategy is to ensure a continuous comprehensive response of society to violence against children in accordance with the dynamics of challenges, risks, and threats, through an improved system of prevention, protection, and support.</p> <p>SPPCV defines 11 key priorities for the current policy aimed at interventions in the system of prevention and protection of children from violence. Priorities are oriented towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- consistency of the intervention with the relevant policies;</li> <li>- strengthening the role of the Council for the Rights of the Child;</li> <li>- strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation;</li> <li>- improving the efficiency of the monitoring system;</li> <li>- improving the local level of the protection system;</li> <li>- work on raising awareness and changing social norms;</li> <li>- improving the competencies of employees in institutions dealing with children;</li> <li>- support to families in the development of parenting competencies;</li> <li>- development of prevention, direct support and protection services for children from vulnerable groups;</li> <li>- accelerating de-institutionalization.</li> <li>- providing and strengthening the financing of the system of prevention and protection of children from violence.</li> </ul> |

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|                                       | <p>The specific objectives of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- prevention and systematic work on changing attitudes, values and behaviour in relation to violence against children;</li> <li>- interventions aimed at protecting children from violence;</li> <li>- normative framework, institutional and organizational mechanisms for prevention and protection of children from violence.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>The role of MOYS</b></p>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy.</p> <p>MOYS is recognized as one of the responsible state bodies dealing with various aspects of SPPCV, while NYS is recognized as a related strategy.</p> <p>As mentioned above, the MOYS is listed as a state body that participates in the implementation of activities specific to the strategy and bears part of the responsibility for its implementation.</p> <p>More information on the very active role of MOYS can be found in the description of activities in the Measures and Activities section.</p>  |
| <p><b>Measures and activities</b></p> | <p>This section lists some of the specific measures and activities related to youth and/or MOYS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Objective 1. Prevention and systematic work on changing attitudes, values, and behaviour in relation to violence against children – Measure 1.2. Improving the capacity of children for prevention of violence, MOYS contributes to the sources of verification of all indicators and participates in activities 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 1.2.5, 1.2.6, and oversees implementing activity 1.2.8. <i>“Organize activities with children aged 15–18 that promote solidarity, understanding, tolerance, gender equality and the principles of an inclusive society”</i>;</li> <li>- Objective 3. Normative framework, institutional and organizational mechanisms for prevention and protection of children from violence – Measure 3.1. Strengthening systemic and institutional mechanisms for responding to all forms of violence against children, MOYS oversees implementing activity 3.1.7. <i>“Develop a Rulebook on detailed conditions and ways of recognizing forms of</i></li> </ul> |



*abuse, exploitation, discrimination and violence against children in sports”.*

#### **4.11. Employment Strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2021–2026**

The Employment Strategy (hereinafter: ES) was made to create a developed labour market, which enables access to employment under equal conditions for all. Accordingly, the desired change is an inclusive labour market characterized by full and productive employment.

| <b>Strategy analysis</b> | <b>Meaning/description</b>   |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>The ES is based on the legal framework of the Employment and Unemployment Insurance Act, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Act, the Labour Act, the Secondary Education Act, the Law on Youth, and the Social Protection Act.</p> <p>Among the planning documents relevant to the strategy is the NYS, as well as other strategies that are part of this analysis: Economic Migration Strategy of the RS for the period 2021–2027, Strategy of Digital Skills Development in the RS for the period 2020–2024, Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the RS for the period 2020–2024.</p> <p>The strategy covers the working age population (15–64), where young people are a significant target group (15–30).</p> <p>The ES defines one general goal, three specific goals, 14 measures and 82 activities for the realization of general and specific goals.</p> <p>Some of the most important topics covered by the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- informal employment;</li> <li>- female unemployment;</li> <li>- migrations;</li> <li>- youth unemployment;</li> <li>- inclusion in employment;</li> <li>- long-term unemployment, etc.</li> </ul> <p>One of the most important topics covered and addressed within the strategy is that the largest number of potential emigrants is</p> |

