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# ИЗВЕШТАЈ О НАПРЕТКУ У ОСТВАРИВАЊУ ЦИЉЕВА Одрживог развоја до 2030. године у републици србији

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030 IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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Република Србија – Републички завод за статистику Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

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**REPORT FOR 2022** 

April 2023

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# FOREWORD

n September 2015 all United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda, which represents a vision of sustainable development and a better, more stable and safer life for all. The Agenda contains short-term and long-term goals and targets in the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

We present the Progress Report on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for the Republic of Serbia for 2022. The publication is based on the data for 125 indicators from October 2022.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia remains consistent in monitoring and providing reliable data necessary for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia.

Belgrade, April 2023

Director Miladin Kovačević, PhD

# GRATITUDE

W e would like to thank Dr. Marija Babović for a successful and fruitful cooperation during the preparation of the report, Katja Grbić, who provided technical support on behalf of GIZ on the project, representatives of civil society organizations on the comments sent, as well as all members of the SDG Monitoring Working Group.

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# PREFACE

This Progress Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2022 is the third progress report in a row drawn up by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia with the support of the Swiss and German Governments. Due to the continuity in monitoring progress, systematic insights have been provided in the areas in which the Republic of Serbia is progressing towards achieving the goals defined by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in areas where additional efforts are needed to accelerate development processes.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs adopted by all United Nations member states in September 2015, represent a global strategic framework for sustainable development all member states and relevant international stakeholders ought to strive to achieve. The 2030 Agenda provides a basis for the vision of development as sustainable prosperity based on social inclusion and equality, while preserving our planet at the same time.

One of the fundamental principles this strategic framework rests upon is Leave no one behind, namely leave no one excluded from development processes and development achievements. Besides the main progress report in the implementation of sustainable development goals, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in cooperation with GIZ, published several informative publications on the achievement of the SDGs from the perspective of different groups that may be left behind the development processes or are insufficiently included in them. Five publications from the series "Leave no one behind the development" were published and they were dedicated to the Roma population, to children, youth and to the issues of gender and spatial inequalities (between the urban and rural settlements, as well as among the regions in Serbia).

#### Monitoring and progress measuring methodology

The methodology for monitoring progress in this report for 2022 is the same as in the previous two and it relies on the Eurostat Methodology. Progress is measured through a compound annual growth rate.

The compound annual growth rate is to be calculated according to the formula:

$$CAGR = \left(\frac{Y_t}{Y_{t0}}\right)^{\frac{1}{t-t0}} - 1$$

 $t_o$  = baseline year, t = last year,  $Y_{to}$  = indicator value for the baseline year,  $Y_t$  = indicator value for the last year.

Eurostat uses this methodology to measure progress in relation to the goals for which the values to be achieved by 2030 have not been quantified. In the EU progress is monitored compared to the long-term time frame (for the last fifteen, i.e. minimum ten years) and short-term (for the last five, i.e. minimum three years).

Since quantitatively defined goals have not been adopted in Serbia, the measuring is performed in relation to the reference baseline year, whereby both the direction and the degree of change are measured. Changes of 1% and more are assessed as significant progress towards SDGs, changes greater than or equal to 0 but less than 1% are assessed as moderate progress towards SDGs, less than 0 but greater than -1% as a moderate movement away from the goal and below -1% as a pronounced movement away from the goal (Table 1). The limit value of 1% has proven to be adequate during the ten-year experience of applying this rate in monitoring various trends conducted by Eurostat, as sufficiently discriminatory to separate trends according to the degree of change. In addition, it enables the display of a good picture of change trends, based on a number of indicators that are classified into a total of seven categories<sup>1</sup>.

#### Table 1 Progress assessment categories and symbols

Symbol	Progress in achieving the goal measured through the indicator					
1	Significant progress					
7	Moderate progress					
2	Moderate movement away					
↓	Significant movement away					
×	Calculating the trend is not possible (due to short time series of data, due to the indicator type, lack of change, etc.)					
<b>7</b>	Inconsistent trends — progress is registered against one (sub)indicator, while movement away from the goal is registered against another					
1	Goal achieved					

Monitoring is based exclusively on official data posted by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS) on the SDG portal. At the time of the creation of this report for 2022 (December 2022), 125 indicators were monitored for the Republic of Serbia within 17 SDGs, which is 18 indicators more than in the previous report. Progress is measured in the short-term (up to five years) and, when possible, also in the long-term. In case when data were not available for the short-term period, the closest time data was used. When it comes to indicators for which data are not available for at least two years, one of which is part of the defined quantified short-time framework, measuring cannot be implemented according to the compound annual growth rate, but data are presented which describe the situation in the year, for which the data were available. The long-term time frame depends on data availability, and whenever possible, trends for the period from 2011 to 2022 or the closest period depending on the data availability are presented.

Eurostat (2019) Sustainable Development in the European Union. Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in and EU context: 2019 edition. <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi/publications</u>

The charts show the values for the baseline and last year, as well as for 2018, which was chosen as the baseline year for the short-term monitoring.

#### List of new indicators in 2022

2.5.1	Number of (a) plant and (b) animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities
2.5.2	Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction
5.c.1	Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment
8.b.1	Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy
10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
10.7.2	Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people
10.7.3	Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination
10.a.1	Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff
10.b.1	Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)
11.1.1	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
11.5.3	Damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters
11.7.2	Proportion of persons victims of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
11.a.1	Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space
12.4.2	Generated and treated hazardous waste
12.b.1	Implementation of standard accounting tools for monitoring economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population
16.2.3	Proportion of young women aged 18–29 who were subject to sexual violence by the age of 18
17.3.1	Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income

#### **Report structure**

Together with this Preface, the report is structured in 17 chapters dedicated to individual SDGs.

SDG	INDICATORS												
	1.2.1	1.2.2	1.3.1	1.4.1	1.5.1	1.5.2	1.5.3	1.5.4	1.a.2				
SDG 1	1	1	<b>N</b>	7	X	•	X	X	+				
	2.1.2	2.2.1	2.2.2	2.5.1	2.5.2	2.a.1							
SDG 2	4	1	1	7	1	•							
6DC 2	3.1.1	3.1.2	3.2.1	3.2.2	3.3.2	3.4.1	3.4.2	3.7.1	3.7.2	3.8.1	3.9.3	3.b.1	3.c.1
SDG 3	<b>~</b>	↗	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>	1	7	1	1	1	↗	1	<b>Z</b>	↓
SDG 4	4.1.2	4.2.1	4.2.2	4.3.1	4.5.1	4.6.1							
3DG 4	×	7	<b>N</b>	<mark>א ג</mark>	X	4							
SDG 5	5.1.1	5.2.1	5.2.2	5.3.1	5.4.1	5.5.1	5.5.2	5.6.1	5.6.2	5.a.2	5.b.1	5.c.1	
300.5	X	X	×	•	X	1	1	X	X	X	7	X	
SDG 6	6.1.1	6.2.1	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.4.1	6.4.2	6.a.1	6.b.1					
300 0	7	7	1	1	1	1	1	<ul> <li>Image: A second s</li></ul>					
SDG 7	7.1.1	7.1.2	7.2.1	7.3.1									
5507	7	X	1	1									
SDG 8	8.1.1	8.3.1	8.4.2	8.5.1	8.5.2	8.6.1	8.7.1	8.10.1	8.b.1				
0000	1	1	ע	X	1		×	<b>Z</b>	<b>~</b>				
SDG 9	9.1.2	9.2.1	9.2.2	9.4.1	9.5.1	9.5.2	9.c.1						
	עא	ע	1	<mark>لا ال</mark>	1	1	7						
SDG 10	10.1.1	10.2.1	10.3.1	10.4.1	10.7.2	10.7.3	10.a.1	10.b.1					
	1	1	×	1	X	X	Я	1					
SDG 11	11.1.1	11.5.1	11.5.2	11.5.3	11.6.1	11.6.2	11.7.2	11.a.1	11.b.1	11.b.2			
	×	X	1	X	X	X	X	×	X	X			
SDG 12	12.1.1	12.2.2	12.4.2	12.5.1	12.b.1								
			1010	1	X								
SDG 13	13.1.1	13.1.2	13.1.3										
	14.b.1	~	~										
SDG 14	X												
	15.1.1	15.1.2	15.2.1	15.6.1	15.a.1	15.b.1							
SDG 15	7	1	<u>لا ۲</u>	X	1	1							
	16.1.1	16.1.3	16.1.4	16.2.1	16.2.2	16.2.3	16.3.1	16.3.2	16.5.1	16.6.1	16.9.1	16.b.1	
SDG 16	1	X	X	М	N	X	X	•	X	1	X	X	
	17.1.1	17.3.1	17.3.2	17.4.1	17.6.1	17.8.1							
SDG 17	7	1	+	•	1	1							

#### Progress dashboard towards the Sustainable Development Goals





# END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 5/7 (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.a) 9/13

SDG 1 envisages end of poverty in all its forms everywhere and covers seven targets monitored against 13 indicators. Currently, the progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to five targets against nine indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Republic of Serbia achieved significant progress in reducing the at-risk-of-poverty rate (target 1.2) in both the long term (2013–2021) and in the short term (2017–2021).
   Progress was achieved in all age groups except the older population (65+), wherein significant movement away from the goal was observed.
- At the same time, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate in all age groups shows significant progress both in the short term and in the long term.
- Moderate movement away from the goal was registered short term in relation to the target 1.3 which envisages the implementation of appropriate national social protection systems due to the reduction of the share of social protection beneficiaries in the total population. However, that has not disturbed the long-term significant progress towards the goal yet.
- Moderate progress was registered in relation to the proportion of the population with access to water supply and sanitation services (target 1.4).
- Regarding the indicators that monitor the resilience of the population to extreme climate events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (target 1.5), decrease in the number of victims of disasters was observed as well as a reduction in economic losses due to disasters.
- Significant movement away from the goal was registered in the mobilization of resources for the implementation of poverty reduction policies (target 1.a). Observed separately by sector, significant progress was made only in the area of allocations for health care and education, while significant movement away from the goal was recorded in the social protection sector.

**Target 1.2** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions

**Indicator 1.2.1** Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (at-risk-of-poverty rate)

**Indicator 1.2.2** Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions (at-risk-of-poverty rate or social exclusion rate)

The Republic of Serbia made significant progress in reducing poverty. Even though in the period 2013–2015 there was an increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate, which is the basic indicator of financial poverty, its declining trend was observed since 2016 and the lowest rate ever since it was subject to measuring in Serbia was recorded in 2021 (Chart 1)<sup>2</sup>. Long-term progress was achieved at a compound annual growth rate of -1.79%, and the short-term one at a rate of -4.70%, which indicate more pronounced trends in poverty reduction over the past five years.

Poverty reduction is registered in all age groups except among the older population (population of 65 years of age and above). Although the at-risk-of-poverty rate is continuingly higher among women than among men, this movement away from the goal among the older population between 2017 and 2021 is the consequence of the increase of the at-risk-of-poverty rate among men from 16.9% to 20.2% (at the compound annual growth rate of 4.56%). When it comes to older women, this rate was the same in 2017 and in 2021 (24.7%).

Regarding the gender gaps when it comes to the poverty risks in the total population, the data point to a higher at-risk-of-poverty rate among women with an increase of the gender gap (Chart 1).



#### Chart 1: Indicator 1.2.1 At risk of poverty rate by sex, 2013–2021 (%)

Source: Survey on income and living conditions (SILC), SORS

Another indicator to monitor progress vis-à-vis poverty reduction is the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate. This indicator, in addition to the risk of financial poverty, includes an indicator of material deprivation, i.e. deprivation of basic needs due to the lack of financial resources as well as an indicator of the work intensity in household. Trends observed based on this indicator show significant progress for all age groups in both, the long term<sup>3</sup> and in the short term<sup>4</sup>. As with the at-risk-poverty-rate, short-term trends show a tendency to increase the gender gap in favour of men, although the rate is declining in both the male and female population.



#### Chart 2: Indicator 1.2.2 At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate, by sex 2013–2021 (%)

Source: Survey on income and living conditions (SILC), SORS

#### **Target 1.3** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

#### **Indicator 1.3.1** Share of social protection beneficiaries in total population

Moderate movement away from the goal is registered in connection with the target envisaging the implementation of appropriate national social protection systems and a sufficient coverage of the poor and vulnerable. Compared to the report for the previous year, when moderate progress was made in achieving this goal, this year's monitoring results indicate a trend reversal in the sense of the movement away from the goal<sup>5</sup>. However, from the long-term perspective (2013–2021), the trend is still positive and it points to significant progress in achieving the goal<sup>6</sup>. The comparison of the long-term and short-term trend indicates that the unfavourable tendencies are more recent so that they still haven't annulled the long-term progress made, but it also warns that, should this trend continue, it may come to a significant movement away from the goal.

- <sup>3</sup> With the compound annual growth rate of -4.73%.
- 4 With the compound annual growth rate of -6.13%.
- <sup>5</sup> With the compound annual growth rate of -0.25%.
- With the compound annual growth rate of 1.19%.

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### Chart 3: Indicator 1.3.1 Share of social protection beneficiaries in total population, 2013–2021 (%)

Source: Republic Institute for Social Protection and Vital Statistics, SORS

Insights into gender aspects of this indicator indicate that the movement away from the goal is above all the consequence of the reduction of the share of social protection beneficiaries among men (compound annual growth rate 2017–2021 of -0.76%), while among women the trend is stagnant.

**Target 1.4** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Indicator 1.4.1a Proportion of population with access to basic drinking water services

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Indicator 1.4.1b Proportion of population with access to basic sanitation services

Moderate progress was achieved when it comes to the proportion of population using the basic water supply and sanitation services (with the compound annual growth rate of 0.22% and 0.31% respectively). According to the data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) there were 99.1% of persons in Serbia in 2019 using basic drinking water supply services, with a small difference between those living in urban and other settlements (99.2% and 99.0%) and a little higher difference when it comes to the population in Roma settlements (98.2%). When it comes to the access to sanitation services, 98.4% of persons have access to these services (99.4% in urban and 97.0% in other settlements). A lower proportion of these persons is registered in the Roma population (86.4%)<sup>7</sup>.

