Based on Article 17. point 1. and Article 45. point 1 of the Law on Government („Official Bulletin of the Republic of Serbia", No. 55/05, 71/05-correction and 101/07), the Government adopts

the National Youth Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The design of the National Youth Strategy in the Republic of Serbia (herein after: the Strategy) is the first step towards a systematic solution to the problem of youth status[1] and one of the priorities of the Government and the priority of the Ministry of Youth and Sport. The Government considers that it is necessary to find systematic solutions to support young people in different spheres of social life. It is the obligation of society to respect young people and help them in demonstrating and achieving their possibilities, with both personal and social benefit.

Young people who are now twenty years old, were three years old when the first hostilities broke out on the territory of former Yugoslavia, they were four when sanctions were imposed on the country, seven at the time the Dayton Treaty was signed, eleven when Serbia was bombed and fifteen when the Prime Minister was assassinated. They have grown up in isolation, without adequate social care, flooded with images of violence in the media, stuck in poverty they never caused. Now they are expected to undergo a period of transition and to lead their society forward in the years to come. The Strategy is necessary even to the societies that have had peaceful development, but it is still more necessary to ours.

Young people need support, especially because that is not only a question of better life, but of the future of the country as well. Systematic, organized and permanent support to young people means a quality future for the Republic of Serbia, its further economic development, increasing the birth rate and creating conditions for a better life of young people.

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[1] All terms used in this text that are mentioned in the male gender can also be used in the female gender.

Who are the young people in Serbia?

In the Strategy, youth is referring to young people between fifteen and thirty years of age. There are about a million and a half young people in Serbia, which makes 20 per cent of the total population[2].

The concept "youth" refers to the stage of life between childhood and adulthood. Youth is a particular period of life which signifies not only biological and psychological maturing, but also the process of an individual's integration in the social community. During this period, young people are expected to develop skills and capacities in order to be able to take over social roles in all spheres of human activities. As a rule, this process lasts until they reach an adequate level of social autonomy, responsibility and independence. The age limit of youth is hard to define or unequivocally determine, so the official determinants of this part of life differ among the institutions of the United Nations, the European Union and the national institutions. There are various definitions of youth age in the world and it is considered that no other life cycle provokes so many disputes about the exact age limit.

Youth duration is socially rather than biologically determined. Education is the crucial factor that makes the parameters of youth shorter or longer. Youth is shorter with those groups of young people whose education lasts shorter, and reciprocally, young people who receive the longest education take longer time to grow up. In the countries undergoing transition, such as the Republic of Serbia, prolonged youth is often the issue of compulsion. Considering their lives, young people in the Republic of Serbia are asking to define the age of thirty as the top youth age limit[3].

The particularities of the current Serbian situation - such as - society poverty, low percentage of employed young people and challenges that young people face in the process of their transition from childhood to adulthood require a more flexible approach. Therefore, the top youth age limit has been shifted to the age of thirty, with the full awareness of a highly heterogeneous population characterized by different developmental goals in different youth phases.

Based on the main criteria of defining youth – the age – several youth subgroups can be determined, depending on the context and need. The abovementioned goals and measures refer to the complete youth population, and if necessary, the action plan will define specific activities with regard to the three youth subgroups: the age between 15 and 19, from 20 to 24, and from 25 to 30.

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[2] The census of 2002, Republic Statistical Office.
[3] Conference of the Advisory Boards, Valjevo, November, 2007.

1. STARTING POINTS

The Strategy should determine the attitude of the state towards young people, a possible role of youth in society, and the modes of establishing a partnership relation. Therefore, it is necessary that the following be precisely defined: rights, opportunities and responsibilities, and clear, institutional mechanisms that will provide space for the activities of youth, and help them to establish their position in society.

The characteristics of the Strategy are:
- It is based on the agreement between all stakeholders.
- It recognizes and supports further development of young people' capacities seeing them as having a potential.
- It is long-term, not dependant on the mandate of one government only.

The preconditions for the National Youth Strategy development were: a long consultative process, research on youth and cooperation between state bodies, non-governmental sector and the young people themselves. Every youth strategy must show understanding for the current needs of the youth, and also stay in touch with the real state of affairs in the country. With this Strategy we have strived to harmonize our youth's needs and problems, the particularities of our country and the eleven indicators of youth policy recommended by the Council of Europe[4].

The following bodies were formed for the process of the development of the Strategy and the Action plan: Working Group (representatives of relevant ministries), Advisory Body, eight Thematic Groups for areas defined as priorities (health, safety, education, employment, active youth participation, leisure time, social protection, environmental protection and sustainable development), six Advisory Councils (representatives of youth NGOs, local self governments, media, business sector, international partners and youth wings of political parties), and the Support Team.

During the first phase of the consultative process, 167 round tables in 166 municipalities were held, and during them the problems of the young people in the Republic of Serbia were discussed. An overall number of 4077 participants were included. This process was led by 47 citizens' associations. In the second phase of the consultative process, seven regional conferences for collecting comments and proposals regarding the draft of the text of the Strategy were organized, while citizens' associations organized 170 public events. In development of the Strategy more than 16 000 young people participated in different ways.

During the consultative process and public debate, opinions were collected, and not just from the participants of the process of the development of the Strategy, but also from the broader community, via web site and directly on the post address of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

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[4] Peter Lauritzen (2002): Council of Europe's Directorate for Youth and Sport.

For the need of the Strategy, two additional research projects on youth were conducted: one was conducted by the Institute for Psychology of the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade – on leisure time of youth and their everyday life, and one was conducted by CeSID – on youth activism.