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|   | <p>younger, up to 40 years old. It is stated that the demographic transition has a particular impact on the reduction of the working age population, especially young people (15–30), where there has been a decrease of 202,600 people in the last 10 years.</p>  |
| <p><b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b></p> |  |
| <p><b>Youth</b></p>   | <p>The ES states that the progress of the previous strategy is less pronounced when looking at the qualitative aspects of employment growth (employment structure, wages). The inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially young people, did not achieve the predicted values of the strategy in any of the indicators. As a recommendation, it is stated that greater importance should be given to measures of additional education and training when it comes to young, low-skilled, and long-term unemployed.</p> <p>The strategy deals in detail with young people and provides a significant amount of data as well as sources of information, because it recognizes and singles out young people as a vulnerable social group.</p> <p>When it comes to migrations, it is stated that among young people in the RS there is a widespread desire to leave the country, which is ahead of young people from neighbouring countries, and that almost 75% of young people aged 15 to 29 want or intend to emigrate.</p> <p>The participation of young people in the total number of unemployed persons is 20.7% (about 110,000 persons).</p> <p>According to age, 11.6% of unemployed people with disabilities are young people up to 30 years old.</p> <p>The strategy also deals with other aspects of study of young people that affect unemployment, such as the phenomenon of “<i>extended youth</i>”, then the inactivity of young people in the labour market, the long transition to employment after school, the position of young women, lack of work experience and others.</p> <p>The strategy states that, to remove the barriers that stand between young people and the labour market, it is necessary to ensure the cooperation of several sectors, because the causes of their lag in the labour market are in a wider range of employment policies.</p> |

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| <b>Aims</b>                    | <p>The general goal of the strategy is “<i>established stable and sustainable employment growth based on knowledge and decent work</i>”.</p> <p>The specific goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- achieved growth of quality employment through cross-sectoral measures aimed at improving labour supply and demand;</li> <li>- improved position of unemployed persons on the labour market;</li> <li>- improved institutional framework for employment policy.</li> </ul> <p>Considering the position of young people in the labour market described in the strategy, the impression is that all goals are relevant for young people.</p>   |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy.</p> <p>MOYS is very actively involved in the work on achieving the goals of this strategy through participation in the Working Group for drafting the ES proposal. The MOYS is also mentioned as a stakeholder in relation to the measures defined in the strategy.</p> <p>According to the Budget Act of the RS for 2021, MOYS funds are allocated for programs and projects to support young people in employment in the amount of one hundred million dinars, as well as projections of funds in the same amount for 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>In the next section, Measures and Activities, those in which MOYS is involved are listed.</p> |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>According to the information from the strategy, members of the hard-to-employ categories of the unemployed, including young people, have a priority for inclusion in the financial measures of active employment policy. Measures and activities in the field of youth are given in the continuation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Measure 1.2. Increasing the cost-effectiveness and quality of work due to contracts with limited duration and regulating the work of youth cooperatives;</li> <li>- Measure 1.3. Encouraging job creation with an emphasis on recognizing the importance of digital youth work;</li> </ul>   |

- Measure 1.4. Integration of users of social protection services into the labour market, where several categories of young people are listed;
- Measure 1.5. Strengthening local employment policy;
- Measure 2.1. Implementation of active employment policy measures;
- Measure 2.2. Improving the implementation and creation of new measures of active employment policy, where the focus is on improving the education and training of young people;
- Measure 2.3. Improving the monitoring of the situation and trends in the labour market and the system of monitoring and evaluating the outcomes and impact of active employment policy measures;
- Measure 2.4. Improving the position of women in the labour market;
- Measure 2.5. Improving the position of young people in the labour market, where the focus is on removing many barriers that stand between young people and the labour market.

Regarding the activities, the following very relevant activities for young people are singled out under measure 2.5, where MOYS and YO are listed as actors:

- Activity 2.5.1. Inclusion of unemployed youth in Active Employment Policy measures;
- Activity 2.5.2. Developing models for reaching, registering and activating young people from NEET categories who are outside the institutions of the system;
- Activity 2.5.3. Development of a policy coordination system in the Youth Guarantee program;
- Activity 2.5.4. Development of management mechanisms that direct activities at the national and local level in the Youth Guarantee program;
- Activity 2.5.5. Establishing a framework and piloting elements of the Youth Guarantee program;
- Activity 2.5.6. Support for project implementation and encouragement of youth employment within youth policy.

To implement the ES, an Action Plan for the period 2021–2023 was adopted.

