

NATIONAL ROADMAP ON STATISTICS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia

Milana Rakića 5, Belgrade

Phone: +381 11 2412 922; Fax: +381 11 2411 260

For publisher:

Branko Josipović, Acting Director

Editorial Board:

Snežana Lakčević

Dragana Đoković Papić

Selena Marković

Vladica Janković

Petar Đorić

Jelena Korićanac

Proofreading (Serbian):

Bogdana Milošević

Translation (English):

Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Socio-Economic Indicators and Justice Statistics

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WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ROADMAP FOR STATISTICS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

The National Roadmap for Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia represents a document, i.e. guide for statistics aimed at ensuring regular and valid statistical data for the Republic of Serbia.

Why is the roadmap for statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals important?

- Improving the quality of statistical data: Statistical data should be relevant, reliable, accessible, and timely.
- Increasing the efficiency of statistical systems: Optimal use of resources.
- Strengthening public trust: Ensures transparency and accountability in the production and dissemination of statistical data.
- Supporting decision-making processes: Enables policies and programs on sustainable development to be based on solid evidence.
- Compliance with international standards: Statistical data should be comparable with other countries.

The roadmap for statistics should help in achieving sustainable solutions for activities of an institution, in this case, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, concerning the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030. Activities relate to the role of the official statistics in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, reflected in the coordination, collection, processing, and publishing of data related to measuring progress in achieving the goals and targets of sustainable development while respecting the data and metadata quality requirements .

The National Roadmap must also meet the requirements set by the State Audit Institution in December 2023. Specifically, the State Audit Institution conducted a review of the efficiency of operations from February to December 2023 on the topic of Sustainable Development Goals: The Readiness of the Republic of Serbia for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The requirement that the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia needs to fulfill relates to ensuring up-to-date and quality statistical data, and regular annual reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals as prescribed by the United Nations, as well as participation in activities on establishment of a national set of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.

This document contains the necessary information and steps to be taken to ensure up-to-date and quality statistical data for the Sustainable Development Goals and National Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia.

The challenges of the National Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia represent professional challenges for the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, requiring continuous implementation and achievement, as well as adherence to predefined deadlines for activities related to the Sustainable Development Goals. In any case, this document should assist in implementation of proposals and decisions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which include indicators of the United Nations, and the collaboration of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia with other relevant authorities in defining a national set of indicators.

We hope that the National Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia will significantly facilitate activities on the Sustainable Development Goals to the employees of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, employees of other state institutions and public administration bodies, and



users from the civil sector. Anyhow, it should assist in further efforts to meet the demands for reliable and plausible data and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

This document also supports the tools for measuring the progress of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia in providing statistical data for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia. These include: the web portal with official data for the Republic of Serbia, an increase in the number of available data, dissemination database, open data, profiles of the Sustainable Development Goals, etc. The document provides guidelines for offering organized and coordinated support to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia from official producers of data on the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as users of official data on the Sustainable Development Goals, which will lead to the effective and efficient utilization of the overall capacities of employees.

HISTORY

➔ MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2010-2015

The Republic of Serbia, in 2000, along with 189 other member states of the United Nations, adopted the Millennium Declaration, which outlined the fundamental values that international relations in the 21st century should be based upon: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emerged from this declaration.

The Millennium Development Goals consisted of eight goals that all 190 UN member states agreed to strive to achieve by 2015.

The eight Millennium Development Goals are:

1. Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieving universal primary education;
3. Promoting gender equality;
4. Reducing child mortality;
5. Improving maternal health;
6. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
7. Ensuring environmental sustainability; and
8. Developing a global partnership for development

In the early 2000s, the Government of the Republic of Serbia established that the Millennium Development Goals need to be adapted to the specific conditions, needs, and problems of citizens, both at the state and local levels. These goals were incorporated into the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction, which was adopted in 2003.

In the autumn of 2004, the Government formed a Working Group to monitor the implementation of the goals and plans from the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, a national coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals was appointed, and five working groups were established from members of relevant ministries to ensure complete national ownership of the reporting process.

The Working Group was multidisciplinary, and its activities were focused on defining national goals by 2015. Around one hundred people were directly involved in the process of nationalizing the Millennium Development Goals. Each of the five working groups included one representative from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

In 2009, the Government adopted the report "[Progress of the Realization of Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia](#)" which adjusted the global Millennium Development Goals and indicators to align with national development priorities and existing national development strategies and regulations.

We quote: "The main objective of this report is to monitor progress in the implementation of national MDGs and the indicators used to measure their achievement, from the last MDG report to the present, covering the period from 2005 to 2008. The report also includes conclusions and recommendations on the measures that need to be taken to achieve the Millennium Goals set. In addition, the recommendations address the need to monitor new indicators for which data is available, as well as the necessity of conducting additional surveys aimed at more effectively tracking progress in achieving the goals."

The Millennium Declaration outlines the fundamental values on which international relations in the 21st century should be based: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2015-2030

Following the Millennium Development Goals, which were primarily focused on poor countries, a new declaration was established in 2015 that was meant to apply to all countries worldwide. By adopting the United Nations Resolution in 2015 dedicated to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Republic of Serbia committed to contributing to the achievement of the goals through engagement and a series of measures and activities as a member of the United Nations.

The 2030 Agenda is a global development agenda that arose from the Millennium Development Goals. The Government of the Republic of Serbia directly participated in the development and writing of the 2030 Agenda by involving citizens in the consultation process regarding the development agenda after 2015 and through the direct participation of state representatives at global forums. Serbia actively contributed to the formulation and adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals through the national campaign "Serbia I Want."

At the United Nations Summit held in September 2015, the Republic of Serbia signed the resolution on the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030, which officially came into effect on January 1, 2016.

The signatory states are expected to mobilize all resources from 2015 to 2030 to eradicate poverty, combat inequality, and find responses to climate change.

The Sustainable Development Goals are based on 17 goals aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and combating climate change. These three themes are translated into 17 global goals, 169 targets, and 248 indicators.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

A total of 248 global indicators, or United Nations indicators, have been selected to monitor countries' progress in achieving the goals and to allow countries around the world to compare themselves to one another.

Each of the 248 indicators has a code and a name. The first digit of the code represents the goal number, which ranges from one (1) to 17. The next field is a number or letter, which, along with the first digit, constitutes the target code. The third field can also be a number or letter, and together they form a unique three-part code for each individual indicator.

Of these 248 indicators, 231 are unique, while thirteen indicators are repeated across two or three different goals. Those indicators are as follows:

1. 7.b.1/12.a.1
2. 8.4.1/12.2.1
3. 8.4.2/12.2.2
4. 10.3.1/16.b.1
5. 10.6.1/16.8.1
6. 13.2.1/13.b.1 (with minor modifications)
7. 15.7.1/15.c.1
8. 15.a.1/15.b.1
9. 1.5.1/11.5.1/13.1.1
10. 1.5.2/11.5.2
11. 1.5.3/11.b.1/13.1.2
12. 1.5.4/11.b.2/13.1.3
13. 4.7.1/12.8.1/13.3.1.

The United Nations have time-bound several targets and indicators with clearly defined text and message stating that a specific value, number, ratio, or amount of the targets or indicators should be achieved by a defined deadline.

1. Example of a target – 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day;
2. Example of a target - 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

The targets and indicators defined in this way relate to the United Nations' targets and indicators; they are established at the global level and intended to monitor conditions in all countries of the world. However, some indicators explicitly refer to least developed countries, while others pertain to small island developing countries, developing countries, and island countries. In any case, some of the targets and indicators can and should be applied to the Republic of Serbia, which is categorized as a developing country by the United Nations.

Regarding the Sustainable Development Goals under the United Nations Agenda 2030, the Republic of Serbia was rated at 77.03 points in early July 2024, ranking 35th out of the total of 166 assessed countries. This score of 77.03 represents the Sustainable Development Goals Index and pertains to the evaluation of Serbia's overall performance concerning the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

A score of *zero* corresponds to a zero position for a country as it indicates the worst possible outcome in achieving these goals. A score of 100 is the maximum and means that all specified sustainable development goals have been achieved. At the beginning of February 2024, Finland held the first position with a score of 86.7.