7 Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<b>Target 1.5</b> By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters		Ĩ;ŧŧ;Ť
Indicator 1.5.1 (11.5.1/13.1.1) Deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	×	SDG
<b>Indicator 1.5.2</b> Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	↓	
<b>Indicator 1.5.3 (11.b.1/13.1.2)</b> Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	×	
<b>Indicator 1.5.4 (11.b.2/13.1.3)</b> Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	×	

This target is monitored through several indicators and sub-indicators measuring human and material effects attributed to disasters, as well as through the implementation of disaster risk reduction polices at national and local levels. Due to the specificity of indicators measuring the number of deaths, missing persons and persons directly affected by disasters per 100,000 inhabitants, a compound annual growth rate is not calculated. The data indicates that the number of persons directly affected by disasters has decreased in both the long- and short-term. While in 2016, 334 persons per 100,000 inhabitants had been directly affected by disasters, in 2020, 23 persons per 100,000 inhabitants were affected. The number of persons whose dwelling was damaged due to disasters was also reduced from 21,051 to 209 persons, as well as the number of persons whose livelihoods were affected or destroyed due to disasters (from 2,319 to 918 persons)<sup>8</sup>.

Significant progress in achieving the goal is registered when it comes to direct economic losses caused by disasters. In 2016 the total losses amounted to 55,679,200 USD, whereas in 2020 they amounted to 18,146,100 USD<sup>9</sup>, which is providing a short-term compound annual growth rate of -24.44%. That is significant progress when compared with the unfavourable long-term trend (2013–2020) which amounts to 31.91%. Observed by sector, losses in the housing sector were significantly reduced (by short-term compound annual growth rate of -42.43%)<sup>10</sup>, while losses in the sector of agriculture<sup>11</sup> and in the sector of critical infrastructure<sup>12</sup> were increased.

Progress cannot be monitored in terms of the adoption and implementation of national strategies of disaster risks reduction in line with the Sendai framework as well as in terms of the share of local self-government that adopt and implement disaster risk reduction strategies in line with Serbia's Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, as data are only available for 2018. According to these data, only 8 local governments out of a total of 174 (or 4.6%) have such local policies.<sup>13</sup>

121

<sup>8</sup> Source: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

<sup>9</sup> Source: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> From 54,482,400 USD in 2016 to 5,984,930 USD in 2020, which results in the compound annual growth rate of -42.43%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> From 1,151,840 USD in 2016 to 11,796,500 USD in 2020, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 78.89%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> From 44,928 USD in 2016 to 364,716 USD in 2020, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 68.79%.

<sup>13</sup> Source: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**Target 1.a** Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

**Indicator 1.a.2** Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

Movement away from the target 1.a that calls for ensuring significant mobilization of resources for the implementation of programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions was observed. Total spending for basic services (education, healthcare and social protection) was reduced from 56.1% to 51.0% between 2017 and 2021, which results in the compound annual growth rate of -2.35%. However, this movement away from the target is due to the reduction of allocations for the social protection from 35.8% to 28.0%<sup>14</sup>, whereas in the sectors of education and health care there was an increase of expenditures (from 7.7% to 8.2% and from 12.6% to 14.8%, respectively<sup>15</sup>).



### Chart 4: Indicator 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection), 2015–2021 (%)

Source: Ministry of Finance

The trend is long-term unfavourable and it indicates the same pattern. In the period from 2015 to 2021, total allocations for these sectors were reduced from 56.0% to 51.0% (which results in the compound annual growth rate of -1.55%) with the same tendency for the allocations for the sectors of education and health care to indicate significant progress toward the goal<sup>16</sup>, and the sector of social protection movement away from the goal (compound annual growth rate -4.32%).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Which results in the compound annual growth rate of -5.96%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Source: Ministry of Finance — Sector for Macroeconomic and Fiscal Analysis and Forecasts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The compound annual growth rate for the education sector from 2015 to 2021 amounts to 1.73%, and for the health care sector to 3.41%.





# END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 4/8 (2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.a) 6/14

SDG 2 calls for ending hunger and achieving food security, improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture which is critical for such nutrition. This goal includes 8 targets monitored against 14 indicators. The progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to 4 targets against 6 indicators. In the report for 2022 it is possible to monitor one target and two indicators more than in the report for the previous year.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Significant movement away from the target 2.1 in terms of food safety in the adult population is recorded for both moderate or severe food insecurity and for severe food insecurity.
- In the period of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, significant progress has been registered in terms of children's nutrition. Namely, the prevalence of various forms of malnutrition among children, such as stunted growth, weight loss, and obesity has decreased (target 2.2).
- While moderate progress towards target 2.5 is recorded in terms of the conservation of genetic diversity of seeds, plants and animals, significant progress in the context of the achievement of this target is recorded in terms of the share of local breeds classified as endangered.
- Significant movement away from the target was recorded in terms of state allocations for agriculture (target 2.a.1).

**Target 2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Indicator 2.1.2a Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in adult population<sup>17</sup>

Indicator 2.1.2b Prevalence of severe food insecurity in adult population

Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization for the period 2015–2019 indicate that there was significant movement away from the target which refers to food security of adult population. The proportion of population facing moderate or severe food insecurity was increased from 11.4% to 12.0%, between 2015 and 2019 (which results in the compound annual growth rate of 1.29%).

Significant movement away from the goal is registered also when it comes to severe food insecurity. The proportion of population facing severe food insecurity was increased from 1.7% in 2015 to 2.6% in 2019, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 11.21%.

**Target 2.2** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

**Indicator 2.2.1** Prevalence of stunting (moderate and severe) among children under 5 years of age<sup>18</sup>

Indicator 2.2.2a Prevalence of overweight among children under 5 years of age<sup>19</sup>

**Indicator 2.2.2b** Prevalence of wasting (moderate and severe) among children under 5 years of age<sup>20</sup>

Given that the data for monitoring this target are obtained on the basis of the MICS survey, which was last conducted in 2019, the findings do not differ from the 2020 and 2021 Progress Report on the Implementation of SDGs. It was then already pointed out that significant progress has been made on the basis of all indicators, i.e. all forms of malnutrition in children under 5 years of age: stunting, overweight and wasting<sup>21</sup>. More detailed insights are available in the report for 2021 on pages 19–21<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> This indicator measures the percentage of individuals in population that have faced moderate or severe food insecurity in the reference period. Severe food insecurity, defined as unobservable trait, is measured on a global reference food insecurity scale, measuring standard set by FAO applying the Food Insecurity Experience Scale in more than 140 countries worldwide as of 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) — Child Growth Standards).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Weight for height >+2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) — Child Growth Standards).

Weight for height <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) — Child Growth Standards).</li>
 Source: MICS — SORS and LINICEE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>22</sup> https://sdg.indikatori.rs/media/1544/izvestaj-o-napretku-u-ostvarivanju-ciljeva-odrzivog-razvoja-do-2030-godine-u-srbiji.pdf

**Target 2.5** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

NEW

**Indicator 2.5.1** Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities

Indicator 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction

Moderate progress was achieved in terms of the number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities. In 2016 5,561 types of genetic resources were secured, and in 2020 5,588 types, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 0.12% (Chart 5)<sup>23</sup>. Significant progress was recorded in terms of the proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction both short- and long-term, with the compound annual growth rate of -1.64% and -1.59%, respectively (Chart 6).



## Chart 5: Indicator 2.5.1a Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities, 2016–2020 (number)

Source: FAO

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### Chart 6: Indicator 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction, 2013–2021 (%)

Source: FAO

**Target 2.a** Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

#### Indicator 2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

In the period 2019–2021 there was a decrease in the allocation of state funds for agriculture (Chart 7), which for the short-term period (2017–2021) results in the compound annual growth rate of -3.28%. The long-term trend (2015–2021) is still positive, with the compound annual growth rate of 1.91%<sup>24</sup>.





Source: Ministry of Finance and National Accounts, SORS





# ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 9/13 (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.b, 3.c) 13/28

SDG 3 calls for ensuring healthy lives and promotion of well-being for the whole population. This goal includes 13 targets monitored against 28 indicators. The progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to nine targets against 13 indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- The target relating to reduced maternal mortality ratio (3.1) may be considered achieved against the threshold set globally. This target envisages the reduction of the maternal mortality rate to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. This target was defined globally in line with the unfavourable situation in underdeveloped countries. However, although the global target was achieved in Serbia, the data point to unfavourable trends which indicate significant movement away from the goal.
- The second indicator relevant for maternal mortality proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in the total number of births, indicates continuously very high values with additional moderate progress.
- ► The global target (3.2) relating to reducing neonatal mortality rate and mortality rate of children aged under five years was also achieved in Serbia.
- Significant progress was recorded in terms of universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, and in terms of reduction of the adolescent birth rate (target 3.7).
- Progress was made in terms of achieving universal health care coverage with the increased proportion of women who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern contraceptive methods and increased coverage of prenatal protection (target 3.8).
- Significant progress is recorded in terms of reduction of the mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (target 3.9).

- Inconsistent trends were observed in the field of immunization of children, with moderate progress in terms of coverage by immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis and a significant reduction in coverage by immunization against measles (target 3.b).
- It continues previously observed significant movement away from the target that was registered in terms of density and distribution of health care workers — doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and midwives (target 3.c).

### **Target 3.1** By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Indicator 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio<sup>25</sup>

Indicator 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

One of the most important targets under SDG 3 is to reduce maternal mortality, with the global standard being less than 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Although this global target is achieved in Serbia, since in the total observed period the maternal death rate of below 70 per 100,000 live births is recorded, the compound annual growth rate actually points to unfavourable short-term and also long-term trends, which is mostly the consequence of the abrupt mortality increase in 2021 during the pandemic caused by Covid-19. The maternal mortality ratio has a short-term compound annual growth rate (2017–2021) of 20.14%, and a long-term rate (2013–2021) of 6.40% (Chart 8)<sup>26</sup>.

The percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel<sup>27</sup> represents another indicator measuring progress in relation to target 3.1. This indicator (3.1.2) shows continuously high values for Serbia, with additional continuous progress. In 2014 98.4% of all births was performed with the supervision of skilled health care personnel, and in 2019 that percentage was 99.9, which results in a compound annual growth rate of 0.30%. In urban population all births are performed with the supervision of skilled health personnel, and in other settlements 99.8% of them. This percentage is a bit smaller in Roma settlements, where in the same year 99.2% of births was performed with the supervision of skilled health care professionals<sup>28</sup>.

27 The indicator measures the percentage of women of the age of 15–49 who gave birth in the period of two years before the survey, attended by skilled health care personnel (doctors, nurses or obstetricians). The period observed includes two years prior to the survey.

28 Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Maternal mortality ratio — the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in the year concerned. Maternal death (death of the mother) — female death during pregnancy or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management, excluding accidental or incidental causes.

<sup>26</sup> Source: Vital Statistics, SORS.



### Chart 8: Indicator 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio, 2013–2021 (number of deaths per 100,000 live births)

Source: Vital Statistics, SORS

**Target 3.2** By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

Indicator 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate

#### Indicator 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate

Target 3.2 defines as priorities to reduce neonatal and under-5 mortality. This target also defines global standards implying that the number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births should be below 12, and the under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births should be 25. In relation to these standards set and having in mind the unfavourable situation in underdeveloped countries, Serbia has achieved the global target. The long-term and short-term reduction of the under-5 mortality rate is registered both in the overall population of children (Chart 9)<sup>29</sup> and among children living in Roma settlements, where this rate has decreased from 28 in 2005 to 9 in 2019. The neonatal mortality rate in the overall population has decreased from 4.77 in 2013 to 3.70 in 2021<sup>30</sup>.

30 Which results in the short-term compound annual growth rate (2017–2021) of -1.32% and long-term (2013–2021) of -3.14%.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Source: Vital Statistics, SORS, for the population from Roma settlements MICS — SORS and UNICEF.



### Chart 9: Indicator 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate, by sex, 2013–2021 (number of deaths per 1,000 live births)<sup>31</sup>

Source: Vital Statistics, SORS

**Target 3.3** By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

#### Indicator 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

Significant progress is registered in relation to the target 3.3 calling for the reduction in communicable diseases. For the time being, only the indicator monitoring tuberculosis incidence is available and based on this indicator continuous both long-term and short-term progress was observed, by the compound annual growth rate of -16.25%, i.e. -22.62%, respectively<sup>32</sup>. While in 2013 there were 15.7 reported tuberculosis cases per 100,000 inhabitants, in 2017 there were 10.6 cases and in 2021 3.8 cases per 100,000 inhabitants<sup>33</sup>. Positive trends were present in both women and men, although the incidence was twice as high among men — in 2021 there were 4.9 cases among men per 100,000 inhabitants and 2.8 among women.

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- <sup>31</sup> Number of deaths per 1,000 live births.
- <sup>32</sup> Source: Institute of Public Health of Serbia and Vital Statistics, SORS.
- 33 Source: Institute of Public Health of Serbia and Vital Statistics, SORS.



When it comes to mortality attributed to non-communicable diseases<sup>34</sup>, both short-term (2017–2021) and long-term (2015–2021) moderate progress toward the goal was registered<sup>35</sup>. In the period 2015–2021, the mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases was reduced from 21.2% to 20.5%. And although the decrease of this mortality rate was registered in both men and women, the mortality rate attributed to the aforementioned diseases is significantly higher among men (Chart 10)<sup>36</sup>.



### Chart 10: Indicator 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases, by sex, 2015–2021 (%)

Source: Institute of Public Health of Serbia and Vital Statistics, SORS

The mental health indicator monitoring suicide mortality rate<sup>37</sup> shows significant progress toward the goal both short-term (2017–2021) and long-term (2013–2021) according to the compound annual growth rate of -2.54% and -3.18% respectively. This rate declined both for female and male population, although it is significantly higher in men than in women (Chart 11)<sup>38</sup>.