The Strategy starts with the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and goals defined in strategic documents adopted by the Government: the National EU Accession Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Employment Strategy for the period 2005-2010, National Action Plan for Children, National Strategy for Business Development of the Republic of Serbia from 2006 to 2012, Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia, Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of Disabled persons in the Republic of Serbia, Strategy for Mental Health Protection Development, National Strategy for Fight against HIV/AIDS, Strategy for Encouragement of Child Birth, Strategy for Youth Health Development in the Republic of Serbia, Strategy for Regional Development of the Republic of Serbia for period 2007-2012, Strategy for Development of Professional Education in the Republic of Serbia, Strategy for Education of Adults in the Republic of Serbia, Strategy for Social Protection Development, Strategy for Development of Rail, Water, Air and Intermodal Transport in the Republic of Serbia from 2008 to 2015, Strategy for Fight against Human Trafficking in the Republic of Serbia and Strategy for Information Society Development in the Republic of Serbia.

In the development of this Strategy, other international documents were used: the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the UN World Youth Action Plan from the year 2000 and onward, the European Parliament's White Paper on Youth Policy and the European Chapter on Youth Participation in the Local and Regional Life.

2. VISION, PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.1. Vision

Young people in Serbia in the 21st century are active and equal participants in all areas of social life and they have equal rights and possibilities for the full development of their potential. This reffers to their active role in family life, education, employment, health and overall social life.

Young people obtain new knowledges and experiences, make friendships and compete with their peers from all over the world, but they also return to their country where they implement all gained knowledge actively, hard working and responsibly, and achieve a quality life.

2.2. PRINCIPLES OF THE STRATEGY

The principles of the Strategy derive from the system of values whose foundations are represented by the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the Council of Europe's Conventions on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Principles of the Strategy are:

- **Respect for human rights**

It provides that all young people have the same rights regardless of gender, race and nationality, religious or political beliefs, sexual orientation, social status, functional disorders (disability). It provides equal opportunities for the development of young people based on equal rights, and in line with their own needs, choices and capabilities.

- **Equality**

It provides that all young people have the right to equal opportunities, access to information, personal development, lifelong learning, and employment according to their specific personal characteristics, choices and capabilities. It provides for respect of gender equality, non-discrimination, freedom, dignity, safety, personal and social development of young people.

- **Responsibility**

The responsibility of those who work with young people is encouraged and developed, as well as the responsibility of young people according to their possibilities.

- **Availability**

All resources are provided and available to young people. The capacity of young people, as an important social resource is recognized and respected, trust and support to their potential is shown: young people can, may and know how.

The conditions for the protection of health and quality spending leisure time are provided. The consequent introduction and development of inclusive education at all levels is promoted and encouraged.

- **Solidarity**

Intergenerational solidarity and the role of young people in building up democratic citizenship are developed. All forms of peer solidarity are encouraged, as well as a culture of non-violence and tolerance among youth.

- **Cooperation**

The freedom of organization and cooperation among peers is supported and provided, and intergenerational cooperation is encouraged on the local, national and international level.

- **Active youth participation**

The rights, space, means and possibilities are provided, as well as the support if needed, in order to enable young people to participate in decision-making processes and in activities that contribute to building a better society.

- **Interculturalism**

The respect of differences in all areas of human life, tolerance, as well as the promotion of artistic and creative approaches directed toward the care and development of the intercultural dialogue among youth is provided.

The dialogue as the process in which young people strengthen their readiness, understanding and respect for differences, as well as the care for the common values, is provided.

- **Lifelong learning**

Lifelong learning in which knowledge and values are provided, and which enables gaining of competences, is promoted. The linking of formal and non-formal types of education, and development and certification of quality programs for formal and non-formal learning are provided.

- **Evidence-based Strategy**

All strategic concepts, principles and activities that refer to young people are based on firm and relevant data and on the results of the studies on youth.

2.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Starting with the vision and the principles of the Strategy, the objectives of the Strategy were defined. They include all those areas that were underlined as especially important for the overall life of young people in Serbia by the participants of the consultative process. These objectives are not ranked by the degree of their relevance.

Strategic objectives are:

- To encourage young people to participate actively in society

- To develop youth cooperation and to provide conditions for the participation in decision-making processes through the sustainable institutional framework, based on the needs of young people and in cooperation with youth

- To establish a system of youth information on all levels and in all areas

- To achieve the right to equality of chances for all young people in society, and especially for those who live under difficult conditions

- To encourage and evaluate the extraordinary results and achievements of young people in different areas

- To improve the possibilities of youth to spend quality leisure time

- To develop an open, effectual, efficient and justifiable system of formal and non-formal education available to all young people, that is in line with the world educational trends and the educational context in the Republic of Serbia

- To encourage and stimulate all forms of employment, self-employment and youth entrepreneurship

- To improve the conditions for a secure life for young people

- To protect and improve health, to decrease health risks and to develop a youth-friendly health protection system

- To empower young people for the initiatives and activities that are in line with the basic goals of sustainable development and a healthy environment

The implementation of these objectives will be realized in accordance with the abovementioned principles and it is opened for monitoring, evaluation and improvement.

3. SITUATION ANALYSIS RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

There is no systematic and comprehensive research that contributes to understanding the position and problems of young people in the Republic of Serbia.

Situation analysis was based on available researches and relevant data, the research that was initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the objectives of the Strategy and the outcomes of the consultative process.

3.1. Active youth participation in society

A lot is expected from young people in Serbia, first of all to be the bearers of the new European spirit of change; to be in the first lines of transition and to contribute actively to decision-making processes, but at the same time, decisions about their life are made somewhere else[5].

Real participation of youth in society requires a safe, friendly and prosperous environment that enables young people to participate in decision-making processes that directly influence the quality of their lives and the development of society in general. This process should be based on obtaining information about existing possibilities. Data about forms of youth participation in social life differs and is unsystematic. Also, information for youth about opportunities, relevant activities, organized events and important aspects of their life is missing. These problems show the fact that young people have represented one of the biggest marginalized groups in our society for years, and that their active participation was not a topic of interest and actual commitment of Serbian authorities.