The current status of the [Sustainable Development Goals Index for the Republic of Serbia](#) can be downloaded from this link.



➔ INTER-MINISTERIAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In Serbia, at the end of 2015, an institutional framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was established. The formation of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, along with the involvement of numerous development partners, highlighted the importance of the work on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group consisted of representatives from all actual state institutions and included about 50 members representing 27 institutions.

A smaller working group was also established, consisted of representatives from the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for European Integration, the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the implementation of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030 was formed by a [decision on the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group](#) on December 30, 2015, and was assigned the following tasks:

- In cooperation with relevant ministries to monitor the implementation of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030, adopted on September 25, 2015, at the United Nations headquarters in New York;
- To consolidate and coordinate the views and activities of all relevant ministries regarding the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030;
- To propose a process of adoption of a national sustainable development strategy and methods for its financing, which would unify all individual strategies and harmonize the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030 with the conditions that the Republic of Serbia needs to fulfill in order to meet its other international obligations and successfully conclude accession negotiations with the European Union;
- To propose the foundations for statistical monitoring of goals and targets;
- To prepare periodic reports on the implementation of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030 in the Republic of Serbia;
- To continuously inform the UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia and the United Nations system about the results of the Working Group's work and the implementation of the goals and targets of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Members of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group represented state institutions responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Inter-Ministerial Working Group facilitated continuous work and exchange of ideas related to the Sustainable Development Goals through regular meetings for several years.

Since the national elections in 2020, the work of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group at the state level has not been reestablished. This has resulted in a lack of continuous work and coordinating activities among state authorities and other stakeholders regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. The activities of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group were of great importance, primarily due to the continuation of inter-institutional cooperation and joint efforts to increase the number of available indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia.

Through its actions, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group served as a pillar of support and gave importance to the activities of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, which, through its persistent work in updating and providing as many available indicators as possible for the Republic of Serbia, took over one of the leading roles in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the potential activities of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group included the definition of national indicators, as well as indicators that would be adapted to local conditions of the Sustainable Development Goals. Work on these indicators would initially be focused on a specific selection of national indicators chosen according to the specifics of the Republic of Serbia. Efforts to develop indicators adapted to local conditions would also address local demands, as well as the available indicators at the level of local government units.

To establish a national set of indicators, it is necessary to organize joint activities with the relevant authorities, such as meetings, conferences, workshops, thematic workshops, etc. It is also suggested that the leaders of all activities should be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for European Integration, and the Republic Secretariat for Public Policies—three leading institutions at the national level that have the Sustainable Development Goals in their mandate.

All these listed activities would significantly contribute not only to inter-institutional cooperation and the formation of a national set of Sustainable Development Goals indicators but would also assist the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia in collecting and monitoring the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals at both the national and local levels.



STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

When the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established, the aim was to continue the efforts initiated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which had launched a global campaign between 2000 and 2015 to eradicate poverty worldwide in all its forms. However, while the MDGs applied only to developing countries, the guiding principle of the SDGs is that they are universally applicable to all United Nations member states and are more comprehensive than the MDGs.

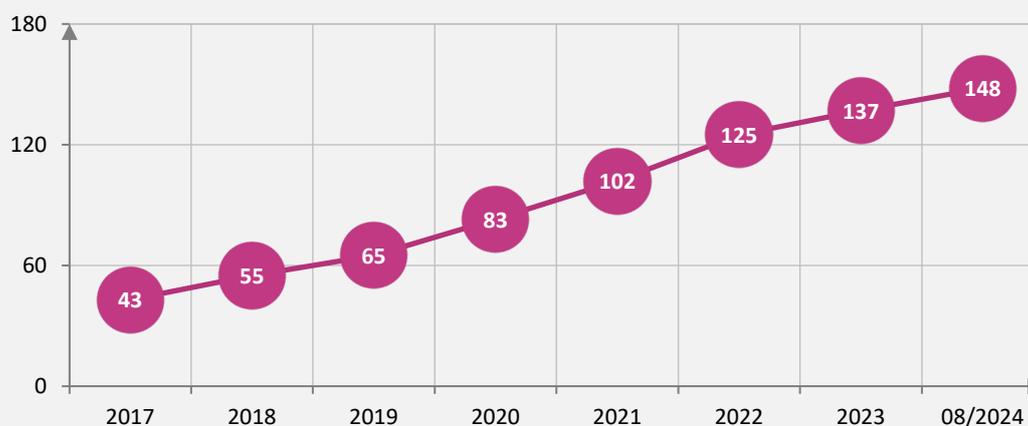
The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia was involved in working groups and provided statistical data for the MDG indicators, which were established by the United Nations in the early 2000s, as well as for the European Union's Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs). In 2017, based on experiences with these international development programs and indicators, the staff of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia adjusted their activities and the applications they use to monitor the situation in Serbia to meet the SDGs requirements.

The activities related to the SDGs are planned to be implemented over a 15-year period, from 2015 to 2030, as outlined in the 2030 Agenda. By establishing the Inter-ministerial Working Group, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia was tasked with the statistical monitoring of goals, targets, and indicators. Throughout the implementation of the SDGs, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has been committed to providing as many SDG indicators as possible and regular updating of the existing SDG indicators for the Republic of Serbia.

The main task of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in relation to the SDGs, has been to ensure an increasing number of reliable and high-quality indicators for the Republic of Serbia over time, as well as to establish a continuous reporting system on the progress toward the SDGs in Serbia.

Graph 1 shows how the number of SDG indicators with data for the Republic of Serbia increased over time, from 2017 to 2024. The increase in the number of indicators is directly related to the regular organization of conferences dedicated to increasing the number of available SDG indicators for the Republic of Serbia.

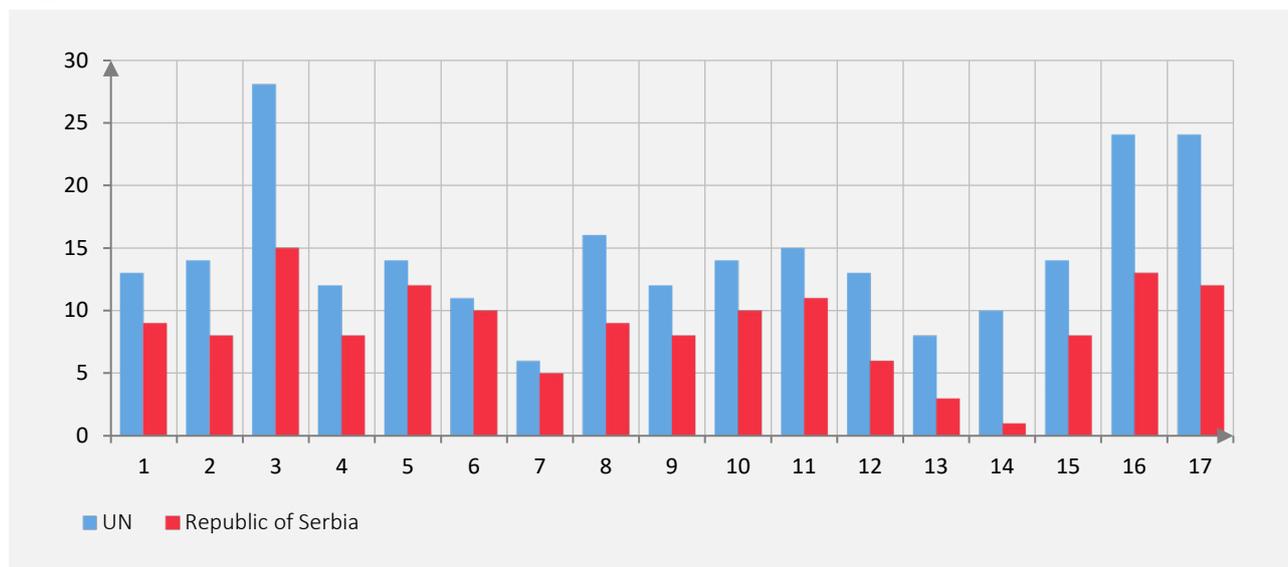
Graph 1 Indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia, 2017-2024



In Graph 1, there is a visible increase in the total number of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators for the Republic of Serbia, which members of the internal working group of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia for monitoring the SDGs, in cooperation with other producers of statistical data, have provided for the Republic of Serbia over time, i.e., from 2017 to August 2024.