- <sup>35</sup> Short-term the compound annual growth rate amounts to -0.24%, and long-term -0.56%.
- <sup>36</sup> Source: Vital Statistics, SORS.
- <sup>37</sup> Number of suicide deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in the year concerned.
- 38 Source: Vital Statistics, SORS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Probability of dying between the ages of 30 and 70 years from cardiovascular diseases, malignant tumors, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases is based on the following ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) codes: 100-199, C00-C97, E10-E14, and J30-J98.



#### Chart 11: Indicator 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate by sex, 2013–2021 (per 100,000 inhabitants)

Source: Vital Statistics, SORS

**Target 3.7** By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

**Indicator 3.7.1** Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

Indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 15–19) per 1,000 women in that age group

When it comes to target 3.7 which refers to sexual and reproductive health, significant progress is registered in relation to the indicator of the proportion of women in reproductive age who had their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods<sup>39</sup>, and in relation to the indicator of the adolescent birth rate<sup>40</sup>. Data on the use of modern contraceptives are available only based on MCIS surveys, which means only for 2014 and 2019. According to these data, in 2019 30% of women aged 15–49 have used modern contraceptive methods, whereas in 2014 it was 25.1% of women, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 3.63%<sup>41</sup>.

The reduction of the adolescent birth rate indicates significant progress toward the goal, both long-term (with the compound annual growth rate of -3.69%), and short-term (with the compound annual growth rate of -2.94%) (Chart 12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Percentage of women aged 15–49 who are married or have a steady partner and who are using (or whose partner is using) any type of modern methods of contraception. Modern methods of contraception include: sterilization, the pill, the intra-uterine device, injections, implants, male and female condoms and the diaphragm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> It represents the ratio between the number of live births in mothers aged 15–19 and the estimated female population of that age.

<sup>41</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.



### Chart 12: Indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 15–19) per 1,000 women in that age group<sup>42</sup>, 2013–2021

Source: Vital Statistics, SORS

**Target 3.8** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

<b>Indicator 3.8.1a</b> Coverage of essential health services — proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	1
Indicator 3.8.1b Coverage of essential health services — antenatal care coverage for at least four visits	7

Indicator 3.8.1c Coverage of essential health services — diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) immunization coverage

**Indicator 3.8.1d** Coverage of essential health services — use of improved sanitation facilities

Significant progress was made in terms of increasing the share of women in the reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods of contraception. These data are available only from the MICS survey (2014–2019), which means that no changes compared to the previous report can be registered. This report shows that moderate progress was achieved in the general female population and that in the population of women living in Roma settlements significant progress was achieved when it comes to antenatal protection. Measured by the indicator registering four or more visits to the doctor during pregnancy an increase of the share of women who fulfil this condition in the general female population was registered, from 93.9% in 2014 to 96.6% in 2019 (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.57%), and in the population of women living in Roma settlements in the same period an increase from 74.4% to 82.7% was achieved (at the compound annual growth rate of 2.14%).

<sup>42</sup> This indicator refers to the ratio between the number of live births of mothers aged 15–19 and the estimated female population of that age.

Moderate progress was also achieved when it comes to the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) immunization, with coverage increasing from 89% in 2014 to 91.8% in 2019 (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.57%). Observed by sex, greater progress was achieved in the population of female than male children (at the compound annual growth rate of 1.18%, i.e. 0.17%, respectively).

When it comes to the indicator of the use of improved sanitary facilities, moderate progress is registered in the long-term period (2010–2019), at the compound annual growth rate of 0.02%, whereas the coverage is continuously high (98.4% in 2010 and 98.6% in 2019)<sup>43</sup>. Moderate progress is also registered in Roma settlements, at the compound annual growth rate of 0.16%, because the proportion of population with improved sanitary facilities has been increased from 91.7% in 2010 to 93.0% in 2019<sup>44</sup>.

**Target 3.9** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

#### Indicator 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning

Significant progress is achieved in the area of target 3.9 which foresees the reduction of mortality attributed to dangerous chemicals and polution<sup>45</sup>. In 2017 there were in Serbia 0.5 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants attributed to unintentional poisoning, and in 2021 0.3 deaths, at the compound annual growth rate of -11.99%. This is long-term stagnating, since both in 2013 and in 2021 0.3 persons per 100,000 inhabitants died of unintentional poisoning<sup>46</sup>.

**Target 3.b** Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

Indicator 3.b.1a Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) immunization coverage

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Indicator 3.b.1b Pneumococcal (Conjugate) immunization coverage

Indicator 3.b.1c Measles immunization coverage

<sup>44</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

46 SORS.

<sup>43</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Number of deaths attributed to unintentional poisoning (ICD-10 codes: X40, X43-X44, X46-X49) per 100,000 inhabitants in the observed year.

Trends in terms of achieving this target are inconsistent. While the coverage of children with immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis showed moderate progress, a significant movement away from the target was registered in terms of coverage with immunization against measles. In the overall population of children, the coverage of the DTP vaccine increased from 89% of those vaccinated in 2014 to 91.8% of those vaccinated in 2019. On the other hand, measles vaccine coverage decreased from 94.4% to 87.2% in the same period. It is important to note that when it comes to these two types of immunization, progress was also achieved among children in Roma settlements (at the compound annual growth rate of 2.14%). Vaccination of children from these settlements with the DTP vaccine increased from 70.6% to 73.3%, a measles vaccine from 68.8% to 76.5%<sup>47</sup>.

**Target 3.c** Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

Indicator 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution

When it comes to target 3.c envisaging increased health care protection, recruitment and development of medical personnel financing, negative long-term (2013–2021), and short-term trends (2017–2021) are observed, which indicate movement away from the target<sup>48</sup>. The number of doctors per 10,000 inhabitants was reduced from 31 in 2013 to 30.5 in 2017 and then to 29.5 in 2021<sup>49</sup>. The number of dentists was reduced in the same period from 3.3 to 2.8, and then to 2.2, respectively<sup>50</sup>. The number of pharmacists was reduced from 3.3 to 2.9, and then 2.1, respectively<sup>51</sup>. The number of nurses and midwives was first increased from 63.4 in 2013 to 64.9 in 2017, and then reduced to 63.2 in 2021<sup>52</sup>.

<sup>47</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>48</sup> Source: Institute of Public Health of Serbia and Vital Statistics, SORS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Which results in the short-term compound annual growth rate of -0.83% and long-term of -0.62%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Which results in the short-term compound annual growth rate of -5.58% and long-term of -4.94%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Which results in the short-term compound annual growth rate of -8.87% and long-term of -6.07%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Which results in the short-term compound annual growth rate of -0.66% and long-term of -0.04%.







# ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 5/10 (4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6) 6/12

SDG 4 envisages improvement of education of the population through 10 targets monitored against 12 indicators. For 2022 progress in the Republic of Serbia can be monitored in relation to 5 targets against 6 indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Progress in achieving target 4.1 calling for ensuring that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education cannot be monitored since the data on the completion of the first cycle of primary education (lower grades of primary education) is available only from the MICS survey for 2019. According to this data, the rate of completion of the first and second cycles of primary school is high, somewhat lower for secondary school and significantly lower in population of children living in Roma settlements.
- Moderate progress is present in terms of early child development. However, when it comes to the participation of children in pre-school education, a moderate movement away from the target is registered, which makes the tendencies related to achieving target 4.2 inconsistent.
- Inconsistent trends are registered in the area of lifelong learning (target 4.3), because it has come to the reduction of the share of persons participating in a type of formal or informal education among young people (15–24), and to the increase of the share of those persons among adults (25–64).
- Progress in achieving target 4.5 cannot be measured, because the compound annual growth rates cannot be applied to parity indices, but comparative data for 2014 and 2019 show inconsistent trends at different levels of education<sup>53</sup>.

53 Indicator defines education levels based on the ISCED classification.

 Movement away from the target is registered when it comes to raising literacy and numeracy (target 4.6) of children in the area of reading, sciences and mathematics.

<b>Target 4.1</b> By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	
Indicator 4.1.2a Completion rate (primary education)	×
Indicator 4.1.2b Completion rate (lower secondary education)	×
Indicator 4.1.2c Completion rate (upper secondary education)	X

Due to the lack of data, it is not possible to monitor progress under the target 4.1 envisaging that all girls and boys complete primary and secondary education. According to the 2019 data, the rate of completion of the first cycle of primary education was high in the overall population (99.9%), but it was lower for children living in Roma settlements (88.9%). The rate of completion of the lower secondary education was also high in the overall population (99.5%), but lower for the population of children from Roma settlements (63.7%). At the level of upper secondary education, the rate of completion of secondary education in the overall population amounted to 97.7%, in the population of children from Roma settlements — 61.0%, while it was the lowest among girls from Roma settlements (49.5%)<sup>54</sup>.

**Target 4.2** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

**Indicator 4.2.1** Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

**Indicator 4.2.2** Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

Moderate progress was registered in terms of early child development (36–59 months)<sup>55</sup> at the compound annual growth rate of 0.44%. Moderate progress was notable both for boys and girls (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.71%, i.e. 0.17%, respectively), and significant progress was registered among children from the poorest households (at the compound annual growth rate of 1.85%).

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When it comes to the participation of children in mandatory pre-school education, moderate movement away from the goal is recorded in the short-term period (at the compound annual growth rate of -0.09%), but that does not jeopardize the still long-term moderate progress

<sup>54</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> The early development index represents the percentage of children aged 36–59 months with correct development in at least three out of four areas: knowledge of letters and numbers, physical development, social-emotional development and learning. Data are gathered with the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) which is periodically conducted by UNICEF and SORS.

which was achieved in the period 2013–2021 at the compound annual growth rate of 0.43%. The differences by sex are not presented in the long-term period, but they are notable in the short-term period, because moderate movement away from the goal is registered among the population of male children (at the compound annual growth rate of -0.25%), and among the population of female children moderate progress is registered (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.05%)<sup>56</sup>.

**Target 4.3** By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

**Indicator 4.3.1** Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

When it comes to lifelong learning inconsistent trends are registered. The data indicate that it has come to moderate movement away from the goal in the short-term period 2017–2021 among the young population  $(15-24)^{57}$ , and to significant progress among the adult population  $(25-64)^{58}$ , because there is an increase of the share of persons participating in a type of formal or informal education at the compound annual growth rate of 1.45%, i.e. 20.25%, respectively<sup>59</sup> (Charts 13 and 14).

# Chart 13: Indicator 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 4 weeks, by sex, young population aged 15–24, 2014–2021 (%)



Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

- 57 With the compound annual growth rate of -0.50%
- 58 With the compound annual growth rate of 2.20%
- 59 Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS.

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SDG **4** 

<sup>56</sup> Source: Education Statistics, SORS.



Chart 14: Indicator 4.3.1 Participation rate of adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 4 weeks by sex, adult population aged 25–64, 2014–2021 (%)

Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

**Target 4.5** By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people and children in vulnerable situations

#### Indicator 4.5.1 Parity indices in different education levels

Progress cannot be measured by the compound annual growth rate for the parity indices (girls/ boys). At the primary school level in the period between 2014 and 2019 there was a moderate increase of disparity in favour of boys (change of the parity index from 1 to 0.96), while at the upper secondary school level the disparity declined (from 1.08 to 0.99). The situation is unchanged at the lower secondary school level (higher grades of primary school) (0.99 in both periods). Concerning the disparity between children from the poorest and wealthiest households, there was a shift in favour of children from the poorest strata (index change from 0.97 to 1.04), whereas the disparity remained the same at the lower and upper secondary education in favour of children from the wealthiest households (index values for observed years, for the lower level of secondary school, are 0.99 and 0.97, and for the higher level of secondary school 0.76 and 0.80)<sup>50</sup>.

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**Target 4.6** By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

**Indicator 4.6.1** Proportion of students aged 15 years not achieving the minimum fixed level on the PISA scale for three elementary school subjects

Significant movement away in the period 2012–2018 is registered when it comes to the share of students aged 15 years who have not achieved the minimum fixed level on the PISA scale in the area of science and reading (at the compound annual growth rate of 1.51% and 2.19%, respectively), and moderate movement away in the area of mathematics (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.34%).

#### Chart 15: Indicator 4.6.1 Proportion of students aged 15 years not achieving the minimum fixed level on the PISA scale for three elementary school subjects, 2012 and 2018 (%)



Source: OECD




## SDG **5**

## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 9/9 (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c) 12/14

SDG 5 envisages ensuring improved gender equality and empowering women and girls through 9 targets monitored against 14 indicators. In Serbia, progress can be monitored in relation to almost all targets based on twelve indicators. Compared to the report for 2021, it is possible to monitor one target (5.c) and one indicator more (5.c.1).

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Although it is, due to the short time series, not possible to monitor progress against the indicator measuring the achievement of target 5.1 referring to establishing the legal framework necessary to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, the data against the existing indicators show that this framework has been established to a large extent.
- Progress according to the indicators that measure the achievement of target 5.2, which refers to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, is also not possible to monitor due to the lack of time series. Data based on Eurostat's Survey on security and quality of life of women from 2021 indicate that women face various forms of partner and non-partner violence.
- When it comes to eliminating harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriages (target 5.3), the data indicate that there is a significant movement away from the goal in terms of entering into marriage before the age of 15, as well as before the age of 18.
- Data for the observed short-term period are not available for target 5.4, which foresees the recognition and evaluation of unpaid work, care and maintenance in the household. The available data for 2010 and 2015 indicate that significant progress was achieved primarily due to the reduced share of time spent doing unpaid work in the household and caring for others, both among women and among men.
- Significant progress has been achieved in the area of women's participation in decisionmaking (target 5.5). Progress is visible both in terms of the greater participation of women in decision-making at the national and local level, and in terms of the greater participation of women in managerial positions.

- Progress towards target 5.6, which requires ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, cannot be measured due to the lack of time series, and the data for 2019 indicate that a number of women are still unable to make independent decisions about sexual relations, the use of contraception and concerns about reproductive health.
- Progress in reforms aimed at equal rights to economic resources, target 5.a, cannot be monitored due to the lack of longitudinal data, but according to the available data, the level of rights protection is relatively high.
- Moderate progress has been made in terms of increasing the share of people who own a mobile phone (target 5.b).
- Target 5.c points to the existence of a system for monitoring and allocating public expenditures for gender equality and empowerment of women and Serbia has fulfilled the requirements completely.