Culture of active participation Although a majority of young people see themselves as interested (70%) and capable (76%) in solving problems, only a third of young people (32%) at least once took part in some action that had led to solving some local problem[6]. Regarding youth participation in the work of an organization or institution, more than 90% of interviewees are not a member of any political party or NGO (92%); they do not belong to religious organizations (88%) or organizations related to hobbies (96%). They do not belong to cultural-artistic societies (87%), or to citizens' associations (90%). Based on this data, we have a feeling that the culture of active youth participation in society is not developed enough today, although young people were the key resource in mobilizing other citizens and raising awareness about the necessity of changes in the recent past (student protests: 1992[7], 1996/97[8], democratic changes 2000). Nowadays, young people faced with limited space for ideas, possibilities and support for participation, do not recognize their role in society, apart from mobilizing "against the

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[5] Brave new generation, Young people in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Facts and Recommendations (2002), UNICEF Belgrade office
[6] Research about situation and needs of young people in the local communities(2002), NGO Civic Initiative
[7] Kuzmanovic B and col. (2003). *Student Protest 1992*. Belgrade, Institute for Psychology and Plato
[8] Group of authors (2003). *Student protest 96/97*. Psychological researches, 13. Belgrade, Institute for Psychology.

regime" but rather with regard to a completely different social commitment, enough. However, data mentioned speaks only partially about the culture of active participation. Since on one side there is a large number of young people who do not participate, it is also true that there is a significant number of young people who participate very professionally in decision-making processes and development of national and local policies. The best example for this are advocacy activities that were conducted by youth groups and organizations dealing with youth within the Youth Coalition of Serbia in period of 2003-2007, that are connected in the large extent with the establishment of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, as well as with some other bodies on the local level all across Serbia.

Voluntarism   In the Republic of Serbia, there are no specific sources of information about the number of volunteers, voluntary programs, nor about the youth participation in voluntary activities. There is no regulation that deals with the issue of volunteer work. Some regulations define matters of volunteer work, but there is no regulation that deals with volunteer work as such. According to Labour Law, it is envisaged the possibility of closing contracts on professional development and improvement as the type of voluntary work, aimed at fulfiling conditions for getting right to enter the professional exam, namely – in order to develop professionally, to obtain special knowledge and abilities for work in the profession and to specialize.

Working groups that were also dealing with the issues of participation of volunteers in the work of NGOs in Serbia within the Initiative for the legal regulation of the status of volunteers in Serbia conducted research[9] according to which it can be concluded that a bigger part of the volunteer population represents young people, with an emphasis on women's participation. A significant number of organizations calls for volunteers according to their needs (41%), certain organizations only consist of volunteers (27%) and one fourth of the interviewed organizations engage volunteers in all their projects (24%). The most frequent reasons for volunteering among youth are: satisfaction in performing common activities, spending leisure time, friendships, need for self-approval and the feel of usefulness, as well as job satisfaction.

Important demotivating factors are: fear of abuse and manipulation, loss of motivation, fear of failure and calculation that volunteers obtain small, insignificant jobs that are often in accordance with reality. A lot of young people doubt that anybody wants to hear their opinion, and they are convinced that adults would intervene in their work. However, one of the special reasons for non-volunteering refers to the situation that nobody has ever called them or asked them to participate in any activity. The research conducted by the Institute for Psychology[10] shows that most high school students participated in humanitarian projects by collecting money (45.5%), clothes and shoes for children in need (42.5 %). They also cleaned the schoolyard (35.7 %), their surroundings (15.9 %) and collected old paper (24.1 %). A small number of them participated in projects related to animal care or giving blood. Young people emphasize that they do not participate in

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[9] Volunteers, the source of humanity, tolerance and social wealth (2005), International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
[10] Institute for Psychology (2007). Everyday life of Youth in Serbia: *snap of time budget.*

voluntary projects mostly because they are not organized in their vicinity, they lack time or they were not informed in time.

Mobility   Bad economic and social situation among youth, lack of adequate infrastructure, slow reforms in society and limited freedom of movement in the region[11] contributed to spreading xenophobia and resulted in the ignorance of a number of youth in the field of mobility. On the other side, this situation contributed to a great interest of a much bigger number of young people, not only in terms of mobility between cities and countries due to education, cultural exchange, tourisms, international cooperation, but also regarding the permanent change of the place of residence.

Although over 80% of young people are ready to go traveling, one fourth of them during the last five years did not have the chance to go on vacation, and more than two thirds could not go on winter vacation. In Serbia, only 15% of young people travel on a regular basis, once a year in average and even 49% haves not been abroad even once during the last five years[12]. Regarding the high school population, according to recent research, during the last two years 24% of high school students have not travelled anywhere. 44% of them never left the country, 15% travelled once, 17% twice or three times, and 23% more than three times (it did not refer to ex-Yugoslavian countries)[13].

There is a constant increase in population in Belgrade and Novi Sad, but some parts of Serbia could stay completely empty on the other side. From the 166 municipalities in Serbia, only 28 of them have a small increase in population during the last years[14]. This trend continues, so a lot of young people from smaller environments want to leave their place of residence if they get a chance to do so (80,5% of young people from Leskovac, Vranje, and Spa Vranje), firstly because of the better standard of living, a more secure future, job and education[15]. From the general number of people who think about moving, 52% think about going to foreign countries, 35% about going somewhere else within the country, 13% do not know precisely, but show a certainty about the decision of moving somewhere else.