The graph shows a steady but slight increase in the number of the Sustainable Development Goals indicators for the Republic of Serbia.

Graph 2 Sustainable Development Goals indicators by goals, United Nations and Republic of Serbia, August 2024



In Graph 2, the number of indicators by the Sustainable Development Goals proposed by the United Nations and the number of SDG indicators provided for the Republic of Serbia is shown. From the data presented, it is evident that, on average, 59.7% of the indicators have been provided for the Republic of Serbia. The percentage of indicators provided for individual goals that exceed 80% are as follows: Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation – 90.9%, Goal 5: Gender Equality – 85.7%, Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy – 83.3%.

By mid-2023, we had entered the "second half of the journey" related to the 2030 Agenda, meaning that half of the planned time, originally set in 2015, has passed. It is foreseen that the planned global goals, targets, and indicators of sustainable development will be achieved by 2030.

➔ FORMATION OF THE INTERNAL WORKING GROUP OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2017, by decision of the expert committee of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, an internal working group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was established. The first task of the internal working group for the SDGs was to identify, adopt, and publish indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia. These were the basics of creating the first database related to the Sustainable Development Goals. The presentation of the indicators was based on the DevInfo database, which contained indicators sourced from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The employees of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, from their experience in providing relevant data for socio-economic indicators, began working on the SDGs by organizing an internal working group that meets at least four times a year. Since the formation of the internal working group responsible for monitoring statistical indicators of the SDGs, its work has been focused on increasing the number of available indicators,

applying the methodology outlined in the metadata, and making decisions on adopting data from the United Nations database. Global metadata is provided and regularly updated by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD).

Metadata for the UN Sustainable Development Goals indicators can be downloaded by selecting the indicator's three-digit code, while the SDG data can be accessed by selecting the indicator code and the territory to which the global database data applies.

Since the formation of the internal working group for the SDGs in 2017, an initial set of 43 SDG indicators was provided, sourced from the DevInfo database of the Republic of Serbia. DevInfo is a free UNICEF software initially developed to monitor Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators and adapted also to monitor SDG indicators.

Initially, only indicators sourced from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia were included. However, over time, through the work of the internal working group for the SDGs, potential new data sources and indicators were recognized and introduced.

The activities on identifying new data sources for the SDG indicators were initially organized through several multi-day workshops held at the premises of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia. Official invitations for these intersectoral workshops were sent by representatives of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia, the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The primary goal of the internal working group for the SDGs has been to ensure, over time, the availability of as many reliable indicators for the Republic of Serbia as possible, in accordance with the principles of official statistics. Additionally, the group aims to establish a continuous system for introducing new indicators, updating existing ones, and reporting on the progress of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia.

The employee responsible for monitoring the data and metadata is also tasked with communication regarding the indicators for a particular Sustainable Development Goal. Due to increase of the number of indicators and the growing workload, the internal working group has proposed that, in addition to the person responsible for each goal, another employee be assigned as a backup for meetings, conferences, or workshops related to the SDGs, given the scale of the work involved.

➔ COLLABORATION ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE COMMUNICATION PLAN

Communication is one of the most important aspects of working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is essential to identify all stakeholders to ensure effective communication and that statistical data for the SDGs are available, visible, clear, usable, and presented in various ways for different types of users. Stakeholders include data producers (ministries, government organizations, institutes and agencies, the National Bank of Serbia, the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr. Milan Jovanović Batut," United Nations organizations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank) as well as data users (decision-makers, local authorities, civil society organizations, international organizations, the scientific and academic community, media, journalists, and the private sector).

According to the recommendations of the Roadmap for Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe¹, it is important to know the target audience for the communication and results being planned in order for the outcome to be effective and meet user needs and fulfill its purpose.

¹ https://sdg.indikatori.rs/media/1604/road_map_2_e_web.pdf

Common target groups can be classified into different categories:

- Experts: Advanced users who utilize raw data sets, download data/databases for their own calculations and analyses, and are familiar with the details and methodology.
- Users: Individuals who are less knowledgeable about interpreting raw data and require additional comments, methodological, and narrative explanations for understanding; they are interested in visual representations, reports, charts, and maps.
- Uninformed users: Laypersons or casually interested users who may not even be aware that data exists; they are interested in the title, main conclusion, occasionally read an article, and look at visual displays.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia continues to undertake activities aimed at data providers and users.

In past practice, through cooperation with data providers, the following activities have proven successful in providing data for the Sustainable Development Goals:

- Communication aimed at identifying and verifying data sources for new indicators and those found in the databases of international organizations (UN database, World Bank, International Monetary Fund...);
- Organizing workshops to collect data and metadata (general and thematic workshops);
- Regular communication and data exchange, both personal and automated, aimed at updating data and metadata for existing indicators;
- Participating and connecting with representatives of institutions at meetings, conferences, working groups, and workshops.

In addition to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, which is the main producer and disseminator of data, the responsible professional holder, organizer, and coordinator of the official statistics system, representing the official statistics of the Republic of Serbia in the international statistical system, other producers of official statistics are institutions at the national level responsible for the development, production, and dissemination of European and/or national official statistics, or for processing and disseminating data collected from relevant sources with a clear connection to European or national methodologies.

The Official Statistics Program for the period from 2021 to 2025 can be downloaded from this link: https://www.stat.gov.rs/media/5948/program2021-2025_engleski.docx.

The producers of official statistics include the following institutions:

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, National Bank of Serbia, City Administration of Belgrade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Health, Institute of Public Health of Serbia, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Agency, Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran, and Social Affairs, Republic Institute for Social Protection, National Employment Service, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development, Institute for Cultural Development, National Library of Serbia, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Institute for Sports and Sports Medicine of the Republic of Serbia, Republic Geodetic Authority, Republic Fund for Pension and Disability Insurance, Republic Health Insurance Fund.

The establishment and improvement of an effective statistical system are also achieved through cooperation agreements between the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and other institutions, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Official Statistics and the official methodologies, definitions, classifications, and other standards applied in the official statistics system of the Republic of Serbia and in international and European statistical practice. Although these agreements do not explicitly relate to data concerning the Sustainable Development Goals, agreements with institutions enable cooperation, delivery, and exchange of data. The institutions with which the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has signed cooperation



agreements, which also provide data for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, include: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Bank of Serbia, Environmental Protection Agency, Institute of Public Health of Serbia, and Republic Geodetic Authority.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia utilizes various platforms, tools, and data presentations to enhance the visibility of collected data for the Sustainable Development Goals through activities such as:

- Establishment and updating of the database;
- Presentation of data on the [web portal](#), [DevInfo visualization](#), and the [Open Data web portal](#);
- Creation of [profiles for the Sustainable Development Goals](#), which represent a visual presentation of data through graphs in PDF format;
- Publication of the annual report on progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Publication of thematic publications that include a narrative section, graphs, and infographics, specifically the publications “Leave No One Behind!”:
 1. Progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals among the Roma population in Serbia,
 2. Progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals among Youth in Serbia,
 3. Spatial aspects of sustainable development: differences by type of settlement and between regions,
 4. Progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia from a gender perspective,
 5. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia from the perspective of life and development of children,
 6. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia for the Elderly population (65+);
- Two thematic publications have also been released:
 1. Progress in monitoring of environment-related SDG indicators in the Republic of Serbia, and
 2. Progress in Monitoring SDG indicators in the Field of Sustainable Urban Development in the Republic of Serbia, 2023.
- Posting useful [documents](#) on the web portal;
- Translation of Agenda 2030, the Roadmap for Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (First edition), and the Roadmap for Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (Second edition);
- Preparation of the statistical annex for the Voluntary National Review for 2019;
- Creation of promotional materials, flyers, brochures, etc.