**Target 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

**Indicator 5.1.1** Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality (percentage of achievement 0–100)

Monitoring the progress in terms of ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere is based on the indicator assessing the level of achievement (0–100)<sup>61</sup> in developing the legal framework to promote, enforce and monitor gender equality. According to the UN Women data, in Serbia the highest level of achievement was reached in the area of employment and economic benefit (100%), followed by legal framework referring to marriage and family (72.7%), while lowest achievement was identified in the area of violence against women (66.7%)<sup>62</sup>.

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62 Source: UN Women — UN data base.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> The data were obtained from questionnaires for the assessment of legal frameworks of the country, which were completed by the National Statistical Institutes and/or the National Women's Machinery and lawyers/researchers of gender equality. The questionnaire contains 45 "yes/no" questions within the four above-mentioned areas of law.

**Target 5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**Indicator 5.2.1** Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 18–74 subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by type of violence and by age

**Indicator 5.2.2** Proportion of women and girls aged 18–74 subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age

Progress cannot be monitored against indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 since the necessary monitoring data is available only for 2021 based on the Survey on security and quality of life of women (EU-GBV) conducted by SORS. According to the findings of this survey, during the 12 months prior to the survey 2.3% of women have experienced psychological, physical or sexual violence by the current or former partner<sup>63</sup>. In the same period, 0.2% women have experienced sexual violence from the person who was not their intimate partner.

**Target 5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

**Indicator 5.3.1** Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Target 5.3 calling for elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, is monitored in Serbia against indicators for which data from the MICS survey are available: proportion of women in the age of 20–24 who were married or in a union for the first time before the age of 15, and before the age of 18. For both age groups significant movement away from the goal is registered. In 2010 and 2014, there were 0.9%, and 0.3% of women respectively, in this age group who were married or in a union before the age of 15, while in 2019 the proportion equalled 1.2%, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 31.95%. In 2010, 5.0% of women in the age of 20–24 years got married before the age of 18, while in 2019 that percentage was 5.5%, being at the long-term compound annual growth rate of 11.44%<sup>64</sup>.

64 Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Source: Survey on security and quality of life of women, 2021, SORS.



## Chart 16: Indicator 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18, 2010, 2014 and 2019 (%)

Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF

When it comes to this indicator, significant progress was registered among women living in urban settlements (from 0.2% in 2014 to 0.1% in 2019, which results in the compound annual growth rate of -12.94%); significant movement away from the goal was registered among women living in other settlements (from 0.5% in 2014 to 3.3% in 2019, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 45,85%), and to a lesser extent in the Roma settlements (from 14.4% in 2014 to 15.9% in 2019, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 2.0%).

At the same time, significant movement away from the goal was registered among women living in the poorest households (from 2.2% in 2014 to 6.2% in 2019, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 14.73%), as well as among women who had competed only primary school or had no education at all (from 4.6% in 2014. to 22.5% in 2019, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 37.37%).

**Target 5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

**Indicator 5.4.1** Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

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The proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work cannot be monitored in the defined short-term period. The Time Use Survey, based on which this indicator is monitored, has been conducted for a year (April 2021 — April 2022) and the data will be available soon. What can be noticed as a trend in the previous period, for which the data are available (2010–2015), points to significant decline of the time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (in average from 15.2% of total time in 2010 to 14.1% in 2015), both among women (among which the pro-

portion of time spent in these activities in the same period declined from 20.2% to 19.2%) and among men (the proportion declined from 9.5% to 8.7%). However, it is important to consider that the gender gap in this aspect is reflected to the disadvantage of women<sup>65</sup>.

<b>Target 5.5</b> Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	
Indicator 5.5.1a Proportion of women in the national parliament	1
Indicator 5.5.1b Proportion of women in local governments	1
Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	1

Significant progress was achieved towards the target defining as development priority the increase of the participation of women in decision-making in political, business and public life. According to the indicator 5.5.1a measuring the proportion of women in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, significant progress was achieved in both the short- and long-term (at the compound annual growth rate of 2.18% and 1.97%, respectively) (Chart 17)<sup>66</sup>. According to the indicator measuring the proportion of women in local government assemblies 5.5.1b, significant progress was also registered in both the short- and long-term (at the compound annual growth rate of 4.50% and 3.34%, respectively).



## Chart 17: Indicators 5.5.1a Proportion of women in the national parliament and 5.5.1b Proportion of women in local governments, 2012–2020 (%)

Source: Election Statistics, SORS

65 Source: Time Use Survey (TUS), SORS.

<sup>66</sup> Source: Elections for Members of Parliament, SORS.

Significant progress in this area was also made according to the indicator 5.5.2 measuring the proportion of women in managerial positions<sup>67</sup>, in the short-term (2017–2021) at the compound annual growth rate of 3.73%, and in the long-term (2010–2021) at the compound annual growth rate of 5.66%.

Target 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

<b>Indicator 5.6.1</b> Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	

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Indicator 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

Progress towards the target 5.6 cannot be monitored due to the lack of data from several years. Data from the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) show that 84.2% of women in the overall population and 67.7% women living in Roma settlements made their own decisions based on information on sexual relations, use of contraception and reproductive health care. Differences are present depending on women's education and financial status, as there is a smaller share of women making independent decisions about sexual relations, the use of contraception and their reproductive health care among those with lower levels of education and lower financial status. So, the share of women who make decisions independently among women with the primary education or without education is 76.8%, which is lower than 88.5% of women with high education. Among women from the poorest households, 77.2% makes these decisions independently, which is a lower share compared to the women from households from the fourth wealth index quintile (87.7%), or women from the wealthiest households (86.2%)<sup>68</sup>.

This target is monitored also based on the international indicator which identifies the number of countries with regulations that guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health for women and men. According to the United Nations data from 2019, obtained on the basis of the Questionnaire on Population and Development, the Republic of Serbia with a high participation of 86% guarantees equal access to women and men to health care, information and education. The situation by individual dimensions is shown in Table 2.

68 Source: MICS — SORS и UNICEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> This indicator refers to the participation of women in the total number of employees in managerial positions and it is recommended to use two different measures: the participation of women in (total) management and the participation of women in the senior and middle management (so, excluding lower management positions). The joint calculation of these two measures offers information about whether women are more represented in lower management positions than in senior and middle management positions. Calculating only the share of women in (total) management would be wrong, because it would suggest that women have more power and responsibilities in the decision-making process.

## Table 2: Indicator 5.6.2 Measure in which the country has laws and regulations which guarantee full and equal access to medical services, information and education for women and men aged 15 years and older, 2019 (%)

Dimension	%
Total	86
Maternity care	79
Maternity care	100
Life-saving commodities	92
Abortion	25
Post-abortion care	100
Contraception and family planning	100
Contraceptive services	100
Contraceptive consent	100
Emergency contraception	100
Sexual education	50
Sexuality education curriculum laws	100
Sexuality education curriculum topics	0
HIV and HPV	100
HIV counselling and test services	100
HIV treatment and care services	100
HPV vaccine	100

Source: United Nations — United Nations Population and Development Questionnaire

# **Target 5.a** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

## **Indicator 5.a.2** Degree to which the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

The indicator 5.a.2 measures the extent to which a country's legal framework, including customary law, guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control over land. Measuring is conducted through 6 indicators of the international law and internationally accepted good practices, notably the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The indicator measures the achievement by scores 1–6, where 1 implies no evidence on guarantees of gender equality in land ownership and/or control in the legal framework, and 6 denotes the highest level of guarantees of gender equality in land ownership and/or control in the legal framework. Based on this measurement, Serbia scored 5 in 2019<sup>69</sup>.

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**Target 5.b** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

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Moderate progress (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.77%) was achieved in the period 2018–2022 towards the target which envisages enhanced use of innovative technologies, especially ICT. The indicator used to monitor this target refers to the possession of a mobile phone. The data indicate that progress was made at a slightly higher rate among women than among men (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.96% vs. 0.59%, respectively, for the period 2018–2022)<sup>70</sup>.

## Chart 18: Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex, 2013–2022 (%)



Source: Statistics of information-communication technology, SORS

Target 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation<br/>for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women<br/>and girls at all levelsIndicator 5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make publicX

allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment

Indicator 5.c.1 points to having systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment and the value of level 2 of fulfilment indicates that Serbia has fulfilled the requirements completely.





## ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 6/8 (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.a, 6.b) 8/11

SDG 6 calls for ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. This goal includes 8 targets monitored against 11 indicators. Currently the progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to 6 targets against 8 indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Moderate progress was made in relation to target 6.1, envisaging universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all. However, this progress was achieved due to a slight increase in the share of the urban population that uses drinking water from the system that is safely managed, while in other settlements such an increase was not registered.
- Stagnation is registered in terms of the use of safely managed sanitation services (target 6.2) in the short term, and the negative trend in the long term.
- Significant progress was made when it comes to target 6.3 envisaging improved water quality by reducing pollution and increasing the share of water bodies with good water status, as well as by reducing the proportion of untreated wastewater from households and industry measured by increasing population connected to urban wastewater treatment with at least secondary treatment.
- ▶ Significant progress was registered in terms of water-use efficiency (target 6.4).
- In relation to target 6.a envisaging expanding international cooperation and capacitybuilding support for water supply and sanitation, significant progress was registered due to the increased amount of water and sanitation related official development assistance that was part of a government-coordinated spending plan.
- Regarding target 6.b which defines the support to local communities in managing water supply and sanitation, major achievements were registered. This target was achieved according to all four indicators.

**Target 6.1** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

**Indicator 6.1.1** Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

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Moderate progress in terms of universal and equal access to safe drinking water was achieved due to a slight increase in the share of the population using safely managed drinking water in urban areas (with the compound annual growth rate of 0.12%), while no similar changes were observed in other settlements. Progress was achieved in the long term, since a slight increase was observed, from 81% in 2013 to 82% in 2014, in the urban population with access to safe drinking water and that proportion remained the same until 2020. In other settlements, 67% of the population had access to safe drinking water since 2010<sup>71</sup>.

<b>Target 6.2</b> By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	
<b>Indicator 6.2.1a</b> Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services including a hand-washing facility with soap and water: use of basic sanitation services	R
<b>Indicator 6.2.1b</b> ortion of population using safely managed sanitation services including a hand-washing facility with soap and water: basic hand-washing facilities on premises	×
Indicator 6.2.1c Removal of excreta for treatment off site	×

Progress towards target 6.2 can only be monitored based on sub-indicator 6.2.1a, which measures the share of the population using safely managed sanitation services. In the short-term period from 2017 to 2020, the value of the compound annual growth rate is equal to zero, which, according to Eurostat's methodology, is identified as moderate progress, although it actually represents stagnation. In the long term, a significant movement away from the target is even registered because the share of the population with access to safe sanitation has fallen from 20% in 2010 to 18% in 2020 (at the compound annual growth rate of -1,05%).

Data for sub-indicator 6.2.1b was not available after 2014, so the short-term trend cannot be monitored. Data shows that in the period 2010–2014, 98% of the population used sanitation services that provided space for washing hands within the household.<sup>72</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), Institute of Public Health of Serbia and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Source: WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), Institute of Public Health of Serbia and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

When it comes to the removal of waste materials for treatment outside the household (sub-indicator 6.2.1c), data are only available for 2019 from the MICS survey. According to these data, a total of 15.2% of household members used safely managed sanitary facilities (6.3% in urban settlements, 27.7% in other settlements and 18.7% in Roma settlements).

**Target 6.3** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wasterwater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

**Indicator 6.3.1** Population connected to wastewater treatment with at least secondary treatment

Indicator 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

The percentage of the population connected to urban wastewater treatment is slowly increasing during the period 2010–2021. The data indicate that the percentage of the population connected to wastewater treatment has increased both in the long term at the compound annual growth rate of 4.99% (from 8.6% in 2010 to 14.7% in 2021), but also in the short term at the compound annual growth rate of 3.93% (from 12.6% in 2017 to 14.7% in 2021). The greatest progress was achieved between 2015 and 2016 (Chart 19)<sup>73</sup>.

## Chart 19: Indicator 6.3.1 Population connected to wastewater treatment with at least secondary treatment, 2010–2021 (%)



Source: Environmental statistics and accounts, SORS

The share of total bodies of water with good water status increased in 2020 compared to 2017 at the compound annual growth rate of 2.35%, which indicates that there has been significant progress towards achieving the goal. Namely, in 2017 the share of bodies of water with a good water status was 63.3%, while in 2020 the value increased to 67.8%.

Open bodies of water with good ambient water quality recorded an CAGR of 5.97%, followed by underground bodies of water with a compound annual growth rate of 4.23%, and finally river bodies of water with a growth rate of 1.27%.

**Target 6.4** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Indicator 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency (WUE) over time	1
Indicator 6.4.2 Water exploitation index (WEI)	•

In relation to target 6.4, significant progress is noted because water is used more efficiently and exploited less. Namely, according to the first indicator that measures the efficiency of water use, significant progress is being made towards the goal in the period 2017–2021, with a compound annual growth rate of 8.65%. According to another indicator that measures water stress, significant progress is registered in the same period, with a compound annual growth rate of -1.55%<sup>74</sup>.



#### Chart 20: Indicator 6.4.2 Water exploitation index (WEI), 2010–2021 (%)

Source: Environmental statistics and accounts, SORS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> In this case the positive value points to movement away from the goal because it represents an increase of water exploitation i.e. water stress.

**Target 6.a** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

**Indicator 6.a.1** Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan

Adequate financial resources are crucial for achieving SDG 6 by 2030, either by attracting new sources or by better using existing resources. The share of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) expenditure for the water sector includes aid for drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene, as well as aid in other areas such as agricultural water resources, flood protection and hydroelectricity. The amount of official development assistance<sup>75</sup> aimed at water supply and sanitation, which is part of the government's coordinated spending plan, increased from 55.8 million USD in constant prices in 2000 to 58.3 million USD in constant prices in 2016, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 0.28%. And in this case, progress was more intense in the period after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda (2015–2016), with the compound annual growth rate of 57.97%, which is the result of a significant increase between these two years, from 36.9 to 58.3 million dollars in constant prices in 2016<sup>76</sup>.