#### 4.12. Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Serbia 2030

The future of every country depends on the readiness of its citizens to successfully overcome the challenges of the 21st century – accelerated technological development, advanced globalization, and large-scale disturbances (e.g., climate change, pandemics), which are primarily reflected in uncertainty. The education system must successfully build the capacity of young people so that after leaving the education system they are competent to live and work in the 21st century.

| <b>Strategy analysis</b> | <b>Meaning/description</b>  |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>The vision of the strategy for the development of education in the RS (hereinafter referred to as the SDE) is to provide quality education to achieve the full potential of every child, young person, and adult in the RS.</p> <p>The mission of SDE is to provide high quality education that serves the development of the individual and thus of society.</p> <p>In accordance with the vision and mission, SDE defines two general objectives, 13 specific objectives, 30 measures and 277 activities for the realization of general and specific objectives.</p> <p>Among the planning documents relevant to the strategy is the NYS, as well as other strategies that are part of this analysis: Economic Migration Strategy of the RS for the period 2021–2027, Strategy of Digital Skills Development in the RS for the period 2020–2024, Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities in the RS for the period 2020–2024.</p> <p>Considering that the strategy deals with the principles of lifelong learning, it fully includes young people (15-30) in its goals and activities.</p> <p>Some of the most important topics covered by the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inclusion;</li> <li>- teacher education;</li> <li>- national qualifications framework;</li> <li>- education of members of national minorities;</li> <li>- financing of education;</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the data;</li> <li>- digitalization of education.</li> </ul> <p>It is important to note the different levels of education, most of which are directly relevant to young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preschool education;</li> <li>- primary education;</li> <li>- secondary education;</li> <li>- secondary general and artistic education;</li> <li>- secondary vocational education;</li> <li>- higher education;</li> <li>- adult education.</li> </ul> |
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**Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS**

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| <b>Youth</b> | <p>The main focus of the SDE vision is on children and young people and young people are singled out as a vulnerable social group.</p> <p>Therefore, the most relevant levels of education for young people are secondary, higher, and adult education. The strategy offers data in the form of statistics and, as an example, states that the completion rate of secondary schools is 88%.</p> <p>The strategy emphasizes that the National Model of Dual Education derives from relevant data on the needs of the economy and was introduced to ensure cooperation between the education and economic systems to ensure a faster transition of young people to the world of work.</p> <p>In the RS, it is still noticeable that certain social groups are underrepresented in higher education, and the participation of young people from the poorest families, then families with the lowest level of education, from Roma families and people with disabilities is noticeably lower. Gender segregation is also noticeable.</p> <p>Republic Statistic Bureau data show that the rate of those who are not in the process of education or training (NEET youth), and who are not employed (15 to 29 years) was 18.9% in 2019.</p> <p>As a result of negative demographic trends, the number of university students in the RS has decreased by about 15% in the last decade.</p> |
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| <b>Aims</b>                    | <p>The strategy is aimed at achieving two general goals – the first refers to pre-university, and the second to higher education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increased quality of teaching and learning, fairness and accessibility of pre-university education and strengthened educational function of educational institutions;</li> <li>- improved accessibility, quality, relevance, and equity of higher education.</li> </ul> <p>Within each of the general objectives there are several specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within the general goal 1. is the improvement of teaching and learning, the establishment of foundations for digital education, the improvement of conditions for lifelong learning, etc.;</li> <li>- within the general goal 2. is the improvement of the quality of the offer and outcomes of higher education, the improvement of the relevance of higher education, digitalization, etc.</li> </ul>                                       |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>        | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.</p> <p>The strategy and action plan do not provide information on the role of actors in measures and activities, and thus on the role of MOYS.</p>   |
| <b>Measures and activities</b> | <p>In terms of measures and activities, considering that the strategy mostly deals with young people within the formal education system, below we list several measures and activities that apply only to young people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General objective 1. highlights the work on reducing the percentage of young people (18–24) who dropped out of education or training early;</li> <li>- General objective 2. especially highlights the work on 1. increase in the percentage of highly educated in the population aged 25–34, as well as 2. increase in the percentage of the generation aged 19–30 covered by higher education;</li> <li>- Measure 1.1.3. Support to educational institutions in strengthening the educational function deals with increasing the number of new accredited trainings in the field of protection from violence, neglect, discrimination, promotion of gender equality, preservation of mental health, reproductive health, healthy lifestyles, and</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>prevention of risk behaviours of children and young people. The realization of this measure is implemented through activities 1.1.3.2. Development and implementation of training programs and manuals for empowerment of representatives of educational institutions for the implementation of preventive and interventional activities in the above areas.</p> <p>To implement the SDE, a Conclusion on the action plan until 2020 was adopted.</p> |
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#### **4.13. Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia 2021–2025, with the motto “The Power of Knowledge”**