Communication with users is two-way. In addition to presenting data on the Sustainable Development Goals in various forms, it also involves the exchange of information that users are interested in, as well as the analysis of user experiences when using data, web portals, databases, publications, etc.

These activities include:

- Sending notifications about new indicators and updated data, published publications, etc.;
- Regularly updating the user list;
- Participating in meetings, conferences, workshops, working groups, and promotions of the Sustainable Development Goals in local governments, etc.;
- Communicating with users interested in the topic of the Sustainable Development Goals (students, journalists, civil society organizations);

- Monitoring visits through analytics of visits to the Sustainable Development Goals web portal and the DevInfo web portal, as well as analysis of downloads of reports, publications, and documents;
- Including questions related to the Sustainable Development Goals in the Users' Satisfaction Survey of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

➔ WORKSHOPS DEDICATED TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In the period from 2018 to 2020, in collaboration with the Inter-Ministerial Working Group and representatives of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia organized three workshops dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The workshops focused on the Sustainable Development Goals were attended by representatives of state institutions recognized as potential new data sources for indicators at the national level. During the time when the corona virus was rising (2020-2022), the work of representatives from the internal working group and state institutions to further increase the number of Sustainable Development Goals indicators was organized through workshops that were held online or in a combined, hybrid format.

The first two workshops were organized based on the principle of 5 Ps (People, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership, and Planet).

Figure 1 Principle 5 P – People, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership, and Planet.



The first workshop was dedicated to mapping the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically identifying institutions that could be data sources for missing indicators. It was organized at the premises of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and over 70 participants were present during the four-day event. The work was organized through sessions that were divided into four days and focused on selected Sustainable Development Goals.

The second workshop, with the same theme as the previous one, was also organized at the premises of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and attended by a representative of UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), who, during the introductory, provided a global overview of the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and informed participants about UNECE's activities related to data and metadata. The UNECE expert also presented a Self-assessment Excel table that each country was required to fill in with current meta-information related to the Sustainable Development Goals.



From 2018 to 2024, a total of ten workshops were organized, as follows:

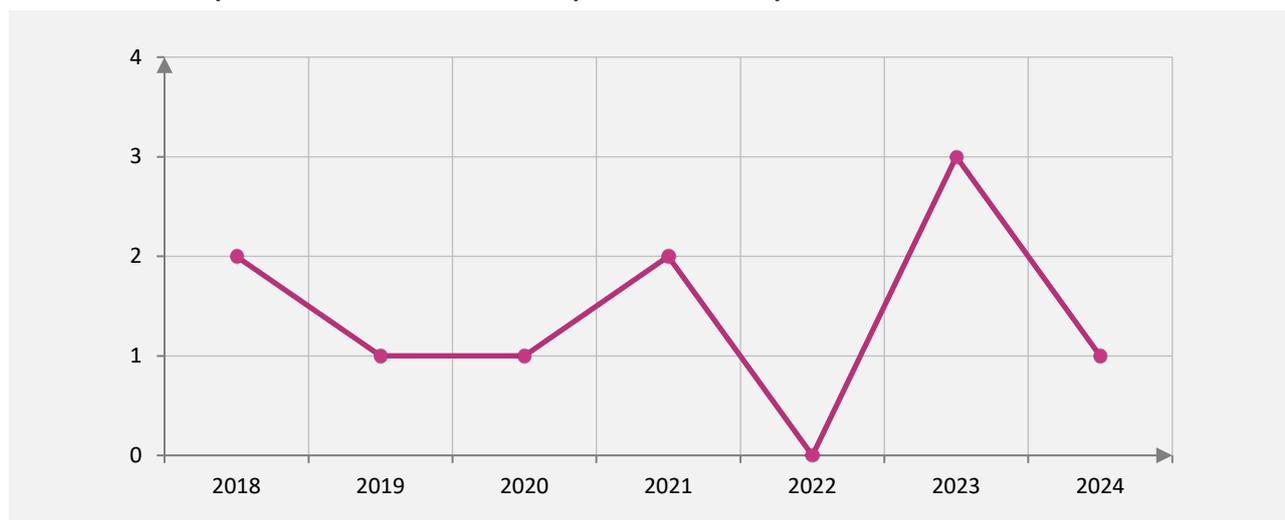
- I. June 7-10, 2018 (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia)
- II. October 23-26, 2018 (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia)
- III. November 26-28, 2019 (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia)
- IV. December 30, 2020 (online workshop)
- V. May 25, 2021 – Ecology - First thematic workshop (hybrid workshop)
- VI. September 21, 2021 – Ecology - Second thematic workshop (hybrid workshop)
- VII. June 13, 2023 – Urban indicators – Third thematic workshop (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia)
- VIII. October 23-26, 2023 – Improvement of reporting on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia (Hotel *Izvor* - Arandelovac)
- IX. October 14, 2023 – Users of Sustainable Development Goal data (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia)
- X. June 24, 2024 – Recommendations for changes and improvements to the web portal for Sustainable Development Goals (*Golden Tulip Zira* - Belgrade)

The last workshop was dedicated to recommendations for changing and improving the web portal of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, as well as enhancing reporting related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Figure 2 Workshop dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals



Chart 3 Workshops for the Sustainable Development Goals, Republic of Serbia, 2018-2024



During the realization of the first three workshops held with data providers and users, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia addressed to the Inter-ministerial Working Group for assistance in organizing the workshops. It should be noted that the first nine workshops dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals were organized with significant support from representatives of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Serbia and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The last three workshops held in 2023 and 2024 were conducted with expert, logistical, and technical support from the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit).

➔ OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNAL WORKING GROUP

The internal working group for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia continuously collaborates with the management of the Statistical Office to ensure the availability of data related to the SDGs, aiming to provide as many available data as possible for the Republic of Serbia and to regularly update and publish existing data.

From the outset, the internal working group has established that activities unfold through:

- Organizing workshops with producers of statistical data
- Organizing meetings with users of statistical data
- Providing SDG data upon request from journalists, students, researchers, and other interested parties
- Constant email communication aimed at expanding and exchanging information among representatives of government institutions, civil society, etc., regarding the SDGs
- Establishing inter-institutional cooperation to ensure the provision, updating, and exchange of data for SDG indicators.

Many of these activities cannot be planned and scheduled in advance. However, it should be noted that the timeframe for activities related to the SDGs spans from 2015 to 2030. The official start of work on the SDGs was in 2015 when the Republic of Serbia signed the 2030 Agenda, committing the country, as a member of the United Nations, to contribute to the achievement of the goals through various measures and activities.

During the work on data collection for the SDG indicators, representatives of the internal working group at the Statistical Office frequently found themselves in situations where important decisions about the content and format of presenting the collected data were made during working group meetings.