**Target 6.b** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

**Indicator 6.b.1a** Level of participation of service users/communities in urban/ rural drinking water planning programmes (3 = High; 2 = Medium; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A)

**Indicator 6.b.1b** Level of definition in procedures for participation of service users/communities in the urban/rural drinking water planning programme (10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined; 0 = N/A)

**Indicator 6.b.1c** Level of participation of users/communities in water resource planning and management programmes (3 = High; 2 = Medium; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A)

**Indicator 6.b.1d** Level of definition in legal or policy procedures for the involvement of service users/communities in water resource planning and management (10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined; 0 = N/A)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan is defined as the proportion of total water and sanitation-related Official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursements that are included in the government budget.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Source: GLAAS — Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water.

Target 6.b aims to increase the participation of local communities in the planning and management of water and sanitation. This is essential to ensure and meet the needs of local users, but also for local communities to fully understand the impact of development decisions. This target was achieved by measuring four indicators<sup>77</sup>.





## ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 3/5 (7.1, 7.2, 7.3) 4/6

SDG 7 envisages ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all through 5 targets and 6 indicators. Currently the progress in Serbia can be monitored through three targets with four indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Moderate progress in achieving the first target is registered owing to the increase in the proportion of population with access to electricity.
- Significant progress is registered in relation to the increase of the share of renewable energy (target 7.2) in total final energy consumption, provided that the short-term trends are not consistent between different sectors, because while a positive trend is recorded in the electricity, heating and cooling sectors, a negative trend is registered in the transport sector.
- Significant progress is registered in connection with target 7.3 envisaging doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

# Target 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern<br/>energy servicesIndicator 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricityIndicator 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels<br/>and technology

Moderate progress in achieving this target is owed to the increase of the proportion of population having access to electricity<sup>78</sup>. Short-term progress in urban and other settlements is very

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> The ratio of the number of inhabitants who have elektricity in their household and the total number of inhabitants, expressed in percentages.

small (achieved at the compound annual growth rate of 0.02%), and it is more a stagnation since almost the total population has electricity. Significant progress is, however, registered in Roma settlements (the compound annual growth rate of 1.94)<sup>79</sup>.





Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF

When another indicator is monitored, it is not possible to establish a trend due to lack of data. In 2019, 52.4% of the population primarily relied on clean fuels and technologies, but the share of this population is significantly lower in the population living in "other" settlements (28.5%). Lower values were also recorded among the population living in Roma settlements (12.4%), but also among the population living in the poorest households (6.1%)<sup>80</sup>.

**Target 7.2** By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Indicator 7.2.1 Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption

Data from the Ministry of Mining and Energy shows that significant progress has been made in relation to this target, both in the short term (2016–2020) and in the long term (2010–2020), at the compound annual growth rate of 5.28% and 2.77%, respectively. However, short-term progress is not consistent between different sectors, because while a positive trend is registered in the sectors of electricity (at the compound annual growth rate of 1.30%) and heating and cooling (at the compound annual growth rate of 8.51%), a significant deviation from the goal is recorded in the transport sector (at the compound annual growth rate of -1.24%) (Chart 22).

<sup>79</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>80</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.



## Chart 22: Indicator 7.2.1 Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption, 2010–2020 (%)

Source: Ministry of Mining and Energy

**Target 7.3** By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Indicator 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

Significant progress was recorded in both the short-term and long-term when it comes to the energy intensity measures through primary energy and GDP<sup>81</sup>, with the value of this indicator declining from 5.59 MJ/USD<sup>82</sup> in 2015 to 5.04 MJ/USD in 2019, which means that less energy was consumed per unit of product (at the compound annual growth rate of -2.56%)<sup>83</sup>.

<sup>81</sup> Energy intensity is defined as the total energy supplied to the economy per unit value of economic output. It is measured in Megajoules per United States Dollar (USD). Energy intensity is an indication of how much energy is used to produce one unit of economic output.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> Megajoules per United States Dollar (MJ/USD) is calculated applying the average annual US Dollar exchange rate.

<sup>83</sup> Source: Energy Statistics, SORS, National accounts, SORS and United Nations.







## PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

#### Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored:

#### 8/12 (8.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.10, 8.b) 9/16

SDG 8 promotes continuous, inclusive and sustainable economic growth with full and productive employment and decent work for all. This goal includes 12 targets monitored against 16 indicators. In 2022, 8 targets with 9 indicators can be monitored in Serbia. Compared to the previous report, monitoring of another target (8.b) and indicator (8.b.1) is made possible.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Significant progress is registered in relation to target 8.1 which envisages sustaining positive economic growth, both in the short term and in the long term.
- In the period by 2020, the reduction of informal employment in total employment has contributed to a significant progress in achieving target 8.3 calling for promotion of development-oriented policies and decent job creation. Due to the change of the survey methodology based on which the indicator is to be calculated, the value of this indicator is to be monitored in future separately, until 2020 and from 2021.
- The resource productivity is an indicator of the ratio of the economic growth and use of natural resources. Only relative separation of economic growth from the use of natural resources was achieved in the last five years. Inconsistent trends for target 8.4 were registered through moderate progress in relation to the resource productivity and through significant movement away from the target when it comes to the domestic materials consumption.
- Achieving productive employment and decent work shows significant progress when it comes to the reduction of the unemployment rate of young people and total working age population (target 8.5). Earning trends cannot be tracked due to the lack of data for several years, but data for 2018, disaggregated by occupation and sex, indicates significant differences among employees in different occupations, as well as a systematic gender gap in favour of men.

- Significant progress has been achieved in relation to target 8.6 due to a reduction in the share of young people who are neither in education nor in the labour market by 2020. Due to the changes in survey methodology based on which the indicator is calculated the value of this indicator is to be monitored in future separately, until 2020 and from 2021.
- Data indicate that every tenth child is exposed to child labour (target 8.7). Boys, children in other settlements in relation to children from urban settlements, young children (aged 5–11 years) in relation to older children (aged 12–14 and 15–17 years) as well as children from the poorest households are more exposed to the risks of child labour.
- When it comes to strengthening capacities of domestic financial institutions (target 8.10), opposing tendencies are registered significant movement away from the target in terms of the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 inhabitants, and significant progress towards the target regarding the number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults.
- When it comes to developing the youth employment strategy and implementation of the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization (target 8.b), Serbia has achieved the goal.

**Target 8.1** Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Despite annual fluctuations, significant progress towards the goal which envisages sustainable economic growth per capita is registered both in the short-term (2017–2021) and in the long-term (2010–2021) time frame, at the compound annual growth rate of 34.86% and 20.56%, respectively. The biggest jump in GDP growth per capita was registered between 2020 and 2021 (Chart 23).

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Chart 23: Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita, 2010–2021 (%)

Source: National accounts, SORS

**Target 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Indicator 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sex

As of 2021 the Eurostat methodology of the Labour Force Survey, based on which this indicator is monitored, has been changed<sup>84</sup>. The most significant change refers to the exclusion from the contingent of employed persons those producing (agricultural) goods and services for their own needs (without placing them on the market), which was a significant part of informal employment. That was the reason for the break in the series so that the movement of this indicator has to be monitored separately in future, until 2020 and from 2021. It is notable that significant progress was achieved when it comes to the reduction of the share of informal employment in total employment until 2020. Positive trends are recorded also both in relation to employed women and men (Chart 24).





Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

Note: As of 2021 there was a break in the series, the data are not comparable with the series before 2020

Target 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in<br/>consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth<br/>from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework<br/>of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed<br/>countries taking the leadIndicator 8.4.2a (12.2.1a) Domestic material consumption (DMC)Image: Consumption (DMC)

Contradictory trends are recorded regarding target 8.4. Significant movement away from the target (CAGR 4.02%) was achieved in respect to domestic material consumption in the period 2017–2021, while the moderate progress is registered in the same period when it comes to resource productivity due to bigger growth of the GDP compared to the domestic material consumption<sup>85</sup>.

85 Source: Environmental Statistics and Accounts, SORS.



### Chart 25: Indicator 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption (DMC), 2010–2021 (thousand tonnes)

Source: Environmental Statistics and Accounts, SORS

<b>Target 8.5</b> By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	
Indicator 8.5.1a Average hourly earnings of employed female and male, by age	×
Indicator 8.5.1b Average hourly earnings of employed female and male, by occupation	×
Indicator 8.5.2a Unemployment rate (15–24 years of age)	1
Indicator 8.5.2b Unemployment rate (15–64 years of age)	1

This target is monitored against indicators a) and b), which measure average hourly earnings of female and male of different age and by occupation. Data available for 2018 indicate an increase in earning with the age of employees and they also point to significant differences in earnings of employees by occupation and to the systematic gender gap in favour of men (Table 3).

	RSD		
	Total	Women	Men
Executives, officials and legislators	704.11	680.44	718.82
Professionals and artists	553.99	515.21	636.41
Engineers, associate professionals and technicians	458.43	413.68	512.86
Clerical support workers	369.88	362.14	382.7
Service and sales workers	291.21	276.56	307.57
Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishery workers	323.8	312.63	327.26
Craft and related trades workers	294.82	278.22	365.07
Plant and machine operators, assemblers and drivers	338.53	292.9	355.78
Elementary occupations	272.68	251.28	296.88

## Table 3: Indicator 8.5.1b Average hourly earnings of employees, by occupation and sex,2018 (RSD)

Source: Employment and earnings statistics, SORS

In addition to earnings, the progress in achieving this target is monitored via the unemployment rates. Both long-term and short-term trends point to significant progress due to decline in unemployment rates of the young population (15–24 years of age)<sup>86</sup>, as well as of the working age population (15–64 years of age)<sup>87</sup>. Positive trends are observed for both women and men (Charts 26 and 27).

## Chart 26: Indicator 8.5.2a Unemployment rate, population aged 15–24, by sex, 2014–2021 (%)



Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

Note: As of 2021 the methodology was changed, but earlier data have been adjusted to the new methodology so it is possible to monitor the trend

87 The compound annual growth rate for the period 2017–2021 for this population amounts to -5.18%, and for the period 2014–2021 is -7.65%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> The compound annual growth rate for the period 2017–2021 amounts to -6.47%, and for the period 2014–2021 is -8.36%.



## Chart 27: Indicator 8.5.2b Unemployment rate, population aged 15–64, by sex, 2014–2021 (%)

Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

Note: As of 2021 the methodology was changed, but earlier data have been adjusted to the new methodology so it is possible to monitor the trend

**Target 8.6** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

**Indicator 8.6.1** Proportion of youth (aged 15–24) not in education, employment or training

As of 2021 the Eurostat methodology of the Labour Force Survey, based on which this indicator is monitored, has been changed.<sup>88</sup> For this reason there was a break in the series so the movement of this indicator has to be monitored in future separately, until 2020 and from 2021. Significant progress toward the goal was registered also with the decrease of the share of young people who are not employed and not in the education, from 2016–2020 (at the compound annual growth rate of -2.65%). The positive trend is more visible among women (at the compound annual growth rate of -5.17%), than among men (at the compound annual growth rate of -0.29%) (Chart 28).



## Chart 28: Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24) not in education, employment or training, by sex, 2014–2020 (%)

Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

Note: As of 2021 there was a break in the series, the data are not comparable with the series before 2020

**Target 8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

## **Indicator 8.7.1** Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

Every tenth child (9.5% of children aged 5–17 years) is engaged in child labour. Child labour was more prevalent among boys than among girls (11.2% vs 7.5%), as well as in children from "other" settlements, compared to children from urban settlements (14.9% vs 5.8%). Observed by age, child labour was the most common among younger children, aged 5–11 years (15.9%). Among children of early adolescence (aged 12–14 years), child labour was present in 4.3% of cases, while among older adolescents (aged 15–17years), it occurred in 0.6% cases. In addition, child labour was more prevalent among children from the poorest and second quintile households (12.2% and 15.4%, respectively), than in children in the middle, fourth and richest quintiles (8.4%, 5.3% and 7.9%, respectively)<sup>89</sup>.

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**Target 8.10** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Indicator 8.10.1a Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults

Indicator 8.10.1b Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

Regarding target 8.10 monitoring progress in capacity building and availability of domestic financial institutions, inconsistent trends were registered. Significant movement away from the goal (at the compound annual growth rate of -1.03%, for the period 2017–2022) was registered in the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults (Indicator 8.10.1a), while significant progress (at the compound annual growth rate of 4.39%) was registered regarding the number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults (Indicator 8.10.1b).

**Target 8.b** By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

NEW

**Indicator 8.b.1** Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

Serbia has achieved the target 8.b due to having operationalized national youth employment policy within the Employment Strategy and Youth Strategy. That is how it has become part of the group of states which are contributing, at the global level, to the achievement of this goal.







## BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 5/8 (9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 9.5, 9.c) 7/12

SDG 9 calls for building resilient infrastructure and promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. This goal includes 8 targets monitored against 12 indicators. It is possible to monitor 5 targets and 7 indicators in Serbia based on the SORS data.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Progress made towards target 9.1 calling for improving transport infrastructure indicates contradictory trends — while significant movement away from the target is registered in the field of passenger transport, significant progress is present in the field of freight transport.
- Promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and significantly raising the manufacturing share in the GDP (target 9.2) also shows contradictory tendencies. When it comes to the indicator measuring the industry's share of employment, significant progress is registered, both short-term and long-term.
- When it comes to target 9.4, which refers to the improvement of infrastructure and industry in order to use resources more efficiently and adopt clean and environmentally friendly technologies, significant movement away from the goal is registered in the short-term due to the total increase of CO2 emissions from the process of fuel combustion, while moderate progress is registered in the long-term.
- Enhancing scientific research and upgrading the technological capabilities of industrial sectors (target 9.5) is visible due to the significant increase in the total research and development expenditure as a proportion of the GDP, same as due to the moderate increase of the number of researchers.
- Moderate short-term and significant long-term progress was achieved in relation to the increase of the proportion of the population covered by the 4G mobile network (target 9.c).