Science is an important component of the development of the RS, just like any society. Technological progress, health, security, education, and national identity rest on the power of science to create, expand and apply knowledge, which determines the overall quality of life of citizens. In the 21st century, the need for top science is even more pronounced, as further development of the economy and society is increasingly based on knowledge as a key resource while increasing the number of social challenges that can only be solved with new knowledge.

| <b>Strategy analysis</b> | <b>Meaning/description</b>   |
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| <b>Basic information</b> | <p>The Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of the RS (hereinafter SSTD) with the motto “<i>The Power of Knowledge</i>” is a strategic instrument for improving the quality of life of citizens of the RS through science and technological development.</p> <p>In the context of numerous global challenges, this strategy recognizes knowledge as a reliable foundation for future economic progress and growth of citizens' standard, development of education and preservation of health, security, and national identity in the RS.</p> <p>The vision of the strategy is reflected in the creation of strong scientific research institutions, leading researchers at the world level, independent research teams capable of competitive projects, creation of new knowledge, technology, and jobs.</p> |



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|  | SSTD defines one general goal, five specific goals, 15 measures and 62 activities for the realization of general and specific goals.  |
| <b>Comparative analysis of national strategy and NYS</b> |   |
| <b>Youth</b>   | <p>The SSTD does not recognize young people as a specific target group in its goals or activities.</p> <p>Talented students and young researchers in the context of scientific research work stand out as a special narrowly defined target group, to whom certain measures and activities described in the following sections of the analysis are dedicated.</p>   |
| <b>Aims</b>  | <p>The general goal of SSTD is that the scientific-technological and innovation system contributes to the accelerated development of the RS through the improvement of quality and efficiency of science, technological development and innovation and further integration into the European Research Area, thus helping to reach the standards of developed economies.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing the necessary conditions for the dynamic development of science, technological development and innovation;</li> <li>- increasing the efficiency of using the resources of the scientific research system;</li> <li>- fostering the top quality of science and technological development and strengthening the competitiveness of the economy;</li> <li>- focusing research on societal challenges and priorities;</li> <li>- strengthening international cooperation.</li> </ul> |
| <b>The role of MOYS</b>                                  | <p>The responsible state body for the implementation of the strategy is the RS Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.</p> <p>The strategy and action plan do not provide information on the role of actors in measures and activities, and thus on the role of MOYS.</p>   |
| <b>Measures and activities</b>                           | <p>Considering that the strategy does not deal with young people in a broader sense, but with young researchers in the scientific research context, the measures and activities aimed at that group are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within the specific objective 1. and measure 1.2. The development of human resources, investment in the development of scientific talent has positive effects on</li> </ul>  |

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|  | <p>other segments of society, while the development of society is in proportion to the size of the research staff. The goal of this measure is for the RS to reach the European average number of researchers per capita, which is twice as high as in the RS. The goal is achieved through programs and scholarships of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the RS Science Fund for the inclusion of young researchers in scientific research;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- within the specific objective 3. and measure 3.1. Providing all forms of support to talented and gifted students would form a new generation of researchers trained to develop new products and technologies. Special programs of encouragement and scholarships for young and gifted people for scientific research work co-finance the scientific research activities of young doctoral researchers and the best gifted students. The main goal of the program is to achieve conditions for the preservation and development of scientific research youth and to prevent the outflow of scientific personnel.</li></ul> |
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## V. MIGRATIONS AND YOUTH

The RS national strategies/programs included in this analysis view youth migrations mainly as a negative phenomenon in society. The reason for that is the negative migration balance in which highly educated young people emigrate from the RS to other countries or where young people (of all educational profiles) leave rural areas within internal migration flows and go to cities. Several analysed national strategies cite this as a key demographic problem. According to the analysed strategies, this problem should be slowed down, the number of return and circular migrations of young people should be increased and proactive measures should be taken in order to attract young foreigners of different, mostly higher education profiles.