During the last ten years a lot of people left Serbia. They faced the dilemma between trying to find a solution in their country or in other countries, and a lot of them decided to more elsewhere. In the first half of the nineties, two thirds of young people wanted to leave the country, and according to research from 2003, even every second person[16].
These young people do not find possibilities in their environments to develop themselves, find jobs, organize a good life and secure a safe future. Bearing in mind demographic trends, and the need for the development of an economy based on knowledge, it is

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[11] Action plan of the youth policy in Vojvodina (2005), Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth in partnership with the Youth Council of Vojvodina
[12] Research about situation and needs of young people in the local communities(2002), NGO Civic Initiative
[13] Institute for Psychology (2007). Everyday life of Youth in Serbia: *snap of time budget.*
[14] Nikitovic, V. (2007): Center for demographic research of the Insitute of Social Sciences, article in the daily news Politika, 28.10.2007
[15] CARE International Office in Serbia (2006): Research about problems and needs of young people in Leskovac, Vranje and Spa Vranje
[16] Pejic Vladimir (2003): Young people in Serbia – attitudes, moral values and perspectives, South-East Europe Review

obvious that the permanent departure of young people would have serious consequences for the development of the country.[17]

Youth mobility was also influenced by financial conditions and strict visa regimes. The process of harmonization of our regulations with international standards is very slow (Bologna Declaration, Convention from Lisbon, etc) as well as participation in youth exchange programs (Youth in action, ERASMUS, etc). The initiation of the new visa policy in 2008, which is the result of the agreement between Serbia and the EU should facilitate visa processes for students, civil society activists and NGO.

Especially difficult are the conditions for the mobility of some groups of young people, e.g. poor and unemployed youth, refugees and internally displaced persons[18].

3.2. Institutional framework for cooperation, youth organization and participation in decision-making processes

> **In our country mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes within local municipalities and state administration still do not exist, although standards of youth participation are defined by numerous documents of the Council of Europe and the European Union.**

Youth organizations are the most important type of youth cooperation. From the year 200 onwards, these organizations had only sporadic influence on decision-making processes in society. The most significant influence is related to the establishment of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, that was formed as the result of active four-year youth advocacy by the Youth Coalition of Serbia, other NGOs and youth wings of political parties. A more significant improvement regarding youth participation in decision-making processes is also achieved at university level, by introduction of the "Bologna process". Students participated in the development of legislation in the fields of higher education, student standards and student education, and in all bodies of university they have their own representatives, with the task of advocating for students' interests.

In the period from 2003, within the campaign of advocating on the local level, an active search for possible institutional solutions that would contribute to the improvement of the position of youth on the local level, started on behalf of the local municipalities. The results are sporadically formed local bodies within certain municipalities (Pančevo, Arilje, etc). Especially important are the activities of the Provincial Secretariat for Youth and Sports that actively conducts initiatives for the improvement of the young people's position in Vojvodina beginning in 2003. However, there is no systematic approach and possibility for young people to be an active part of the decision-making process.

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[17] Barisic, S. (2003): Research about young people, article based on the research "Status and role of young people on the pathway on one century to other", Center for Examining Alternatives
[18] UNFPA (2007): DRAFT Report, Young People in Serbia: their situations, needs and the prospects for youth policy development.

The consultative process duing the development of this Strategy represents an institutional attempt to include young people in decision-making processes concerning their future, as well as the future of the next generation.

Organizing: Generally, there are two groups of youth organizations – those organized by youth themselves regarding certain issues and those focusing on work with young people, whose members are not only young people. Although according to the CRNPS[19] register of non-governmental organizations there are 138 organizations whose field of work represents youth and students, we cannot specify their exact number as there is no clear classification of a "youth NGO". 60 of these organizations are students' organizations, 43 are organizations of a local character, and there is a larger number of regional and geographically defined organizations, ethnic minorities' organizations, organizations of disabled persons, organizations of unemployed people, as well as other specific associations. We should bear in mind that some of the organizations dealing with youth did not choose this working field within the CRNPC register, although in practice they work a lot with youth and for youth[20].

By legal regulations on the basis of the educational and upbringing system, it is envisaged the freedom of association, clubs, as well as the establishment of student councils. Thus, in Serbia today student parliaments exist in numerous schools. However, there are significant problems concerning the functioning of these parlaments with regard to their role, rights, obligations and the framework of their activities, which are not clearly defined. Although a large number of students (96%) know that there is a student parliament in their school, only 21% of them know its role, 50% are partially familiar with it, and 25% do not know what its function is. According to research, 88% of students are not active in the work of the student council.

Student parliaments are not recognized by professors and parents as a legitimate and important way of students' movements and organizations. The parliament's opinion is frequently irrelevant and disrespected. Students have just observer status on the school board, with the possibility to comment, but without any possibility to make decisions. This practice is demotivating for students, since they do not see an advisory role as significant enough for making changes. No funds are allocated for student parliaments from the school or municipal budget[21].

In terms of the structure of youth organizations regarding, the level of participation of young women in the NGO sector is high. In the Students' Union of Serbia, which consists of numerous member organizations, there is no individual membership, but all interviewed people certify that there exists gender equality and that the structure of members is 50% men compared to 50% women[22]. However, we must conclude that beside individual opinions and attitudes there is no specific data about young women's participation in youth organizations, and therefore we cannot state with certainty that gender equality exists in youth organizations. The lack of women in leading positions can

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[19] Centre for Development of the Non-Profit Sector.
[20] Directory of non-governmental organizations, http://www.crnps.org.yu/direktorijum (November 12, 2007).
[21] CESID (2005): Development and engagement of youth in local community: Students' Parliament – first step toward democracy.
[22] Bigini, S. (2007): Report on youth and youth policy in Serbia, UNIFEM, Programme office in Belgrade.

be noted in different youth NGOs. The lack of young women in prestigious areas, such as international youth policy, is obvious. Public opinion and decision making is shaped by deep misunderstanding of this problem[23].

Decision-making: There are still no mechanisms for youth participation with regard to decision-making processes within bodies of the local municipalities and the state administration in the Republic of Serbia, although standards of youth participation are defined by numerous documents of the Council of Europe and the European Union. From democratic changes in the Republic of Serbia to the year 2007, the state body that was in charge of youth issues was the Ministry of Education and Sports (Sector for Youth).