# **Target 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

Indicator 9.1.2a Passenger volume, by mode of transport

Indicator 9.1.2b Freight volume, by mode of transport

In the short-term and long-term, in the area of passenger transport, significant movement away from target 9.1 is registered. Significant negative trends measured by a compound annual growth rate are recorded in rail and air transport. At the same time, significant progress, both in the short-term and in the long-term, was achieved in the area of freight transport. However, when comparing different types of freight transport, contradictory tendencies are notable: while significant progress is achieved in the area of road, air and pipeline transport, the significant movement away from the target is registered in the area of rail and inland waterway transport (Table 4).

Type of transport	Compound annual growth rate, in % 2017–2021	Progress towards SDG	Compound annual growth rate, in % 2010–2021	Progress towards SDG
Total passenger transport	-4.43	↓	0.13	7
Total land transport	-2.67	+	-0.62	N
Rail transport	-15.58	+	-8.73	4
Road transport	-4.19	+	-2.34	$\mathbf{+}$
Public transport	-1.03	+	1.18	4
Air transport	-11.19	↓	5.19	1
Total freight transport	11.86	1	7.52	1
Total land transport	10.42	1	7.55	1
Rail transport	-2,89	+	-1.67	4
Road transport	19.36	1	17.66	1
Air transport	150.99	1	68.17	1
Pipeline transport	15.74	1	5.83	1
Inland waterway transport	-60.81	+	-30.07	$\mathbf{+}$

#### Table 4: Indicator 9.1.2 Passenger and freight transport, by mode of transport

Source: Statistics of Transport and Telecommunications, SORS



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Indicator 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita 7
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Indicator 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Progress towards target 9.2 also shows inconsistent tendencies. Observed through the indicator measuring the manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP, there is significant movement away from the target (with the compound annual growth rate of -3.67% for the period 2017–2021 and the compound annual growth rate of -1.47% for the period 2010–2021), and when this share is monitored per capita, the outcome is significant progress towards the target (with short-term compound annual growth rate of 2.46%, and long-term of 2.52%).



Chart 29: Indicator 9.2.1a Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP, 2010–2021 (%)

Source: National Accounts Statistics, SORS



## Chart 30: Indicator 9.2.1b Manufacturing value added per capita, 2010–2021 (USD at 2015 constant prices)

Source: National Accounts Statistics, SORS

Manufacturing employment (Indicator 9.2.2) as a proportion of total employment records increase both in long-term and in short-term, which significantly contributes towards the progress in achieving target 9.2 at the compound annual growth rate of 3.73% short-term (2017–2021) and 3.18% long-term (2014–2021) (Chart 31).

## Chart 31: Indicator 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment, 2014–2021 (%)



Source: Labour Force Survey, SORS

<b>Target 9.4</b> By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities		
Indicator 9.4.1a CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion	↓	C
<b>Indicator 9.4.1b</b> CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of GDP	+	
<b>Indicator 9.4.1c</b> CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per unit of manufacturing value added	↗	

Progress in achieving target 9.4 is monitored against several sub-indicators measuring  $CO_2$  emissions. According to the sub-indicator that measures  $CO_2$  emissions from the fuel combustion process (9.4.1a), significant movement away from the target was registered in short-term (2014–2018), at the compound annual growth rate of 4.16%, and moderate progress is notable long-term (2010–2018), at the compound annual growth rate of -0.23%. When the manufacturing industry is observed separately, the trend is similar, i.e. significant movement away from the target is registered short-term (at the compound annual growth rate of 2.09%), and significant progress is registered long-term (at the compound annual growth rate of -2.32%) (Chart 32).





Source: International Energy Agency (IEA), Environmental Protection Agency

When progress towards this target is monitored against the indicator 9.4.1b, the result is a little different. In that case for the total  $CO_2$  emission per unit of value added — per GDP unit significant movement away from the goal is registered in the short term (at the compound annual growth rate of 1.40%), and significant progress in the long term (at the compound annual growth rate of -1.86%), while specifically for the manufacturing industry moderate progress is registered in the short term and significant progress towards the goal in the long term (at the compound annual growth rate of -0.83% and -4.18%, respectively).

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**Target 9.5** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

**Indicator 9.5.1** Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP, by sectors

Indicator 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

Significant progress is registered in increased investments in scientific research creating the basis for technological development of the industrial sector<sup>90</sup>. The total research and development expenditure record both the long-term (at the compound annual growth rate of 3.20%) and short-term progress (at the compound annual growth rate of 3.28%). However, the data show that the increase in research and development expenditure is registered primarily in the business sector (short-term compound annual growth rate of 8.90%, and long-term of 17.00%) and government sector (short-term compound annual growth rate of 2.02%, and long-term 0.00%), but not in the sector of higher education where significant movement away from the target is registered (at the short-term compound annual growth rate of -3.28%, and long-term -2.26%)<sup>91</sup> (Chart 33).



## Chart 33: Indicator 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP, by sectors, 2010–2021 (%)

Source: Statistics of science, technology and innovation, SORS

<sup>90</sup> This indicator shows gross allocations for science: in the state sector, in the sector of higher education, in the non-financial and non-profit sector, expressed as their percentage share in GDP.

<sup>91</sup> Source: Science, technology and innovation statistics, SORS.

Significant progress towards target 9.5 is visible in the increased number of researchers per one million inhabitants<sup>92</sup>. The number of researchers in the long term (2010–2021) grew at the compound annual growth rate of 3.32%, and in the short term (2017–2021) at the rate of 1.87%. While there were 1,733 employed researchers in 2010 expressed in full-time equivalent, per one million inhabitants, there were 2,322 in 2017 and 2,482 in 2021.

**Target 9.c** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

**Indicator 9.c.1** Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology

Significant progress was achieved in relation to improved access of population to information and communication technology<sup>93</sup>. In 2021, the 2G mobile network covered 99.26% of the population, the 3G network covered 98.99%, and the 4G network covered 98.19% of the population. If more advanced technology is monitored, i.e. the coverage by the 4G network moderate progress (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.99%) is registered in the short term (2017–2021), and significant progress (at the compound annual growth rate of 9.57%) in the long term (2015–2021)<sup>94</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> Researchers, as a full-time equivalent, per one million inhabitants are direct indicators of the number of research and development employees per one million inhabitants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> The Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communication and Postal Services (RATEL) gathers and processes data of operators of electronic communication networks and services, provided within annual reports. Based on submitted reports data on the mobile network coverage (2G, 3G and 4G) were presented and they are expressed as the percentage of inhabitants living at the territory covered by the signal of a certain mobile network, irrespective of whether they were subscribers of any of those networks or not.

<sup>94</sup> Source: RATEL (Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communication and Postal Services).






# SDG **10**

## REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 7/10 (10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.7, 10.a, 10.b) 8/14

SDG 10 calls for reduced inequality within and among countries through 10 targets monitored against 14 indicators. Currently in Serbia progress can be monitored based on the available SORS data in relation to 7 targets against 8 indicators. Compared to the previous report, it is now possible to monitor 4 targets and 5 indicators more.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Significant progress was achieved when it comes to the growth rate of disposable income per capita, both for total population and for 40% of the population with the lowest income (target 10.1).
- Significant progress is achieved in relation to the share of population with the disposable income below 50% of the median equalized income, both in the short term and in the long term (target 10.2).
- Progress cannot be monitored in relation to target 10.3 which guarantees equal opportunities and reduces inequalities in the outcome, including the elimination of discrimination, because data are available only for 2019 and only for the female population in the reproductive age (aged 15–49 years). According to MICS data, 6.9% of women from this category stated that they had been discriminated in the previous 12 months.
- Significant progress is registered in the area of earnings (target 10.4), because share of labour force income in GDP was increased.
- When it comes to migration management (target 10.7), Serbia is rated highly in terms of the development of migration policies which facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migrations. When it comes to the number of missing or died persons within the migration process towards an international destination, it varies between 1 and 7 in the short term, whereas the biggest number of missing or died persons in the migration process was registered in 2019 (18 persons).
- Moderate movement away from the target is registered when it comes to the import tariffs (target 10.a).
- Significant progress is registered in relation to financial allocations for development (target 10.b).

**Target 10.1** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

**Indicator 10.1.1** Growth rates of disposable income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

Since the indicator for monitoring progress towards target 10.1 is already defined as an average growth rate, for the assessment of the change the compound annual growth rate was not applied. Having in mind that the average growth rate of disposable income is higher than 1% for every year for which data are available (2018–2021), and that income growth rates of the bottom 40% of population are significantly higher compared to the national average (Chart 34), the trend can be assessed as significant progress towards the target.

Chart 34: Indicator 10.1.1 Growth rates of disposable income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population, 2018–2021 (%)



Source: Survey on income and living conditions (SILC), SORS

**Target 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

**Indicator 10.2.1** Proportion of population with disposable income below 50 per cent of median equivalized income, by sex and age

Significant progress was achieved in relation to target 10.2 which envisages empowerment and promotion of social and economic inclusion, which is monitored via the proportion of population living below 50% of median equivalent income. Significant progress was registered both in the short term and in the long term (at the compound annual growth rate of -7.18% and -2.77%, respectively), among all age groups except for the eldest population (aged 65+) where significant movement away from the target is registered (at the compound annual growth rate of 2.48% in the short term and 2.00% in the long term). Observed by sex, the progress is significant both for female and male population (in the short term at the compound annual growth

rate of -6.74% and -7.77%, respectively), with the exclusion of the eldest population. When observing the population by the type of settlement, significant progress is registered in urban and other settlements (in the short term at the compound annual growth rate of -8.19% and -6.42%, respectively).



### Chart 35: Indicator 10.2.1a Proportion of population with disposable income below 50 per cent of median equivalized income, by sex and age, 2013–2021 (%)

Source: Survey on income and living conditions (SILC), SORS

**Target 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

**Indicator 10.3.1 (16.b.1)** Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Since the data are available for 2019 only, it is not possible to monitor progress towards this target. The data show that in the overall population of women aged 15–49, 6.9% have experienced some kind of discrimination in the 12 months preceding the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). The proportion of discriminated women is twice higher in the population of women living in Roma settlements (12.5%). Women in urban settlements reported the experience of discrimination in a higher percentage than women in other settlements (8.1% vs 4.8%), women with higher education (9.1%) more frequently than women with secondary (5.0%) and lower education (7.6%), and women from the wealthiest households more often than women from the households belonging to lower wealth quintiles (9.4% vs 5.2% in the fourth, 6.5% in the middle, 6.0% in the second and 7.1% in the poorest quintile)<sup>95</sup>. One ought to bear in mind that the data partly reflect discrimination awareness depending on recognition of such experiences and readiness to report on them in the survey.

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**Target 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Indicator 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers

Significant progress is registered concerning target 10.4 based on the indicator measuring labour share in the gross domestic product<sup>96</sup>. In the period 2016–2020, this share increased from 37.7% to 44.2%, giving the compound annual growth rate of 4.06%<sup>97</sup>.

<b>Target 10.7</b> Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	
<b>Indicator 10.7.2</b> Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people	×
Indicator 10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination	×

In the area of migration management, a positive evaluation is registered, which was achieved in relation to the development of migration policies facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. The number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination varied in the period 2017–2021, and the highest value was in 2019 (18 persons).

Indicator 10.7.2 describes the situation of national migration policies. Progress is identified in relation to targets defined in IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF), which includes: (1) socioeconomic well-being of migrants and the society, (2) effective responses to the mobility dimension of crises (3) safe, orderly and dignified pathways of migration. Progress is measured in six policy areas: (1) migrant rights, (2) whole-of-government/evidence based policies, (3) cooperation and partnerships, (4) socioeconomic well-being, (5) mobility dimensions of crises and (6) safe, orderly and regular migration. Indicator values can vary between 1–4, whereas the score 1 means "Requires further progress", score 2 means "Partially meets", score 3 means that the policy "Meets" and score 4 means that the policy "Fully meets".

In 2021 th overall migration policies in Serbia were graded with the score 3, and observed by areas, the following areas were graded with the score 3: migrant rights, socioeconomic well-being, mobility dimensions of crises, safe, orderly and regular migration, while the following areas were graded with grade 4: whole-of-government/evidence based policies, cooperation and partnerships<sup>38</sup>.

97 Source: National accounts, SORS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> The labour share of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total compensation of employees given as a percent of GDP, which is a measure of total output. The indicator provides information about the relative share of output which is paid as compensation to employees as compared with the share paid to capital in the production process for a given reference period.

<sup>98</sup> Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

**Target 10.a** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements



**Indicator 10.a.1** Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

In relation to this target moderate movement away from the target with the compound annual growth rate of -0.02% was registered, for the period 2017–2021.

**Target 10.b** Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

**Indicator 10.b.1** Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

When it comes to the official development assistance in the short-term period (2016–2020) significant progress is registered at the compound annual growth rate of 11.28%, and significant progress is present also in the long term (2010–2020) with the compound annual growth rate of 1.02%.

Chart 36: Indicator 10.b.1 Total financial flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows), 2011–2020 (millions of current USD)



Source: OECD — Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

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# SDG 11

### MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored:

### 6/10 (11.1, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.a, 11.b) 10/15

SDG 11 defines necessary steps to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. This goal includes 10 targets monitored against 15 indicators. Currently the progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to 6 targets against 10 indicators. Compared to the report for 2021, it is possible to monitor 3 targets and 4 indicators more.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Progress in achieving target 11.1, which is measured in relation to the proportion of urban population living in slums, in informal settlements or inadequate housing conditions, can be monitored on the basis of the data of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2016 and 2018 and the share for both years was 4%.
- Progress in achieving target 11.5 is measured by the same indicators as target 1.5. As the target 1.5 data indicated, progress cannot be monitored against most of these indicators, but there has been a noticeable decline in number of disaster victims, as well as a reduction in economic losses, both in the short and in the long-term period.
- Target 11.a confirms positive economic, social and ecological links between urban, suburban and rural areas by empowerment of the national and regional development planning in the Republic of Serbia.
- Progress regarding target 11.b cannot be monitored at the compound annual growth rate, but the data indicate a decrease in the evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy for disaster risk reduction in accordance with the Sendai framework in Serbia.

**Target 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums



Progress towards the first target is measured by the proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements and inadequate housing conditions. The data available for 2016 and 2018 point to the same percentage of population living in these conditions (4%)<sup>99</sup>.