National strategies, each in its own field, highlight several key challenges in the field of youth migration. Below is an overview of the most important ones:

- The Employment Strategy in the RS has included the topic of migration as one of the most important topics that affect the labour market and the national economy. The strategy points out that the demographic transition has had a particular impact on the reduction of the working age population, especially the young (15-30), where there has been a reduction of 202,600 people in the last ten years. Also, in the RS, the desire of young people to leave the country is widespread, in which they are ahead of young people from neighbouring countries – almost 75% of young people aged 15–29 want or intend to emigrate;
- The Strategy for the Development of Education in the RS points out that, due to negative demographic trends, the number of university students in the RS has decreased by about 15% in the last decade, which is a significant problem from the perspective of youth and society, and the availability of educational programs for young people from vulnerable groups should be increased;
- The RS Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Development emphasizes the migration of highly educated population as one of the key problems, because it is difficult to keep the educated workforce in areas without sufficiently attractive jobs that match their education and ambitions. The unfavourable social structure in the countryside also contributes to this, which further contributes to the low attractiveness of rural areas as compelling places for young families to live. This strategy also recognizes a small number of young returnees from cities, who only (sporadically) move as young families who prefer a rural setting and are willing to start some alternative activity on a small estate. The strategy connects small family farms and poverty due to the reduction of their number, under the influence of rural aging, migration, globalization and many other factors;
- The RS Economic Migration Strategy emphasises several key problems, in which young people are one of the main actors: lack of comprehensive

measures to reduce the causes of emigration, underdeveloped measures and programs to attract foreign students and professionals, as well as programs of their integration into society and non-existence of developed measures and programs for (re)integration of returnees. This strategy sees "*emigration of young people of reproductive and working age*" as the main threat, and more balanced regional development as an opportunity to reduce emigration and encourage the return of young people to their places of origin;

- The strategy for the development of digital skills in the RS emphasizes that there are reduced employment opportunities in rural areas or that young people from rural areas face high barriers to entering the labour market and sees digital work as an economic development opportunity for young people from those areas. Considering that in the period 2017–2022 over 30,000 ICT experts graduate in the RS, and if domestic needs are estimated at less than 15,000, this can lead to a modern form of labour migration, i.e., employment abroad, and thanks to the development of ICT, their stay in the RS;
- The RS Industrial Policy Strategy states that wages in the formal sector have stagnated, which increases emigration flows. Also, the strategy emphasizes that the negative natural increase combined with high emigration leads to a decline in the working age population, which will be an essential constraint on faster industrial growth in the RS;
- Strategy of scientific and technological development of the RS recognizes the outflow of scientific staff as a key problem in creating strong scientific research institutions;
- Smart Specialisation Strategy of the RS for the period 2020–2027 highlights as a key problem the unfavourable demographic structure in rural areas and the outflow of human resources abroad and of young people from rural areas, the outflow of highly educated staff, the inability to retain quality staff and low labour costs compared to developed countries.

The analysed strategies envisage several goals, measures and activities for young people in order to mitigate the above-mentioned challenges. Below is an overview of the most important ones:

- creating incentive employment policies in order to transform rural areas into immigration areas, primarily for young people;
- building and strengthening institutional capacities for monitoring and improving the quality of data on economic migration;
- creating favourable conditions for the life and work of young people and their retention in rural areas, providing more attractive jobs and equal opportunities for their families for the purpose of balanced regional development;
- diversification of the rural economy and preservation of cultural and natural heritage – through various types of investment and advisory support in

agriculture, which will give rural areas the opportunity to offer more attractive jobs to the younger and more educated population;

- improving the social structure and strengthening social capital by stopping the negative demographic trends in rural areas, greater availability of social services to the rural population and the affirmation of women's and youth entrepreneurship in rural areas;
- achieved growth of quality employment through intersectoral measures aimed at improving labour supply and demand;
- mobility, scope of international youth cooperation and support to young migrants;
- preventing the outflow of scientific staff by providing all forms of support to talented and gifted students; a new generation of researchers trained to develop new products and technologies would be formed. It is planned that special programs of encouragement and scholarships for young and talented people for scientific research will co-finance the scientific research activities of young doctoral researchers and the best talented students.