These were the following topics and decisions:

1. Should qualitative and quantitative indicators for the Republic of Serbia be separated? It was decided to collect and publish reliable data related to a specific indicator that exists for the Republic of Serbia.
2. Selection of the starting year for data collection and publication? It was decided that data would be provided from 2010, if available, or from 2015.
3. Selection of sources and calculation of data for a specific indicator? It was decided that the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia would adhere to the recommendations regarding the source and calculation of data for a specific indicator, as found in the metadata for that indicator on the [United Nations statistics portal](#).
4. If there are data that are the same, similar, or part of the proposed indicator for the Republic of Serbia, should they be included? It was decided that if the data is reliable, it should be collected and published on the web portal and in the databases of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.
5. Should labels be placed to indicate whether the indicator is the same, similar, or part of another? It was decided not to place such information on the web portal for now, as a solid selection criterion for the type of indicators has not been established by the Interministerial Working Group (which has since ceased to exist).
6. There were many uncertainties regarding the translation of indicators from English to Serbian. Changes in the names and content of indicators defined by the United Nations over time also posed problems. Additionally, one of the unresolved issue is the translation of indicators that start with "Number of countries...", which should refer to a single country. The name of the indicator refers to the general, global, or regional representation of the number of countries that have adopted or implemented certain conventions or strategies.
7. When it comes to the leading principle of the United Nations regarding Agenda 2030 (LNOB – Leave No One Behind), representatives of the organizational unit for Sustainable Development Goals at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia most frequently decided which existing data disaggregations could and should be presented. Disaggregated data to be published on the web portal of the Statistical Office, in the profile of Sustainable Development Goals and other documents (e.g., "Progress Report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia," "Leave No One Behind," etc.), should show data related to specific population groups for which data has been obtained through certain surveys. Data that can be disaggregated by proposed categories such as gender, age, education level, employment status, type of settlement, etc., is published on the Statistical Office's web portal and is also used for special publications "[Leave No One Behind!](#)".
8. Selection of territorial level – All data is collected and published for the level of the Republic of Serbia, but efforts are being made to provide data at lower territorial levels such as:
 - NUTS1: Serbia-North and Serbia-South,
 - NUTS2: 5 regions,
 - NUTS3: 30 areas, and
 - local self-government unit level.

ACTIVITIES OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA IN COLLECTING DATA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

➔ OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The primary mission of official statistics is to provide relevant, impartial, reliable, timely, and internationally comparable statistical indicators. The coordination of responsible producers of official statistics and active participation in international statistical cooperation ensures that the published results of official statistics meet the needs of decision-makers, researchers, and other users, and serve as a basis for monitoring and guiding policies in the fields of economy and society, as well as policies related to the process of Serbia's accession to the European Union. The collection, processing, and dissemination of statistical data are carried out using necessary methodological and organizational knowledge, statistical standards, modern technologies, protection of statistical confidentiality, optimal use of resources, a reasonable level of burden on data providers, and availability of data to users under the same conditions.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia contributed to the development of Roadmap 2.0, which was adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians at its plenary session in 2021, and uses recommendations from this document to enhance the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In line with the European Statistical System and the Quality Policy, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia strives to fully align its statistical production with the [Code of Practice for European Statistics \(CoP\)](#)². The quality management system of the Statistical Office is based on the European Statistics Code of Practice, systematically improving the quality of statistical processes and products, as well as data and metadata, along with the services provided to users.

Official statistics is based on common standards, official definitions, and the following fundamental quality principles:

1. Relevance Principle - data should meet clearly defined informational needs;
2. Impartiality Principle - definitions, data collection and processing methods, as well as their dissemination, are determined objectively;
3. Reliability Principle - activities and methods of collecting, processing, and disseminating statistical data should comply with valid standards, scientific methods, and the principles of professional ethics;
4. Timeliness Principle - the timeframes between data collection, processing, and dissemination should be minimal;
5. Professional Independence Principle - decisions regarding definitions, collection methods, processing, and dissemination of official statistics are solely the responsibility of the competent producers of official statistics;
6. Rationality Principle - refers to the optimal use of available resources and the reduction of the burden on reporting units, and the workload and costs necessary for collecting statistical data should be proportional to the significance of the results;
7. Consistency Principle - official statistical data should be mutually coherent in terms of content, terminology, and periodicity;

² <https://www.stat.gov.rs/media/3415/cop-ks-02-18-142-en-n.pdf>



8. Publicity Principle - all results, processed and unprocessed data of official statistics, as well as all information about applied methods and data sources, should be public and available to all users at the same time;

9. Statistical Confidentiality Principle - entails the protection of data related to individual statistical units;

10. Personal Data Use Principle - data collected through statistical activities may be used solely in accordance with this law and specific laws regulating the field of personal data protection (privacy protection).

The indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals first appeared in the Regulation on the Establishment of the Official Statistics Plan for 2018, and since that year, they have been regularly included in the annual plans of official statistics. Through its work on the Sustainable Development Goals, official statistics systematically enhance the quality of statistical processes and data.

COLLECTION OF DATA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia coordinates data collection with data producers and actively works on gathering data and metadata for monitoring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with United Nations recommendations. Data sources for the Sustainable Development Goals include surveys conducted by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, other institutions in the Republic of Serbia that produce statistical data, and partially from the United Nations database. The Statistical Office, together with its partner data providers, ensures that the data complies with the metadata for the Sustainable Development Goals indicators specified by the UN from the [metadata repository](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/)³.

Since 2017, the Statistical Office has been regularly collecting data for the Sustainable Development Goals following an established procedure for providing data for new indicators and updating existing ones.

The flow of data needs to be efficient and sustainable to ensure reliable and high-quality data for the Republic of Serbia. Article 41 of the Law on Official Statistics states: "Responsible producers of official statistics develop and maintain publicly available databases that are the result of official statistics."

The procedure for introducing new data involves providing data for new indicators based on previously identified data sources and updating data for existing indicators.

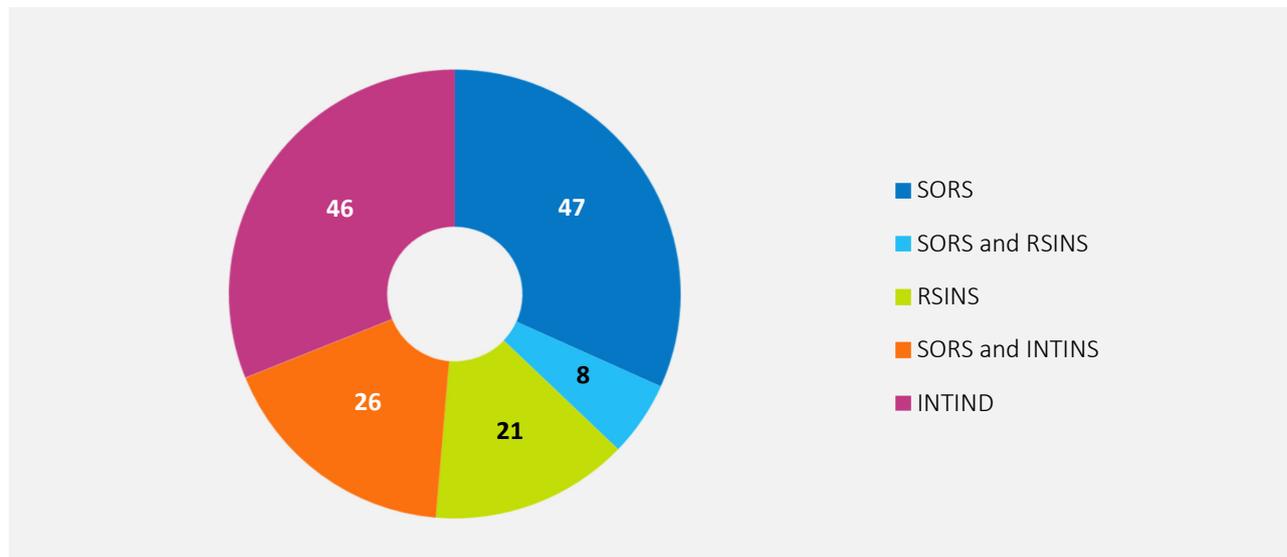
Data sources can be diverse:

1. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia – SORS
2. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and institutions of the Republic of Serbia - as an official source of statistical data (National Bank of Serbia, Institute of Public Health Batut, etc.)
3. Institutions of the Republic of Serbia as an official sources of statistical data - National Bank of Serbia, Institute of Public Health Batut, etc.
4. Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia and International Institutions - (UNICEF, United Nations Database, World Bank, Eurostat, etc.)
5. International institution - (UNICEF, United Nations Database, World Bank, Eurostat, etc.)

³ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

Graph 4 shows the number of indicators according to the specified data sources – SORS, SORS i RSINS, RSINS, SORS INTINS i INTINS.

Graph 4 Data Sources for the Sustainable Development Indicators



The graph 4 shows that for 44 indicators, the source of data is the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, which accounts for 30.3% of all 145 indicators. However, when adding the indicators obtained from combinations with institutions of the Republic of Serbia (8 indicators) and with international institutions (26 indicators), it results that the Statistical Office provides data for 78 indicators, meaning that it participates independently or in combination with another institution as a source of data for Sustainable Development Goals with 53.7%.

Table 1 contains a list of institutions that have been sources of data for the Sustainable Development Goals indicators for the Republic of Serbia up to August 2024. Below, the columns provide information on the total number of sustainable development goals for which the mentioned institution is a source of data available on the SDG web portal, as well as the corresponding serial numbers of the sustainable development goals.

Table 1 List of institutions by the number of sustainable development goals for which data is provided and the serial numbers of sustainable development goals, August 2024

| Institution | Number of SDG for which data is provided | Serial number of SDG |
|---|---|---|
| 1 SORS | 14 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17 |
| 2 MICS – SORS and UNICEF | 11 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 16 |
| 3 OECD | 6 | 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 15 |
| 4 United Nations | 6 | 4, 5, 7, 10, 15, 17 |
| 5 Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) | 4 | 6, 11, 12, 15 |
| 6 SENDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2020) | 3 | 1, 11, 13 |
| 7 Ministry of Finance | 3 | 1, 2, 16 |
| 8 National Bank of Serbia | 3 | 8, 10, 17 |
| 9 UNDRR | 3 | 1, 11, 13 |
| 10 FAO | 3 | 2, 14, 15 |
| 11 Eurostat | 2 | 4, 9 |
| 12 Institute of Public Health of Serbia | 2 | 3, 6 |
| 13 RATEL | 2 | 9, 17 |
| 14 World Health Organization | 2 | 6, 11 |
| 15 IWPM | 1 | 6 |
| 16 UNEP | 1 | 6 |
| 17 UNICEF | 1 | 6 |
| 18 UNODC | 1 | 16 |
| 19 GLAAS | 1 | 6 |
| 20 ILO | 1 | 8 |
| 21 ITC/UNCTAD/WTO database | 1 | 10 |
| 22 International Energy Agency (IEA) | 1 | 9 |
| 23 International Organization for Migration (IOM) | 1 | 10 |
| 24 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Management | 1 | 6 |
| 25 Ministry of Justice | 1 | 16 |
| 26 Ministry of Mining and Energy | 1 | 7 |
| 27 Ministry of Interior | 1 | 16 |
| 28 National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia | 1 | 5 |
| 29 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) | 1 | 10 |
| 30 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) | 1 | 11 |
| 31 Republic Geodetic Authority | 1 | 5 |
| 32 World Bank | 1 | 1 |
| 33 UN Women | 1 | 5 |
| 34 UNDP | 1 | 5 |
| 35 UNESCO | 1 | 11 |
| 36 UNCCD | 1 | 15 |
| 37 Center for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking | 1 | 16 |

The table shows the number of SDGs for which data is provided by specific institution and SDGs they cover. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia provides data for 14 out of 17 goals. The only three SDGs for which the SORS is not a data source are: Goal 13 – Climate Action, Goal 14 – Life Below Water and Goal 15 – Life on Land. For all other goals, the Statistical Office serves as a reliable source of data.

The next major data source is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), conducted jointly by the Statistical Office and UNICEF. MICS is carried out in five-year cycles, and Serbia has participated in the first six cycles. MICS provides data for 11 SDGs and 20 indicators, making it the largest source of data for individual SDGs and indicators.

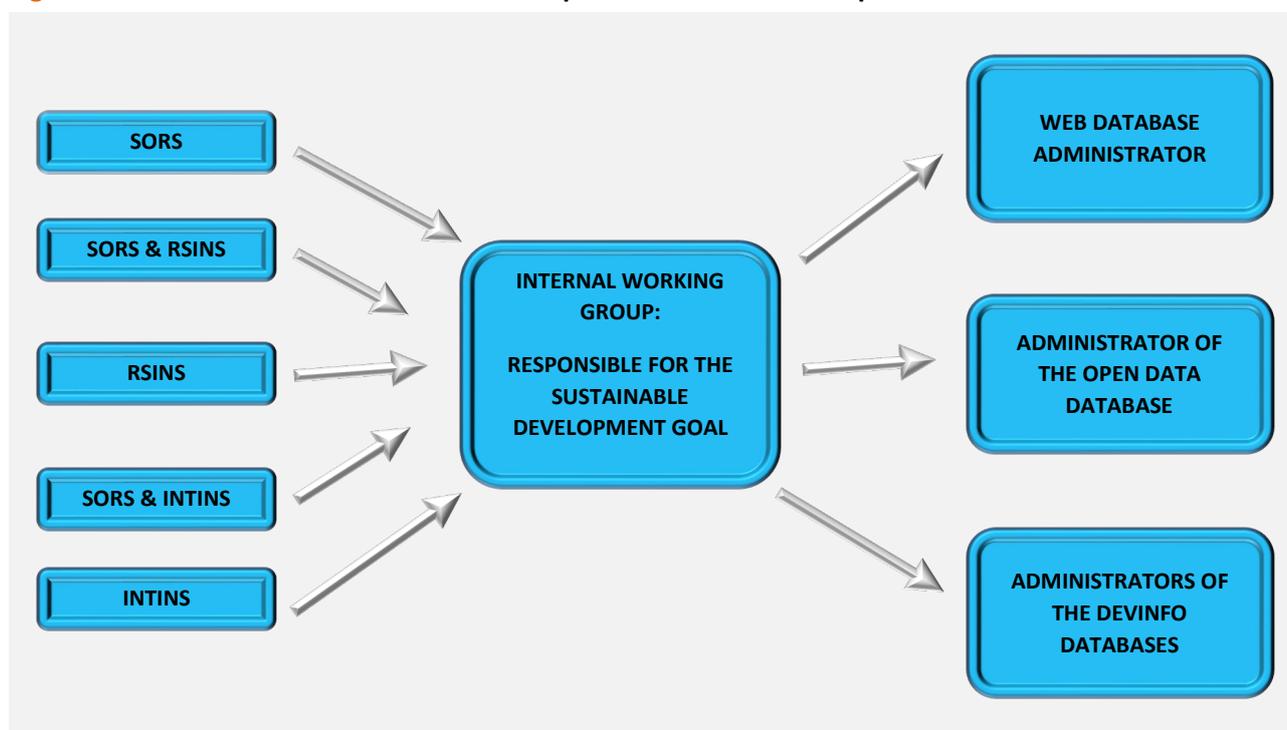
Following this, OECD and the United Nations, each with six SDGs, are important data sources. The United Nations primarily refers to the UN SDG Data Portal, which you can access via this link: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>. This database contains comparable data for SDGs for individual countries, including the Republic of Serbia. Next in line is the Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), which provides data for four SDGs, followed by the Designated National Contact in the Sendai Framework Monitoring (2020), the Ministry of Finance, the National Bank of Serbia, UNDRR, and FAO, each covering for three SDGs.

The remaining 17 listed institutions, both national and international, provide data for two or one SDGs.