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<b>Target 11.5</b> By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	
Indicator 11.5.1 (1.5.1/13.1.1) Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	×
<b>Indicator 11.5.2</b> Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	1
Indicator 11.5.3 Damage to critical infrastructure	X

Target 11.5 is monitored against two indicators, one of which (11.5.1) is the same as for target 1.5 (findings regarding the progress against that indicator are presented in chapter SDG 1).

When it comes to the second indicator (11.5.2) which measures direct losses attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP), significant progress is registered, both in the short term (2016–2020), and in the long term (2010–2020), at the compound annual growth rate of -29,42% and -22,54%, respectively.

When it comes to damages to critical infrastructures, time series are unavailable, but the data for 2020 indicate that there were in total 6 damages, five at education facilities and one at a health care facility. There was an interruption of basic services due to the damage in four education and one health care facility.



Indicators measuring progress in achieving target 11.6 are partly in the process of being reviewed or pending validation by international statistical agencies, so progress in this report is not measured by a compound annual growth rate.

# Chart 37: Indicator 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted), total and by type of settlement, 2011–2016 ( $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>)



Source: World Health Organization

**Target 11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Indicator 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

X

Data for monitoring on the basis of this indicator are not available for several years, so no changes can be monitored. Data are only available for 2021, for the female population based on the Survey on security and quality of life of women. According to these data, 4.1% of women with major limitations were victims of physical or sexual harassment during the previous 12 months. The proportion of women with disabilities, who were victims of one of the above mentioned forms of violence is higher in urban than in other settlements (6.9% and 0%, respectively).

Target 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

X

Indicator 11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space

Target 11.a confirms positive economic, social and ecological links with the regional development planning in the Republic of Serbia and the value of indicator 11.a.1 shows that Serbia has national urban policies or regional development plans.

Target 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

X Indicator 11.b.1 (1.5.3, 13.1.2) Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

When it comes to target 11.b, findings are presented in the chapter dedicated to SDG 1, since the indicators are the same as for target 1.5.



## SDG **12**

## ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 5/11 (12.1, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.b) 5/13

SDG 12 envisages ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, through 11 targets against 13 indicators. Currently the progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to 5 targets against 5 indicators. Compared to the previous report, it is possible to monitor two new targets and two new indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Serbia has developed policy instruments aimed at supporting the transition to sustainable production and consumption (target 12.1), thus ranking it among countries that meet the obligations towards the first target of SDG 12.
- Tendencies towards achieving target 12.2 related to efficient use and management of natural resources are inconsistent, given that significant movement away from the target is recorded regarding the domestic consumption of materials, and moderate progress is recorded regarding productive use of resources.
- Significant progress towards the target is registered in the area of generated hazardous waste (target 12.4).
- Target 12.5 points to a slight increase of the municipal waste recycling rate compared to total produced quantities.
- ▶ Target 12.b monitors the use of sustainable development impacts monitoring tools.

for sustainable consumption and production

 Target 12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable

 Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with

 developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development

 and capabilities of developing countries

 Indicator 12.1.1a Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing

 policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption

 and production: National action plans for sustainable consumption and

 production (1 = Yes; 0 = No)

 Indicator 12.1.1b Instruments and policies for sustainable consumption

 Indicator 12.1.1c Number of policies, instruments and mechanism in place

The first target under SDG 12 relates to the development and implementation of policies and instruments that should contribute towards the transition to sustainable consumption and production. The achievement of the goal is monitored against three sub-indicators which register whether the policies and instruments for the transition to sustainable consumption and production have been developed and adopted, as well as against the number of instruments. Having in mind that the measurement against these indicators is qualitative, i.e. that the existence or absence of such instruments is registered, and their number is estimated, Serbia, according to the findings of 10YFP/WESR<sup>100</sup>, fulfils its obligations under this target.



Since also target 8.4 is monitored against the same indicators, findings on progress are presented in the chapter about SDG 8.

<sup>100 10-</sup>Year Framework for the Sustainable Consumption and Production Programme (World Environment Situation Room), Environmental Protection Agency.

**Target 12.4** By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

W	Indicator 12.4.2a Hazardous waste generated per capita	1
W	Indicator 12.4.2b Hazardous waste treated or disposed	⊼
	Indicator 12.4.2c Total generated hazardous waste	•

Significant progress was achieved in relation to generating hazardous waste in terms of total waste or per capita. In the short-term time frame (2016–2020) the generated hazardous waste per capita was reduced from 2,441 kg to 1,645 kg per capita, at the compound annual growth rate of -9.40%. in the long-term time frame the trend is still moderate movement away from the goal, because the generated waste per capita was smaller in 2010 (1,542 kg), at the long-term compound annual growth rate of 0.65%.

The total generated hazardous waste was in the short term reduced at the compound annual growth rate of -9.91%, and in the long term it was moderately increased at the compound annual growth rate of 0.17%. In the observed short-term framework, the level of treated or disposed hazardous waste is unchanged and it amounted 99.9%.

**Target 12.5** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Indicator 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

The indicator is used to monitor the reduction of waste generation<sup>101</sup>. Data are available for the period 2017–2021 and they point to significant increase of the municipal waste recycling rate, from 14.1% to 16.8%, which points to the change of 4.48% measured by the compound annual growth rate.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> During 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency prepared a Methodology for calculating the total amount of municipal waste and the degree of recycling in the Republic of Serbia. This methodology is based on field measurements carried out by public utility companies in accordance with the Law on Waste Management. The methodology is aligned with the requirements of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1004 on establishing rules for the calculation, verification and reporting of waste data in accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC, as well as for reporting to Eurostat. Directive 2008/98/EC and Implementing Decision 2019/1004 establish completely new rules for reporting on municipal waste in order to provide clear evidence of the fulfillment of the goals of managing this type of waste. In the mentioned methodology, the index numbers from the European waste catalog representing fractions of municipal waste were also applied.

**Target 12.b** Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**Indicator 12.b.1** Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability

X

Indicator "Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability" refers to the level of implementation of the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and the table of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). Seven TSA tables and four SEEA tables are monitored.

The international System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) provides information on mutual environmental and economy impacts. This system includes international standards, definitions, accounting rules and tables for the design of internationally comparable statistical data on the environment and its relation towards the economy, which are harmonized with the statistics of national accounts aiming at facilitating the integration of environmental and economic statistics. Only the account of air emissions has been implemented from the environmental-economic account.

# SDG **13**

## TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

Number of targets monitored:	1/5 (13.1)
Number of indicators monitored:	3/8

SDG 13 calls for taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, specifically through 5 targets monitored against 8 indicators. Currently in Serbia it is possible to monitor one target against three indicators.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- It is possible to monitor progress in achieving SDG 13 only in relation to target 13.1, which is monitored by the same indicators as target 1.5 and partially 11.5. As mentioned earlier, the data indicate a decline in the number of victims of disasters, as well as a reduction in economic damage, both in the short and in the long term.
- In the implementation of policies, there is a decrease in the assessment for the implementation of the strategy according to the Sendai Framework between 2017 and 2018, and the number of local governments implementing disaster resilience policies is extremely small (0.05%, or 8 out of 174 local governments).

**Target 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicator 13.1.1 (1.5.1, 11.5.1) Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Indicator 13.1.2 (1.5.3, 11.b.1) Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

Indicator 13.1.3 (1.5.4, 11.b.2) Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

Data based on indicators of resilience to climate-related disasters is presented within target 1.5, the achievement of which is monitored on the basis of the same indicators.





## CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Number of targets monitored:	1/10
Number of indicators monitored:	1/10

SDG 14 calls for conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. This goal also contains targets related to the preservation of life in waters that are not seas and oceans, which is why it is also relevant for Serbia. In Serbia, it is now possible to monitor one target and one indicator.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the current normative and institutional framework for the protection of small ponds is rated 4, which indicates a high level of implementation.

**Target 14.b** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

### **Indicator 14.b.1** Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries

X

Target 14.b aims to provide secure access to resources and market for small professional fishermen, which would support their key role in ensuring sustainable food systems. To achieve this, it is necessary to provide an appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional environment that recognizes and protects the rights of fishermen. Indicator 14.b.1 measures the progress of the state in the degree of implementation of these instruments which recognize and protect small fishermen. The key criterion for assessing the applicability of indicators in a particular country is the existence of small professional fishermen in the country. There are three key variables for measuring this indicator: 1) the existence of laws, regulations, policies, plans and strategies that are specifically aimed at small-scale artisanal fishers; 2) the existence of ongoing initiatives to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Ensuring Sustainable Small-scale Fishers, and 3) the existence of advisory bodies at the level of competent ministries where fishermen can participate in decision-making. The value of indicator 14.b.1 ranges from a very low to a very high degree of implementation (1-5). The first available data for Serbia for this indicator dates from 2020, and it shows that there is a high degree of implementation of the legal, regulatory and institutional framework that recognizes and protects the rights of small-scale artisanal fishers (score 4 out of 5).





## PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Number	of targets monitored:	
Number	of indicators monitored	:t

5/12 (15.1, 15.2, 15.6, 15.a, 15.b) 6/14

SDG 15 calls for protection of terrestrial ecosystems through 12 targets monitored against 14 indicators. Currently, the progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to five targets and six indicators.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Moderate both long-term and short-term progress has been made in increasing forest area (target 15.1 which is planned to be implemented by 2020), and significant progress has been made in preserving important freshwater and terrestrial areas within protected areas.
- In relation to target 15.2, which envisages sustainable forest management (which is also foreseen to be implemented by 2020) inconsistent trends are registered significant movement away from the target in relation to the annual net forest area change rate, moderate progress was made regarding the above-ground forest biomass fund, share of forest area within legally established protected areas and percentage of forest area according to long-term forest management plan, and moderate movement away from the target has been recorded in terms of forest areas within the independently verified certification scheme for forest management.

- Positive trends are registered also in the area of target 15.6, because Serbia is fulfilling its obligations based on international agreements and has significantly increased the number of reported standard agreements on material transfer of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture into the country.
- In the area of targets 15.a and 15.b, which refer to the increase of financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, which are monitored against the same indicator, significant progress due to the increase of development assistance is registered.

**Target 15.1** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

**Indicator 15.1.2** Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

The target calling for ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their surroundings should be achieved by 2020 in line with the 2030 Agenda. However, having in mind that precise targets have not yet been defined, it is not possible to assess if the target has been fully met. What can be determined in monitoring this target is the progress in the domain of forest protection and increased areas under forests<sup>102</sup>, as well as the protection of freshwater and terrestrial areas within the protected areas. Moderate progress is registered when it comes to the share of the area under forests in the total land area (Chart 38).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> The indicator is defined as the share of the area under forests in the total land area of the country. A forest is defined as land covering more than 0.5 ha with trees greater than 5 m and canopy cover greater than 10%, or trees that can reach these thresholds at the surface. It does not include land that, according to its use, is predominantly agricultural or urban land. Additional criteria are listed in the document Forest Resource Assessment 2020 — Terms and Definitions (<u>http://www.fao.org/3/18661EN/18661en.pdf</u>). The total land area of the country means the total area of the country without surface water bodies such as rivers and lakes. The total land area for the reference year 2015 was taken.



#### Chart 38: Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area, 2010–2020 (%)

Source: FAO

When it comes to freshwater areas within protected areas, significant increase is registered, both long-term and short-term, at the compound annual growth rate of 5.29% and 3.45%, respectively and for terrestrial areas the rate is 2.37% and 2.91%, respectively (Chart 39).



**Chart 39: Indicator 15.1.2** Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type, 2010–2021 (%)

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

<b>Target 15.2</b> By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally	
Indicator 15.2.1a Progress towards sustainable forest management: Forest area annual net change rate	¥
Indicator 15.2.1b Above-ground biomass stock in forest	⊼
Indicator 15.2.1c Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas	R
Indicator 15.2.1d Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan	R
Indicator 15.2.1e Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme	М

Inconsistent trends are registered in relation to target 15.2. Regarding the annual net rate of change of the forest area, which can be monitored only in the long term because data are available only for two years (2010 and 2020), significant movement away from the goal is registered (at the compound annual growth rate of -27.38%). Moderate progress in the short term (2016–2020) was registered in terms of the size of the above-ground biomass stock in forest (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.01%), the share of forests within the legally protected areas (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.00%), as well as the percentage of forest area according to the long-term forest management plan (at the compound annual growth rate of 0.04%). Moderate movement away from the target was registered in the short term (2017–2021) when it comes to the surface of forest areas within the independently certified forest management scheme at the compound annual growth rate of -0.41%.

**Target 15.6** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

**Indicator 15.6.1** Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits

Positive tendencies are registered regarding target 15.6 calling for promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promoting appropriate access to such resources as internationally agreed. Serbia is a signatory to the International Agreement on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as to the Nagoya Protocol, and an increase in the number of reported standard agreements on the transfer of materials transferring plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the country is registered. The state has submitted a report on legislative, administrative and political frameworks through the online reporting system on compliance with the International treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

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**Target 15.a** Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

**Target 15.b** Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

**Indicators 15.a.1 and 15.b.1** Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

Targets 15.a and 15.b are monitored based on the same indicator, for which data are available for the period 2010–2018. If, according to the defined methodological principles, the last five available years (2014–2018) are taken as a short-term framework, this indicator shows significant progress with an compound annual growth rate of 149.26%, as development aid increased from 0.5 million USD in 2014 to 19.3 million USD in 2018. In the long-term time frame progress is also significant, but less pronounced (the compound annual growth rate is 3.64%, because in the initial year (2010) the amount of development assistance was 14.5 million USD, and in 2018 it was 19.3 million USD (Chart 40)).



# Chart 40: Indicators 15.a.1 and 15.b.1 Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, 2010–2018 (million USD)

Source: OECD







## PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 7/12 (16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.9, 16.b) 12/24

SDG 16 envisages promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. This goal includes 12 targets monitored against 24 indicators. Currently the progress in Serbia can be monitored in relation to 7 targets against 12 indicators. Compared to the previous report, for 2022 it is possible to monitor two indicators more.