The lack of possibilities to influence decision-making processes in institutions dealing with youth and in state institutions creates a lack of confidence toward institutions and results in the exclusion of young people from public life. The research of Civic Initiatives shows that 64% believe that their participation, initiatives and advice could contribute to solving problems of young people. Concerning reasons for the lack of active participation in some organizations, young people emphasize disrespect of their opinion[24] as the main obstacle for them to become active.

Fragmentarity and lack of cooperation are also important problems of youth organizations. The Youth Council of Serbia that should be an umbrella organization and that should protect the interests of youth on the national level does not exist for a long time. Other existing youth organizations are neither connected with each-other nor integrated. Therefore, their field of work is limited and directed towards a small number of young people[25]. That endangers the strength of youth NGOs and limits the representation of youth attitudes at all levels of society.

3.3. Information of youth

Timely and comprehensive information of youth is a precondition for the fulfilment of all goals of the Strategy.

When it comes to different forms of dissemination of information, television represents the most frequent medium[26] among the young aged 15-30, and that is the same for the broader population. Almost 80% of youth depend on this medium as a source of information on a regular or occasional basis. The printed media comes second, and dialogues and discussions (informal channels of communication) are third. About 40% of youth listen to the radio, while public lectures and forum events are attended by a relatively small number of young people included in the poll.

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[23] UNICEF Belgrade Office (2002): Brave New Generation, Youth in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Facts and Recommendations.
[24] Marković, J. and Kijevčanin, J. (2004): Proactive capacities of young people; Publication "Young people lost in transition", Center for Examining the Alternatives.
[25] Action Plan for Youth in Vojvodina (2005): Provincial Secretariat for Youth and Sport in partnership with the Youth Council of Vojvodina.
[26] CeSID (2008): *Personal and social activity of youth in Serbia*.

Research studies show that youth in Serbia is not interested in daily or political affairs. They hardly ever watch political broadcasts or informative programs and 57,3%[27] hardly ever follow the news. This shows a passive attitude of young people towards the environment they live in and where their life opportunities are created, but it also reflects the attitude of the media towards youth.

Television is the main source of informative and cultural contents for youth. Television is watched for hours (44% youngsters spend 1-3 hours watching TV on workdays, and 29% of them watch it 3-5 hours)[28]. Such a high frequency of TV watching indicates a particular responsibility of television in respect of the quality of programs that young people watch most, fostering true values and raising awareness among youth.
About 18% of high school students in Serbia watch popular scientific programs which promote science and research as an approach to life problems and phenomena. The popularity of these channels seems even higher if observed in the light of the fact that 44% of youth do not have cable TV at home.

Radio is present in the life of youth, but mainly for the purpose of listening to music. A relatively high percentage of young people follow sport events and every fifth high school student listens to quiz shows, possibly also taking part in them. The popularity of radio programs among high school students can probably be explained by the use of mobile phones, since the data from this research shows that 34% of high school students listen to radio programs via their mobile phones.

In the modern world, information technologies are becoming more and more important as a source of information. Computer availability and the level of informatical literacy in Serbia show a very dynamic increase[29], although it is still much below the level of the European Union and is highly dependant upon the social and economic status of the family and community. An indicator of IT literacy is the availability of computers at home and at school. In Serbia, computers are available to a great number of high school students (85% according to the data of the research that was conducted by the Institute of Psychology), while on the other hand there is practically no possibility of daily use of computers at schools. Half of the students can use a computer only in class, which is once a week, and one third of them (32,3%) do not even have IT classes. A very small number of young people at this age level (3,9%) have completed a computer course, which means that they have learned how to use computers in a systematic way. In other words, young people master computer skills mainly by themselves: independently or together with their peers. Self-instruction means that the knowledge necessary for operating a computer is gained unsystematically. Furthermore, computers are mainly used for fun: playing games (38,5% of young people play computer games daily) and downloading music or films (for 27,5% of them this is a daily routine). Also, 40% of them have no internet access. A high percentage of young people do not use computers for writing and/or drawing or graphic design, as many as 80% of them almost never use any educative software and 66,1% do

[27] E.g. Institute of Psychology (2007): Every*day Life of Youth in Serbia: Snap of Time Budget*.
[28] Cvetičanin, P. (2005): Cultural needs, habits and taste of the citizens of Serbia and Macedonia, Civic Initiative Board, Nis.
[29] OECD (2004): *Learning for Tomorrow's World: First Results from PISA 2003*, Paris: OECD.

not use electronic mail. In short, IT literacy is still at a low level, which leaves a lot of space for improvement.

3.4. Life chances of all groups of young people and risks of social exclusion and inequality

> **Young people are not a homogenous group, regardless of whether it is thought that they share a "common destiny".**

When we speak about youth, we refer to the population aged 15-30, which gathers different groups of young people. For the relation of country toward youth and this Strategy also, it is important to bear in mind and to respect the differences that exist in chances for development and life within different groups of young people. Regarding the overview and analysis of the situation it is necessary to respect unequal life chances of vulnerable groups of youth and possible risks of social exclusion and inequality of those who live under extremely difficult conditions or at displaced and in far away locations.

In the Republic of Serbia there are also regional differences regarding possibilities for education and employment of young people, as well as in availability of cultural and sport programs.

There are different vulnerable groups of young people[30]:

Young people facing poverty

Almost all young people in Serbia suffer the consequences of poverty in society: in everyday life, education, with respect to limited options of spending quality leisure time, in achieving their rights to health and social care, etc. Especially vulnerable are those who live in poverty. In our environment, the health of vulnerable young people is not examined separately, although research shows the higher level of jeopardizing their health compared to the average population and less availability of social protection for them[31].