The analysed national strategies/programs envisage several activities and measures that are indirectly related to youth migration and involve the improvement of the quality of life of the RS citizens. Considering that young people are mainly encouraged to (e)migrate due to economic motives or to improve living standards and living conditions, it can be concluded that raising the quality of life of young people at all levels can impact the slowing down of the migration of young people from the RS as well as the return and circular migrations of young people. The current NYS and the future NYS, through their goals and measures, can significantly influence the *“reduction of the volume of youth emigration and the strengthening of return flows by mitigating the so-called ‘push factors’<sup>128</sup> of different natures here and reaching the desired model of circular mobility”<sup>129</sup>.*

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<sup>128</sup> Rejection factors related to poor conditions in the country of origin are often referred to in our literature as “push” factors, and attraction factors related to good conditions in the country of potential or real destination as “pull” factors.

<sup>129</sup> Original title in Serbian and link for more details (in Serbian): [„Migracije i razvoj u Srbiji” Mirjana Rašević - Međunarodna organizacija za migracije \(2016\)](#)

## VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NYS

The key recommendations below are directly related to the above analysis of international and national strategies/programs. When considering potential courses of action, **it is important to consider both the analysis and the recommendations together**, to cover a complete picture.

### 6.1. International youth strategies

#### European Union Youth Strategy 2019–2027

- **youth work** – The NYS partially recognizes the specific problems of youth work in Serbia by saying that “*youth work is not systematically recognized and supported*” and that there is a “*lack of functional, comprehensive, quality and sustainable system of career guidance and counselling for young people*”. It is recommended to discuss whether the NYS measures to support the professionalization of youth work are adequate, whether adequate funds are allocated and whether the NYS is in line with the EUYS in this regard;
- **coordinator for youth within the EC** – The NYS does not envisage activities on creating a similar structure in Serbia, so it is recommended to discuss the use value of forming a similar structure in Serbia;
- **climate change** – The NYS does not contain much of this topic, while “*sustainable green Europe*” is one of the 11 key objectives, and it is recommended that the topic of climate change be included as a point of discussion;
- **Youth Wiki** – The NYS does not envisage the development of a similar tool in Serbia. It is recommended to discuss the use value of a similar platform in Serbia. Unlike the Youth Wiki platform, it would include local action plans and (in the future, in accordance with the Planning System Act<sup>130</sup>) local youth strategies. The use value of the tool would be potentially high for all actors of youth policy in Serbia (MOYS, youth sector, youth, researchers...) for the same reasons mentioned above. The platform would be in Serbian, and the YOs would potentially be in the role of local correspondents;
- **consolidating the European Youth Portal** – NYS does not envisage the creation of a similar portal in Serbia within the strategic goal “Improved youth information system and knowledge about youth”. It is recommended to discuss the use value of a similar portal in Serbia, which would gather information on NYS in one place and make it easier for young people in Serbia to monitor the implementation of NYS, use different national and international opportunities, facilitate understanding of EU dialogue with young people and others.

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<sup>130</sup> Official Gazette of the RS (2018), no. 30/3.

Currently, this information is available on multiple independent portals, making it difficult for a young person in Serbia to navigate it;

- **European Solidarity Corps 2021–2027** – The RS's entry into this EU program implies a significant annual financial contribution, which should not, in any way, jeopardize the financing of existing local and national programs, initiatives and projects in the field of youth in Serbia. It is recommended to discuss a possible model of participation in this program.

### **Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030**

- **co-management principle** – The NYS recognizes the concept of joint management (through specific objective 4.2.3) and co-management (through specific objective 4.2.4). It is recommended to discuss whether NYS measures for the implementation of the concept at all levels of decision-making in the RS are adequate and whether harmonization with COEYSS is necessary (and possible);
- **youth work** – It is recommended to discuss whether some of the developed resources and instruments of CoE support in the field of youth can be integrated into the NYS;
- **new challenges** – It is recommended to discuss the above challenges and topics in the field of youth identified by COEYSS and whether, due to their relevance to young people in Serbia, they can be the focus of an updated NYS;
- **approach to non-formal education** – The NYS recognizes the need to “develop a non-formal education system accessible to all young people” but recommends discussing whether the NYS contains measures to help young people, especially NEETs, learn about the opportunities created by the youth sector.