### **KEY FINDINGS**

- It is only possible to monitor progress against target 16.1 based on one indicator because no time series data are available for the others. According to the indicator of the number of victims of intentional murders, significant progress has been registered in reducing the number of victims. Nevertheless, gender differences are present as progress is recorded in the male population, and movement away from the goal in the female population.
- Negative trends are recorded in relation to target 16.2, which foresees the end of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. The share of children who experienced physical punishment increased slightly, and at the same time, the total number of victims of human trafficking increased, although in the category of minors, there was a decrease in identified victims of human trafficking.
- A significant movement away from the goal was registered in the domain of target 16.3, which envisages promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, due to the increase in the share of unconvicted detainees as a share of the total prison population.

- It is not possible to monitor progress in the area of target 16.5, which envisages a significant reduction of corruption and bribery in all its forms, because the data is only available for 2010.
- Significant progress has been made in terms of developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (target 16.6), measured by the increase in primary state expenditures as a share of the originally approved budget. However, the trend is positive in all policy sectors except health, and the sports and youth sector.
- Progress in securing a legal identity for all, including birth registration (target 16.9) has been achieved in both the long-term and short-term timeframes, and is close to full coverage.
- It is not possible to monitor progress even for target 16.b, and MICS data from 2019 indicate that women living in Roma settlements felt discriminated more often than women from the overall population.

<b>Target 16.1</b> Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	
<b>Indicator 16.1.1</b> Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	1
Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of women aged 18–74 who were victims of physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	×
Indicator 16.1.4 Percentage of women that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark	×

Significant progress was achieved in relation to this target measured by the number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 inhabitants, with a compound annual growth rate of -1.90% in the short-term period (2017–2021) and a compound annual growth rate of -3.62% in the long-term period (2015–2021). However, progress is not consistent across age groups. There was an increase in the number of victims among young people (20–29) and the population aged 45 and over, while among other age groups there was a decrease in the number of victims of intentional murder. Observed by sex, gender differences are observed because among men the number of victims decreased by the compound annual growth rate to -4.19%, while among women it increased to 2.78%.

Progress cannot be monitored based on the indicator that measures the share of women aged 18–74 who were victims of physical, psychological or sexual abuse in the previous 12 months, due to the lack of time series. According to data from the 2021 Survey on security and quality of life of women, 1.6% of women were exposed to one of these forms of violence.

It is not possible to monitor progress according to another indicator within this target, due to the lack of a time series. According to MICS data from 2019, 87.5% of women in the general population and 71% of women living in Roma settlements reported that they felt safe walking alone in their settlement after dark. Certain differences are present depending on the age and education of women, with the fact that older women, as well as women with higher education, feel safe in a higher percentage.



Moderate movement away from the goal is registered on the basis of both indicators used to monitor target 16.2, aimed at protecting children against violence<sup>103</sup>. When it comes to the first indicator, which measures proportion of children aged 1–14 years who experienced any physical punishment during the month preceding the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, the data indicates that the proportion of these children increased slightly from 43.1% in 2014 to 44.5% in 2019 in the general population of children and from 65.9% to 67.3% in the population of children living in Roma settlements<sup>104</sup> (Chart 41).

# Chart 41: Indicator 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who have experienced any type of physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the previous month, 2014–2019 (%)



Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> Number of children aged 1 to 14 who (at least one): experience only non-violent aggression; or experience psychological aggression or punishment, receive minor physical punishment or are severely physically punished is divided by the total number of surveyed children aged 1 to 14 years. The unit of observation is children aged 1 to 14 years.

<sup>104</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

According to the indicator that measures the share of young women and men aged 18–29 who were exposed to sexual violence by the age of 18, it is not possible to monitor progress because the data are only available for women and for the year 2021. According to these data, 1.3% of young women were exposed to sexual violence before coming of age<sup>105</sup>.

A significant movement away from the target, at the compound annual growth rate of 1.70%, was achieved in the period 2017–2021 in terms of the number of victims of human trafficking<sup>106</sup> (Chart 42). Although women are still more numerous than men among victims of human trafficking, in this period there was a decrease in the number of women among victims of human trafficking (at the compound annual growth rate of -7.95%), and an increase in the number of men (at the compound annual growth rate of 45.65%) identified as victims of human trafficking. The number of adult victims increased (at the compound annual growth rate of 2.30%), while the number of minor victims decreased (CAGR of -5.15%)<sup>107</sup>.

### Chart 42: Indicator 16.2.2 Number of human trafficking victims, by sex and age, 2014–2021 (number)



Source: Center for the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

## **Target 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Indicator 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

### **Indicator 16.3.2** Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

<sup>105</sup> SORS, Survey on security and quality of life of women.

<sup>106</sup> The total number of identified victims of human trafficking per 100,000 inhabitants; male and female victims, minor and adult victims, victims of sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, victims of forced marriage, of forced begging, victims forced to commit criminal acts, trafficking of children for adoption, abuse for pornographic purposes, multiple exploitations were identified.

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107 Source: Center for the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims.

Progress in achieving target 16.3, which envisages the establishment of the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, is measured by two indicators, one of which cannot be monitored using a compound annual growth rate methodology due to lack of time series. It is an indicator that measures the proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to the competent authorities, for which data is available only for 2019. According to the data, 40% of women in the general population, and 67% of women living in Roma settlements, who were victims of violence, reported violence to official authorities<sup>108</sup>.

Significant movement away from the target is registered on the basis of another indicator due to the increase in the number of unsentenced detainees in the total prison population (from 15% in 2017 to 19.4% in 2021, which results in the compound annual growth rate of 6.64%)<sup>109</sup>. Gender differences are not present because with almost the same rates there was an increase in both the female and male prison population (at the compound annual growth rate of 6.94% and 6.54%, respectively).

### Target 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**Indicator 16.5.1** Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

It is not possible to monitor the progress in reducing corruption because the data is only available for the year 2010. According to these data, in the period of 12 months preceding the survey, 9.3% of respondents reported that they had given a bribe to a public official or that a public official had asked them to do so. The share of people with this kind of experience is slightly higher among men than among women (10.0% vs 8.5%).

 Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

 at all levels

**Indicator 16.6.1** Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

X

<sup>108</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> The percentage of detained persons in relation to the total number of the prison population. The composition of the prison population in institutions for the execution of criminal sanctions in the Republic of Serbia includes: convicted persons; detained persons; persons convicted of misdemeanors; persons undergoing security measures (mandatory psychiatric treatment and care in a health institution; mandatory treatment of drug addicts; mandatory treatment of alcoholics); persons serving a juvenile prison sentence and persons under the educational measure of being sent to a home (juveniles).

Significant progress has been achieved in terms of the effectiveness, responsibility and transparency of institutions as measured by the indicator of primary state expenditures as a share of the originally approved budget<sup>110</sup> (at the compound annual growth rate of 1.59%, for the period 2017–2021). The trends are positive in all policy sectors, except in the areas of health, where the compound annual growth rate amounts to -0.19%, and in the sector of sports and youth, where the compound annual growth rate is -0.36%.

#### Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

**Indicator 16.9.1** Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Although the trend cannot be followed due to the lack of a time series of data, it should be borne in mind that in the general population of children, the coverage by registration in the birth register is almost complete (99.9%), while in the population of children living in Roma settlements it is somewhat lower (98.5%)<sup>111</sup>.

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**Target 16.b** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

**Indicator 16.b.1 (10.3.1)** Percentage of women aged 15–49 years who felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months

It is not possible to monitor progress towards this target, and MICS data for 2019 show that during the 12 months preceding the survey, 6.9% of women in the general population and 12.5% of women from Roma settlements felt discriminated or harassed. The share of women who reported that they felt discriminated or harassed is higher in urban areas than in other areas<sup>112</sup>.

<sup>110</sup> The percentage of primary government expenditures in original approved budget is obtained by dividing the amount of the current budget at the end of the year by the executed expenditures of budget beneficiaries and multiplying by 100. That is, this is the proportion of total planned expenditures with all changes during the year and actual execution at the end of the year. Data on expenditures of budget beneficiaries as a share in the budget of the Republic of Serbia can be found in the Information System for Budget Execution (ISB). ISIB includes processes and procedures that are carried out by electronic communication with the Treasury Administration within the Ministry of Finance, and is part of the public financial management system. The system includes: direct users of public funds, indirect users of the Ministry of Culture and Information, Administration for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions, judicial authorises and social protection institutions. See the Treasury Department website: <a href="https://www.trezor.gov.rs/src/services/isib/">https://www.trezor.gov.rs/src/services/isib/</a>. Regulations governing the execution of the budget are the Law on the Budget System and the Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia. The calculation of indicators took into account the total expenditures included in the calculation of results, i.e. surpluses and deficits. The calculation of the sector according to which the percentage execution of the budget is shown can be seen in the Guidelines for the preparation of the programme budgeting published on the website of the Ministry of Finance: <a href="https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/uputstvo-za-izradu-programskog-budzeta">https://www.mfin.gov.rs/dokumenti2/uputstvo-za-izradu-programskog-budzeta</a>

<sup>111</sup> Percentage of children under 5 years of age who were registered at the time of the survey. This number includes children whose birth certificates were seen by interviewers or those whose parents or guardians said they were registered. MICS data refer to children alive at the time of the survey.

<sup>112</sup> Source: MICS — SORS and UNICEF.





## STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Number of targets monitored: Number of indicators monitored: 5/19 (17.1, 17.3, 17.4, 17.6, 17.8) 6/24

SDG 17 calls for strengthening partnerships for sustainable development through 19 targets monitored against 24 indicators. It is possible to monitor 5 targets against 6 indicators. Compared to the previous report period, it is possible to monitor one indicator more.

#### **KEY FINDINGS**

- Moderate progress has been achieved according to target 17.1, which envisages increased mobilization of domestic resources in order to improve domestic capacities for collecting taxes and other revenues.
- Inconsistent trends are registered in relation to target 17.3, as significant progress has been achieved in terms of foreign direct investments and official development assistance, and a significant movement away from the target in terms of the amount of remittances as a share of total GDP.
- Substantial movement away from the target is noted in target 17.4, which foresees debt sustainability.
- Significant progress was achieved in the domain of target 17.6, which envisages the improvement of regional and international cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation, primarily due to the increase in the availability of broadband high-speed Internet.
- And in the domain of target 17.8, significant progress is noted, primarily due to the increase in the use of the internet among inhabitants.

**Target 17.1** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

Indicator 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source

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Moderate progress was achieved at the compound annual growth rate of 0.42%, in the period 2017–2021, and in the long term (2013–2021) at the rate of 0.87%, in improving domestic capacities for collection of taxes and other revenues<sup>113</sup>. The total government revenue as a proportion of GDP were increased from 46.9% in 2017 to 47.7% in 2021<sup>114</sup> (Chart 43).



Chart 43: Indicator 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, 2013–2021 (%)

Source: National Accounts Statistics, SORS

### **Target 17.3** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

**Indicator 17.3.1** Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income

Indicator 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

Significant progress towards the goal was achieved due to the increase of foreign direct investments, official development assistance and South-South Cooperation, as a share of gross national income, both in the short term and in the long term. At the same time, a significant movement away from the target was recorded in terms of the share of remittances in GDP with a short-term compound annual growth rate of -2.90%, and a long-term one of -2.76%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> Total revenues of the state sector are a fiscal indicator and consist of taxes, social contributions, donations, transfers and other state revenues. Gross domestic product (GDP) is the most important and most frequently used aggregate of the System of National Accounts and is an indicator of total economic activities at the country level. Indicator 17.1.1 represents the percentage share of state revenues in GDP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> Source: National accounts, SORS.



### Chart 44: Indicator 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (USD), as a proportion of total GDP, 2010–2021 (%)

Source: National Bank of Serbia and Statistics of national accounts, SORS

**Target 17.4** Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

Indicator 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

Significant movement away from the target was registered in the area of debt sustainability<sup>115</sup> at the compound annual growth rate of -15.91%, in the period 2017–2021. Observed in the long-term (2010–2020), progress still remains significant with the compound annual growth rate of 1.11%<sup>116</sup>.

**Target 17.6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

**Indicator 17.6.1** Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

Significant progress was made towards target 17.6 envisaging improved regional and international cooperation in science, technology and innovation, and it is documented by the positive compound annual growth rate against the indicator measuring the number of subscribers of  $\mathcal{X}$ 

<sup>115</sup> The ratio of repayment of public external debt and export of goods and services in the observed year (expressed in euros).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> Source: National Bank of Serbia — Department for Balance of Payments Statistics.

fixed broadband Internet per 100 inhabitants (5.78%)<sup>117</sup>. Progress has been made in the number of subscribers with access to the fastest connection (higher or equal to 10 Mbit/s) at the compound annual growth rate of 6.96%, with a decrease in the number of subscribers to slower connections<sup>118</sup>.

**Target 17.8** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Indicator 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Vis-a-vis target 17.8 planned to be achieved by 2017, the achievement cannot be assessed since precise target values have not been defined. The data on the proportion of individuals using the Internet<sup>119</sup> used to monitor achievement of this target, demonstrated significant progress based on the compound annual growth rate of 3.60% for the period 2017–2021. The progress was slightly more pronounced in female than in male population when measured by the compound annual growth rate (3.98% vs 3.20%)<sup>120</sup>.

<sup>117</sup> The number of subscribers (subscriptions) of fixed broadband Internet access refers to subscribers who pay for access to the public Internet, and they are distributed according to data download speeds per 100 inhabitants of the Republic of Serbia. Population estimates for the Republic of Serbia (without data for AP Kosovo and Metohija) refer to the end of the year, i.e. to December 31 of the observed year, and are prepared by Vital Statistics of the Republic Institute of Statistics.

<sup>118</sup> Source: Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (RATEL) and Vital Statistics, SORS.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> Percentage of persons (individuals) using the Internet in the last 3 months between the ages of 16 and 74.

<sup>120</sup> Source: Statistics of information-communication technologies, SORS.



ИЗВЕШТАЈ О НАПРЕТКУ У ОСТВАРИВАЊУ ЦИЉЕВА ОДРЖИВОГ РАЗВОЈА ДО 2030. ГОДИНЕ У РЕПУБЛИЦИ СРБИЈИ

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030 IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