Only 74% of young people have three meals per day. However, only 37% think about their health when choosing food. Regular personal hygiene (taking showers and brushing teeth) among youth in Serbia decreased in 2006 compared to 2000, and it is even less among the poor[32]. There are still only few interventions and programs dedicated to especially vulnerable groups of young people. The percentage of those who have some type of chronic disorder is higher among the poor than among those with salaries above the line of poverty. This difference is especially obvious with regard to chronic disorders that lead to long-term disabilities (20% among those who live in poverty and 7% among

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[30] In the Strategy, the term "vulnerable groups of young people" refers to all categories of young people who are disabled or prevented from achieving their rights (e.g. young disabled persons, young Roma people, poor young people).
[31] Government, Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, 2006.
[32] Research of health in the Republic of Serbia – 2006, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2007.

those who live above the poverty line). One part of the youth population that lives with disability or has some other developmental difficulty, can suffer from the accumulation of unfavorable conditions regarding additional effect of the poverty factor.

Young recipients of social welfare aged 16-30 represent 17.2% of what?. The average amount of social welfare is approx. 58€ per family. The fact that a significant number of families depends on social welfare through generations is an indicator of poverty reproduction and an inefficient system that is not able to prevent long-term dependency on social benefits. The lack of active policy measures concerning the employment of welfare recipents leads to a high number of young people financing their life via illicit work (moonlighting?).?

All citizens of Serbia under equal conditions and circumstances enjoy their right to social welfare. Bearing in mind their unsatisfying material position, young vulnerable groups, especially from the Roma population, are more often benefitting from the social welfare system.

Young Roma
Young Roma, which according to the data and evaluation of the Serbian Statistical Office, represent 5,7% of the population aged 15-20, are underrepresented on all education levels compared to their peers. 66.2% of children recorded in Roma surroundings attend primary school (compared to 94.4% of other children in Serbia), and a large number of them leaves school early (especially girls); only 14.1% of Roma men attend secondary schools (compared to 82.4% of others) and 5.9% of Roma women (compared to 88,9% of others). Among those who finish primary school timely later, there is also a large number of Roma (8.5% men and 8.6% women). Among students enrolled in university(?), the number of Roma is very low (0.06 % in 2006/2007). One of the problems regarding Roma education are early marriages. Additionally, the situation will be further complicated by the arrival of a greater number of Roma following the readmission process (UNDP report). The inclusion of Roma in the educational system and the provision of continuity in their education, although already supported as a goal in the Action plan for the Decade of Roma (2005-2015), must also be supported in this Strategy. In order to improve the position of the Roma, the Government also adopted national action plans in the field of housing, health and employment, and works on adopting a comprehensive strategic document as well as national action plans in other relevant fields.

Since we do not have updated data on the national level regarding the status of young Roma on the labour market, we will mention the data that refers to the complete Roma population. The unemployment percentage of Roma is high (approx. 39%), and 2/3 of them never had a job[33]. Furthermore, the inclusion of Roma by measures of active employment policy is not satisfying, bearing in mind their very difficult social-economic position in society and inadequate educational structure that prevents them to find job quicker. As an illustration, the data of the National Employment Service shows that in

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[33] UNDP (2006), *At Risk: The Social Vulnerability of Roma, Refugees and IDPs in Serbia*, p. 6.

2007 it was planned to include 180 adult Roma in the program of the functional primary education.

Young disabled persons
In the Republic of Serbia there are about 700,000 or(?) 800,000 disabled persons, and 20.6% of them are younger than 24 years. Data from three separate studies[34] shows that the largest number of disabled persons finishes education at high school level (general sample of 62.9%), still in higher schools and faculties their number is significantly smaller (25.5%). Also, a significant number of young people from this group finishes education in special schools. The aforementioned studies state that discrimination toward this group of young people still exists, although it became less.

Disabled persons are in a very hard socio-economic position by obtaining jobs slower(?), although the Serbian Employment Office introduced different programs in order to facilitate inclusion of disabled persons in the labour market. Research shows that the main reasons for insufficient social inclusion are psychical obstacles and unacceptance by their surroundings[35]. However, disabled persons are eager to find jobs, especially young people aged 19-24, but the anachronism of the educational system which offers jobs that are not required on the labor market anymore through the special schools, prevents them in it[36]. Since there is no precise number of young disabled persons in Serbia, it is very hard to calculate the unemployment rate. However, it can be estimated that only 13% of all disabled persons are employed[37]. According to some studies, the rate of employment among disabled persons is 20.7%, that is 2.5% lower than EU average[38].

Also, we do not have a precise number of young disabled persons who are included in employment programs of the Serbian Employment Office, especially dedicated to this category. During 2007, 616 disabled persons participated in new employment programmes conducted by the Serbian Employment Office. 311 of them obtained jobs based on matching their qualifications with the working places needs and 305 through the subventions of the salaries. Based on measures expressed in Article 45 of the Law on amendments and additions of the Law on taxes for obligatory social insurance, 58 disabled persons younger than 30 years obtained jobs. According to data from 2006, 100 disabled persons obtained jobs through self-employment programmes.

Among recipients of social welfare 5,512 minors with mental disabilities are registered, 3,484 with physical disabilities and 1,958 with combined disabilities, and according to their needs they have the right to: financial addition for other person's help and care, help

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[34] Publications: Handicap is the human rights issue, 2006; Position of disabled youth in high school education, 2007; Promotion of the inclusive high education in South East Europe, 2006.

[35] UNDP (2007)*, Adjustment of the gap between policy and practice: social protection services dedicated to disabled persons*, in print.

[36] Centre for Inclusive Society Development and Centre for Monitoring and Evaluation (2007), *Research on employment and self-employment of disabled persons in Serbia.*

[37] UNDP (2007), *Adjustment of the gap between policy and practice: social protection services dedicated to disabled persons*, in print.

[38] Centre for Inclusive Society Development and Centre for Monitoring and Evaluation (2007), *Research on employment and self-employment of disabled persons in Serbia.*

in enabling them to work, placement in social protection institutions or in other families, household help and daily residence.