➔ DATA FLOW OF DATA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The data flow can be seen in Figure 2, which represents the pathway of data for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, starting from the data producers or providers, through the member of the internal working group responsible for the specific goal and verification of the data, leading to publication on the web portal of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

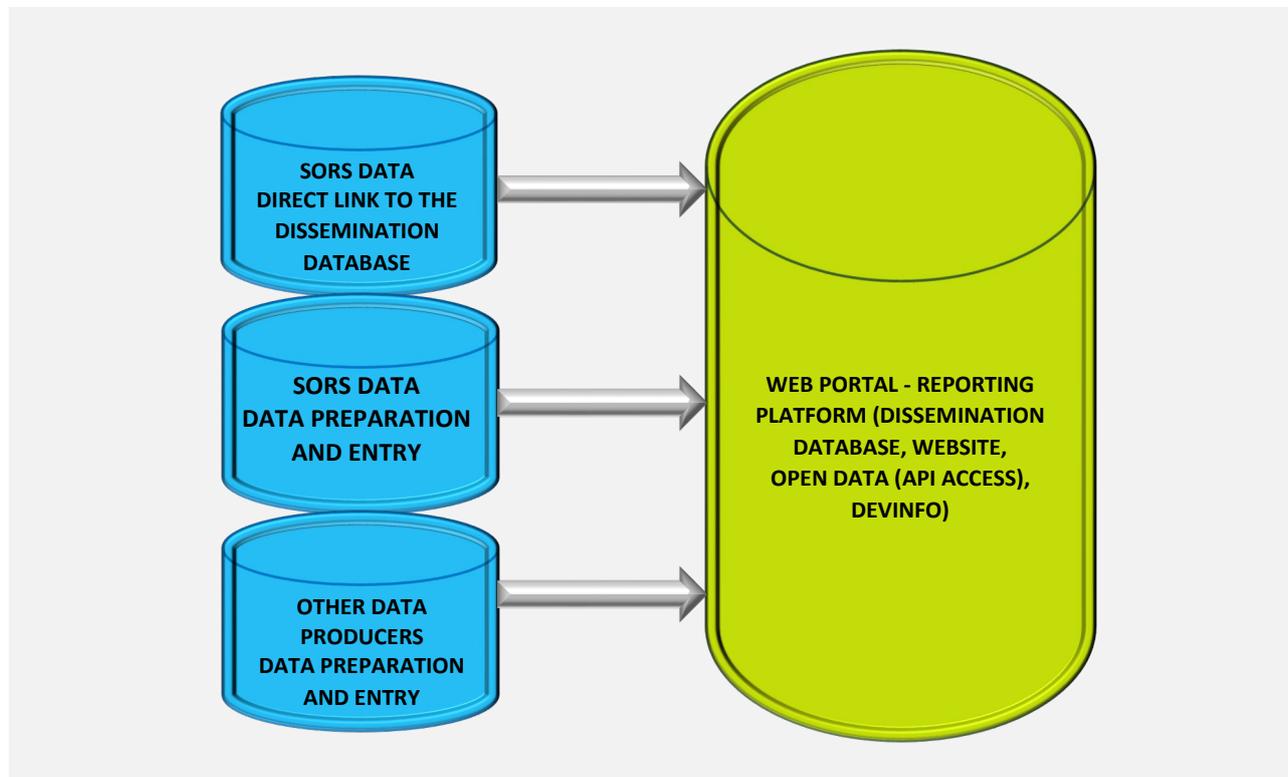
Figure 3 Data flow for the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators - prevod



The person responsible for the goal ensures the provision of new data for new indicators and updated data for existing indicators of the goal they are in charge of, obtained from the data producer or data provider. They verify the data and forward it to the administrators for uploading and entering into the databases on the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia's web portal.

Figure 3 shows connections and activities of data flow, from data provider to the web portal for reporting.

Figure 4 From Data Provider to Web Portal



Data provided by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia is regularly updated and entered into the dissemination database. Data providers who do not submit data directly to the dissemination database receive automatic notifications at regular intervals about deadlines for preparing and submitting data and metadata. The unit responsible for the Sustainable Development Goals retrieves and prepares these data for import into the dissemination database.

➔ REPORTING ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.

Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals is a process of monitoring and evaluating progress toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. This process is essential for transparency, state accountability, and policy improvement.

The Republic of Serbia is actively involved in the reporting process on the Sustainable Development Goals. Key activities include data collection, report publication, and participation in international reporting processes, such as the Voluntary National Review.

➔ PROFILE OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The first established report by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia related to the Sustainable Development Goals is the profile of the Sustainable Development Goals. The first profile was published on April 11, 2018, and contained 49 indicators that had been provided for the Republic of Serbia.

From 2018 to the end of August 2024, 25 profiles have been presented on the web portal of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, available in Serbian Cyrillic, Serbian Latin, and English, with the current profile of the Sustainable Development Goals available [here](#).

Profiles are published on a quarterly basis and coincide with the quarterly release of new and updated data on the Sustainable Development Goals, fully aligning with the timeline of official statistical data releases. The profiles of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as databases, are published in January, April, August, and October of the current year.

Initially, the profiles contained the names of the goals, targets, and indicators, as well as graphical representations for the provided indicators for the Republic of Serbia. Over time, the profile of the Sustainable Development Goals has become more comprehensive and now includes the following six sections:

1. Additional information with significant links and email for inquiries and questions,
2. New indicators compared to the previous profile,
3. Increase in the number of Sustainable Development Goals indicators since 2017,
4. Number of Sustainable Development Goals indicators for the Republic of Serbia by goals,
5. Parallel visualisation of the total available Sustainable Development Goals indicators of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals indicators of the European Union, and
6. Abbreviations.

➔ ESTABLISHING A WEB PORTAL FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia established the [Sustainable Development Goals web portal](#) in 2019. This portal allows users to find data and metadata for all available indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia in one place, as well as access all important documents related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition, data for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Republic of Serbia is also available on:

- [The open data web portal](#),
- The [dissemination database](#) of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia,
- The [DevInfo visualization](#) of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- The [DevInfo database for the Republic of Serbia](#), and
- The [Profile of the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Data updates for the Sustainable Development Goals across all presented databases occur on a quarterly basis (January, April, August, and October).



➔ PRESENTATION OF DISAGGREGATED DATA

Disaggregated data represent information categorized according to different groups, aimed at providing better visibility of specific vulnerable population groups. Disaggregated data refer to the presentation of collected information through smaller units to clarify fundamental trends and patterns. These data should be presented in separate social and economic categories such as gender, age, income, education level, employment status, migration status, race, nationality, disability, etc.

Regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, disaggregated data should serve to indicate that certain social groups are at risk of being left behind, i.e., excluded from overall social development. which can be confirmed by how the United Nations utilizes data [disaggregation](#) and classification plans.

The [web portal of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia](#) dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals not only contains total data for the Republic of Serbia but also, wherever possible, disaggregated data according to the aforementioned categories: gender, age, type of settlement, etc.

[Disaggregated data](#) can be downloaded by clicking on the box that says “Download SDG data” in Excel format, or from the dissemination database by clicking on the text “Sustainable Development Goals” located in the last row of the [Statistical Database](#).

➔ REPORT ON ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030 IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, as part of its regular annual schedule, has been publishing a report on the progress of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia up to 2030 since 2020. The report utilizes data with the status as of October of the year to which the report pertains.

So far, four reports have been published – for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Assistance in drafting the report is provided by an external expert from the academic community, responsible for the expert analysis of the data, as well as members of the internal working group of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia for the Sustainable Development Goals. Changes were made in the fourth publication to make the content more accessible to a broader range of users.

In the [Reports](#) category, you can access all previously published reports on the progress of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Serbia.

The reports contain overviews of progress according to globally set target values.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia continuously works on improving the reporting content for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as enhancing the visual presentations. The following challenges in reporting remain:

- Regular data updates – different statistical fields have different dynamics for publishing new data;
- Complex procedures for validating Sustainable Development Goal indicators – the progress analysis in the annual report for each goal is sent for validation to the internal working group member responsible for that particular goal, and
- Employees in the organizational unit for the Sustainable Development Goals carry out the first and final round of data validation and text revision.

All these activities require significant human resource engagement.