### **UN Agenda for sustainable development 2015–2030**

- **ownership of the strategy** – following the example of the UN and the Youth Council, the impression is that further inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral linkages are needed in order to better monitor and evaluate the NYS;
- **way of defining goals and indicators** – within the NYS and section 2. Analysis of the situation with recommendations, Article 4 points to the need for a statistical monitoring system, and it is recommended to consider linking the NYS monitoring process with monitoring the achievement of SDGs of UN Agenda 2030, then linking with the use of monitoring mechanism and/or creating similar monitoring mechanism for NYS;
- **transparent reporting** – the opinion is that the approach of transparent and public monitoring of data can be very useful in all sectors, and very relevant for NYS, with a recommendation to link the key elements of NYS with SDGs in order to facilitate monitoring the achievement of objectives;

- **achievement of SDGs and NYS goals** – the opinion is that the achievement of the NYS goals directly contributes to the achievement of the SDGs UNA2030, and it is recommended to link the process and use the data and results of the NYS in the process of reporting to the UN;
- **concluding comprehensive proposal** is to create greater synergy between the two strategies, UNA2030 and NYS, in terms of emphasizing inclusion in all segments of society, resource use, statistical mechanisms, and cross-sectoral cooperation, taking into account that young people are a cross-cutting target group with interests in all sectors in Serbia.

### **United Nations Youth Strategy 2018–2030**

- **complementarity of NYS and UNYS2030** – taking into account the direction in which both strategies are moving and the high level of overlap of objectives, it is recommended to link the NYS with UNYS2030 in terms of the use of UN resources, such as performance monitoring mechanisms, knowledge bases, tools, UN system and UN Country Teams;
- **development of government capacity** – as a special recommendation is highlighted the focus of UNYS2030 on building the capacity of local and national authorities to implement the NYS in order to make the best use of existing resources (e.g., youth offices). In order for young people to realize their potential, an adequate support and cooperation from the authorities is needed;
- **stable foundations of youth policy** – UNYS2030 is recommended as a good practice example in establishing the foundations, a stable basis for the implementation of youth policies in Serbia, with an emphasis on gathering knowledge about youth, establishing mechanisms for measuring and evaluating performance, establishing the principles of accessibility, responsiveness, and transparency by youth policy bodies.

## **6.2. RS National Strategies**

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| <p><b>Strategies/programs in which young people are recognised as a special target group (and not as a part of general population)</b></p> | <p>Young people are recognized in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategy for Agricultural and rural Development;</li> <li>- Strategy of Digital Skills Development;</li> <li>- Industrial Policy Strategy;</li> <li>- Public Health Strategy;</li> <li>- Program for Mental Health Protection;</li> <li>- Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities;</li> <li>- Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence;</li> </ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment Strategy;</li> <li>- Strategy for the Development of Education.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Strategies/programs in which MOYS is recognized in implementation</b>                         | <p>MOYS is recognized in the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic Migration Strategy;</li> <li>- Public Health Strategy;</li> <li>- Strategy for Improving the Position of Persons with Disabilities;</li> <li>- Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence;</li> <li>- Employment Strategy.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Strategies/programs in which young people are represented through measures and activities</b> | <p>Young people, as a special target group or as part of the general population, are represented through measures and activities in all 13 analysed strategies and programs in the RS.</p>   |
| <b>Strategies/programs which include young people aged 15-30</b>                                 | <p>Strategies/programs which include young people aged 15 to 30 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment Strategy;</li> <li>- Strategy for the Development of Education.</li> </ul> <p>Strategies/programs in which the age of young people is defined differently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PMHP defines young people as age group of 15 to 24 (which is not in line with the NYS);</li> <li>- SIPPD defines young people as age group of 18 to 24 or 25, which is not in line with the NYS;</li> <li>- SPPCV defines young people as an age group from 15 to 18 years (example excerpt from the strategy: Activity 1.2.8. <i>“Organize activities with children aged 15–18 years”</i>).</li> </ul> |

## VII. LITERATURE

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