In the Republic of Serbia there are five institutions treating disabled children and youth. They are characterized by a large number of patients (from 300 to 650) - children, young and adult people aged 4-50 years and more, which is higher than number defined by norms and standards. Since there is no adequate network of services, children's homes become institutions for adults over the years. Most of the patients spend their whole life in the institution, isolated from the outside world. A new network of institutions for social protection for these patients was established and measures aimed at improving the conditions in the institutions were conducted, but they have to be intensified.

Although it is legally guaranteed, the right to a household help and daily residence nursing services are not provided in many municipalities. Household help is mostly dedicated to older people, and very rarely it includes disabled persons. The services of daily residence are even less than household help, and municipalities that realized them are rare. Young disabled persons and their families are facing a lack of adequate social support, which leads exhaustion of already limited resources. The lack of adequate services shows that young disabled persons and their families still cannot fully enjoy their legal rights.

Young refugees and internally displaced persons

Talking about youth with refugee experience, research conducted in our region shows their constantly and sensitively lower success in school[39]. Research shows that a smaller number of them finishes high school, and an even smaller number universities, that they are not well socially integrated, that they have a low self-esteem and that a lot of them live in poverty, especially those within collective centers.
Illiterate refugees and internally displaced persons are mostly from the Roma population, although the number of Roma people among refugees is low. Besides that, previous research shows that the educational structure of refugees is higher compared to the regular population, as well as the educational structure of displaced Roma people compared to the resident Roma population.

The unemployment rate of refugees and internally displaced persons is high (approx. 32%), it can be estimated that 49% of the unemployed do not have any work experience and have not worked before[40]. However, it cannot be said for certain how many of them received services of the Serbian Employment Office in obtaining jobs, but based on program of subventions for self-employment in 2006, only 98 people from this category of unemployed had participated on open calls.

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[39] Joksimović, S. and Milanović-Nahod, S. (1997). School children in exile. In G. Zindović-Vukadinović, B. Trebješanin & Krnjajić, Z. (eds), *Children in the time of social crisis* (22-36). Belgrade, Institute for educational research.
Krnjaić, Z. and Omcikus, S (2004). Perspective of the students displaced from Kosovo and Metohija in.Plut, D. and Z. Krnjaić (ed), Education and Social Crisis: Document about one period (135-185). Belgrade, Institute for Psychology
Pavlov, T. (2007). Family in displacement and School in Polovina, N and Bogunović (ed), Cooperation between school and family (156-173). Belgrade, Institute for Pedagogic Researches.
[40] UNDP (2006), *At Risk: The Social Vulnerability of Roma, Refugees and IDPs in Serbia*, pg. 6.

<u>Young returnees in the readmission process</u>
We are in the phase of returning Serbian citizens from Western European countries, mostly Roma from the territory of the AP of Kosovo and Metohija, whose request for asylum was denied or temporary protection was cancelled. According to an estimation by the Council of Europe, between 100,000 and 150,000 persons will return to Serbia. A significant number of young people does not speak Serbian, nor the Roma language, they can not adjust their diplomas and because of the lack of personal documents, they have a problem when they try to enroll in school. Basic problems that show after their return are: temporary placement if they do not have their own property, help in providing the missing personal documentation for realizing their rights and creating conditions for their reintegration. The Council for the Integration of Returnees was formed as the separate Governmental body, and the development of the Strategy for the Integration of the Returnees is progressing.

<u>Vulnerable young people in terms of gender</u>
Many life outcomes, and among them pathway of the education, choice of profession and employment possibilities, are defined by gender. Especially vulnerable are certain groups of young girls, namely women. According to data from MISC research (2005), among youth aged 15, 12,4% of Roma women are in marriage, and till their 18th year – 45,9%. Regarding education, young Roma women are one of the most excluded groups of young people. It is also important to emphasize that in Serbia even through educational system (women labor force, as well as level and way of presenting the gender roles dominates in books) and other educational programs, men and women are still presented through stereotypes, and we need more contents about gender equality to be presented.

Young parents, especially young single mothers present excluded and group in the risk, regarding the educational process. This issue is related to the poverty issue, and represents incentive for the new circle of poverty (bad conditions for development of the children in the next generation).

Speaking about health and risk behavior, there are also differences regarding the gender. Not all are equally exposed to danger from HIV infection. In the societies where the epidemic is transmission heterosexually, as it is case in Serbia during the last few years, young women are much more exposed to the risk than young man. Biologically, women are more disposed to the infection than men, and very frequently are socially more vulnerable.

Talking about young women's security, it is obvious the specific type of gender-based violence. According to research conducted between 1998 and 2003, where participated 3825 high school students of both genders aged 15 to 19 from 24 towns in Serbia, every eight girl announced that she was sexually molested (rape, attempt of rape, incest, blackmailing, abuse of the function[41]. In the largest number of cases, offenders of sexual violence are well-known, and most of these cases lasted for years. None of men announced that type of experience, but it does not mean that such examples do not exist. Most of described examples are not announced even to parents, medical staff or centers

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[41] Statistical data for period 1994-2004 . Source: Pedagogic Society of Serbia in partnership with Incest Trauma Centre.

for social work. Only 1% is reported to SOS telephones and 16% to the police, because of the low trust in the institutions[42].

Data obtained in high schools in the Republic of Serbia in 2007[43] show big differences between boys and girls in practicing sports. In that age, more of one half of girls quitted from any type of practicing sports, even recreational, and only 15% of them regularly practice some sport. Among boys, only each fifth of them quitted and 37% regularly practice sports through trainings. Beside, regarding the time dedicated to sport practicing, data show that during the week boy spends about 9 hours in sport activities, and girl more than 4. Also, the results of research conducted among student population in AP Vojvodina[44] show that boys practice sport more than girls.

Speaking about the unemployment of youth and long-term unemployment, more jeopardize are women than men.

Sexual orientation can bring young people sometimes in sensitive and vulnerable position. Therefore, we are familiar with the cases of discrimination and different forms of violence over the young people with different sexual orientation, namely-orientated to their own gender.