➔ ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030 IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Republic of Serbia has not established a system of national Sustainable Development Goals, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia continuously collects and publishes data based on Sustainable Development Indicators adopted by the United Nations. As of August 2024, the Republic of Serbia has reached 60% of the total number of indicators, and increasing the number of indicators remains the primary activity in working towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is difficult to estimate the increase in the number of indicators over a specific period, mainly because at the start of work on the Sustainable Development Goals, no selection was made for the indicators to be collected for the Republic of Serbia. The list published by the United Nations includes indicators relevant to underdeveloped countries, island countries, etc. By excluding such indicators, it would have been possible to highlight those indicators that should be prioritized in achieving the goals.



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW – EXPERIENCES FROM 2019

The 2030 Agenda established a framework for a "voluntary, effective, participatory, and transparent" review of progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The central element of global monitoring is the regular Voluntary National Reviews, which are evidence-based and prepared by countries. These reports are presented at the United Nations High-level Political Forum within the Economic and Social Council. Countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews to the UN use these reports to showcase their approach to the Sustainable Development Goals and the progress made in their implementation.

Voluntary National Reviews should be evidence-based and supported by country-level data that are of high quality, accessible, reliable, and disaggregated by categories such as income, gender, age, race, ethnicity or nationality, disability, type of settlement, and other characteristics relevant in the national context⁴.

Key themes typically covered in the Voluntary National Review include economic development, social development, environmental protection, and the institutional framework.

The Republic of Serbia submitted its first Voluntary National Review in 2019, which was presented alongside reports from 47 other countries during a four-day ministerial meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York at the UN Headquarters in July 2019. The report was prepared by the Interministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030. This report highlights Serbia's progress and achievements in the field of sustainable development, while also emphasizing the challenges the country faces.

In recent years, Serbia has made significant progress in sustainable development by aligning its activities with global Sustainable Development Goals.

However, despite the progress, Serbia still faces numerous challenges, such as air pollution, waste management, climate change, and inequalities.

⁴ [Roadmap for the Statistics of the Sustainable Development Goals, p. 79](#)

ACTIVITIES FOR ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SET OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS

When it comes to the 2030 Agenda in the Republic of Serbia, future efforts will focus on defining national targets and Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The SDG indicators should be defined after the development plan for the Republic of Serbia has been established.

The Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia is intended to be the overarching and most strategically significant document for developmental planning. The National Assembly adopts the Development Plan for a ten-year period. At its 62nd session, held on June 29, 2023, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Decree on the Procedure for Preparing the [Draft Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia](#).

This regulation sets out the process for managing the preparation of the Development Plan by establishing a body that should include representatives from all relevant stakeholders—state bodies, the autonomous province, local self-government units, the economy, civil society organizations, and the academic community. These actors are expected to propose priority development goals for the Republic of Serbia. Given the significance of the document and its long-term impact on the development of the economy, society, and every individual, a mandatory consultative process is required.

It is particularly important to note that the regulation emphasizes the need to focus on balanced regional development and planning in line with the 2030 Agenda. The proposer of the regulation was the Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia.



NATIONAL ROADMAP FOR STATISTICS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The creation of the National Roadmap for Statistics of the Republic of Serbia and the work on this roadmap is a recommendation outlined by the State Audit Institution in its Report on the Performance Audit - Sustainable Development Goals: The Readiness of the Republic of Serbia for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of European Integration, and the Public Policy Secretariat, was one of the audited entities that received recommendations for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the beginning of December 2023.

These four institutions received specific recommendations related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Of the two recommendations made for the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, it is directly responsible for the first recommendation, which pertains to the creation of the National Roadmap for Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, and for the second recommendation related to regular and inclusive reporting to the United Nations.

The second recommendation also concerns the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, but it is directly connected with the activities of other national institutions, as it involves the joint effort to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and report to the United Nations together with the Statistical Office.

"Adopting the National Roadmap for Statistics, national indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as regular and inclusive reporting to the United Nations, will ensure the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in line with the specificities of the Republic of Serbia."

The National Roadmap should provide information on all planned and realized activities in collecting United Nations indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. It should also confirm the implementation of these goals with the aim of establishing indicators that will be specific to the national set of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, in accordance with the specificities of the Republic of Serbia. Monitoring these indicators will ensure the assessment of progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda within the national context.

This roadmap should ensure the connection to the ultimate goal of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, which is to provide as many Sustainable Development Goal indicators as possible for the country. It should also outline the actions needed to achieve the aforementioned goals.

In this context, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia has multiple websites and tools through which up-to-date data related to the Sustainable Development Goals are published.

STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUDITED ENTITIES

At the end of 2023, the State Audit Institution issued the following recommendations for four state institutions that were subject to audit.

The following recommendations refer to the institutions listed below and they include:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Initiate the formation of a new Interministerial Working Group or another working body for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and take measures for regular reporting to the United Nations.
- Ministry of European Integration: Take appropriate measures in preparing and drafting the Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia and activate the system for coordinating development assistance in the Republic of Serbia.
- Public Policy Secretariat: Take measures to prepare the Draft Development Plan of the Republic of Serbia in cooperation with other bodies of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, initiate the definition of the competencies of public policies concerning the Sustainable Development Goals, and establish monitoring of expenditures related to these goals.
- Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia: Develop the National Roadmap for Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals and, in cooperation with other authorities, undertake activities to establish the national set of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia received a recommendation from the State Audit Institution to create a National Roadmap for Statistics, which should represent a strategy for measuring the country's progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

➔ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Statistical Office has been dedicated to increasing the number of indicators for the Republic of Serbia since the beginning of work on the 2030 Agenda by organizing workshops, collaborating with state institutions and representatives of the non-governmental sector, attending expert meetings, providing expert responses to emails received from relevant United Nations or international agency institutions, etc., all with the aim of ensuring reliable and credible data for the Republic of Serbia.

Proposing the introduction of new Sustainable Development Goal indicators is one of the tasks of the members of the internal working group for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. They can recommend a new data source or adopt an already existing indicator found in the United Nations statistical database.

The recommendations related to the Sustainable Development Goals pertain to the development of the National Roadmap for Statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, it is recommended that, in cooperation with other relevant authorities of the Republic of Serbia, activities be undertaken to establish the national set of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.



ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE AUDIT INSTITUTION FOR THE NATIONAL ROADMAP FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The first specific objective of the Action Plan for implementing the activities and recommendations of the State Audit Institution related to the National Roadmap for the Sustainable Development Goals concerns updating existing indicators and introducing new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators for the Republic of Serbia. According to the Action Plan, the target number of indicators for the Republic of Serbia by the end of 2024 should be 148. At the time of preparing the National Roadmap for Statistics (August 2024), the number of 148 indicators had already been reached. For 2025, the target number is set at 150 Sustainable Development Goal indicators for the Republic of Serbia.

The second specific objective pertains to updating the Sustainable Development Goal indicators for the Republic of Serbia through two indicators at the level of the specific objective:

- Regular quarterly updates of the web portal, open data, and DevInfo database,
- Publishing through publications such as: “Progress report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia,” “Leave No One Behind!”, “Women and Men in the Republic of Serbia,” etc.

Regarding the quarterly update of the web portal and databases, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia regularly updates previously published data for the SDG indicators and introduces new indicators, following recommendations and changes advised by the United Nations concerning the names and metadata for SDG sub-indicators and indicators.

Through publications such as “Report on Progress in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia,” “Leave No One Behind,” “Women and Men in the Republic of Serbia,” and so on, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia ensures reporting and maintains communication with providers and users of statistical data for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Three result indicators at the measurement level are planned with targeted values by 2026:

1. Publication of the annual Progress report on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in the Republic of Serbia,
2. Participation in workshops with representatives of state institutions and civil society for identifying national indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals,
3. Establishment of a national database for SDG indicators.

When it comes to national sustainable development indicators, representatives of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia will make their full contribution when working on aligning indicators at the national level with the specific development needs of the Republic of Serbia and the development plan of the Republic of Serbia.

Upon establishing the national set of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals by the institutions responsible for this activity, representatives of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia will participate, within their competences, in the planned work and format and provide an adequate national database for the Republic of Serbia on the web portal.



National Roadmap on Statistics
for Sustainable Development Goals