Young parents
Young parents are at risk of educational exclusion, this consequently contributes to poverty and forms the framework for future poverty of the next generation. Early parenting is also related to housing problems and difficulties in obtaining jobs.

Young people with unsolved housing issues
The housing situation in Serbia is characterized by a deficit of housing space in towns, lack of public housing funds, low rates of house-building, lack of available housing space on the market, overpopulated existing housing fund, large number of citizens who live like subtenants.

Housing problems of youth can be examined related to age categories. Young people aged 14 to 19 who still have not initiated the process of complete independence, are generally facing the problem of inadequate housing space (without separate rooms, place for learning). Beside these problems, certain groups of young people are faced with a long distance between their house unit and public services (young people who live in "wild settlements") or with the low equipment level in their homes (Roma, refugees and displaced people in collective centers).

Young people aged 20-30 are in the intense process of gaining independence, directly expressed through employment and housing. The percentage of those living with their

[42] Brankovic, Biljana (2003) Copyrighted Database on Family Violence and Sexual Violence against Women and Children. Belgrade: Federal Agency for Intellectual Property (in Serbian)

[43] Institute for Psychology (2007). Everyday Life of Youth in Serbia: Snap of Time Budget, Belgrade. Research ordered and financed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
[44] AP Vojvodina (2007).

parents is 50 % among the employed and 70% among the unemployed[45]. The lack of a possibility to solve their housing status represents one of the basic obstacles in forming a family.

Young people without parental care
In the Republic of Serbia, 1450 children and young people grow up in orphanages (every year? All in all?)[46]. It can be estimated that almost 60% of these are adolescents, and each tenth is in the final phase of becoming independent[47]. From this number, 15% find a job after leaving the institution. Whereas, this percentage will only increase by 2% in the next three years[48]. Young people in orphanages, compared to their peers from intact families, are mostly less capable of leading an independent life. The lack of basic pro-social skills, as well as a passive approach regarding personal needs, makes the majority of them not ready enough for integration in the community. They stay too long in institutions and only leave them after becoming adults, namely after finishing their education, most frequently without organized support in providing adequate residence and obtaining a job.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 20), placement in another family and adoption are the forms of protection and support that have priority to the placement in an institution. Until 2000, the situation in Serbia was different. From 2001, a 50:50 ratio between children/youth in foster families and institutions was put into place. In August 2005, the ratio was 65:35 in favour of children placed in families. Although a significant number of children/youth without parental care is still in institutions, at the same time 700 trained foster families waited to receive children[49]. From 5000 young people placed in institutions and in foster families, between 40% and 50% of them live in another municipality than they were born in. Removal of children and youth from their primary local community results in breaking ties to family and friends, which makes their integration into the new surroundings more difficult.

Young people from the street
Across the world, there are almost a 100 million homeless children and youth[50]. According police data the number of children who live and/or work on the street in the Republic of Serbia is around 400, out of these 200 live in Belgrade[51]. It can be assumed that the estimated number of unreported cases is significantly higher. These young people are without any type of organized help and support, and at great risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

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[45] Strategy of Youth Health Development in the Republic of Serbia, 2006.
[46] Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 2006.
[47] Manual for implementation of DELTA program, 2007.
[48] NGO "GRIG", 2006.
[49] Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, 2007.
[50] Rice, F.P. & Dolgin K. G. (2002) *The Adolescent: Development, Relationships and Culture*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
[51] Žegarac, 2006.

3.5. Extraordinary results and achievements of young people

Encouragement and development of extraordinary results and achievements of young people, their recognition and assessment are necessary for the development of both youth and society.

Basic forms of support within the educational-pedagogic approach for gifted and talented young people that are recognized in the legal regulations are referring to: fastening, enriching and allocating. There are funds and foundations on the republic level (Fund for Young Talents of the Republic of Serbia and Republic Foundation for the Development of Scientific and Artistic Youth), as well as a certain number of funds on the local level that provide certain financial support to encouragement and development of extraordinary achievements of young people. However, there is no joint system of scholarships and awards, with defined selection criteria for the talents on different levels. Namely, ways and procedures for the identification and monitoring of gifted and talented students are not specified by legal regulations. Also, there are no special investments in additional programs and work with talented students. Therefore, only the results are awarded, and the process of the support that occurs within the educational system is based on the support from the families of the talented children, staying on the level of enthusiasm of each individually motivated professor.

Data concerning the number of highly educated young people that left the country is also missing.

Organizations in Serbia that are dealing with gifted and talented children and youth, beside the schools, are - Republic Center for Talents (with 14 regional centers), Research Station Petnica and The Club of Young Mathematicians Archimedes. Beside these organizations, in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Pančevo there are also Children Cultural Centers whose programs are mainly from the field of art. Promotion and support of extraordinary achievements of young people represents one of the basic principles of the work of these institutions. In this area, beside organizations of the public sector, there are more and more activities initiated by citizens' associations, professional associations and the private sector. Different results, competitions, open calls, as well as different awards, diplomas, scholarships are the opportunities for expression and evaluation of the extraordinary achievements of young people.

It is necessary to provide support to young talented people in different areas that would be based on the respect of capabilities, needs and age distinctions of young people, as well as on the respect of the particularities of each area. For stimulating scientific, professional and artistic youth, it is important to establish relevant criteria for academic and professional success that would be used for the monitoring of the professional development of young people, assessment of their progress, giving adequate support and setting more and more specific standards.

3.6. The quality of leisure time of young people: cultural consumption and sports activities

> **The unique value of leisure programs dedicated to youth is the improvement of the quality of life and achievement of the right to a quality life, as well as the possibility to prevent various addictions and socially deviant behavior, such as drinking alcohol, taking drugs or gambling, different forms of violent behavior and juvenile delinquency.**

The importance of leisure activities on the cognitive, psychological and social development of young people is widely recognized in most modern societies. There is a wide range of activities, ranging from the participation of young people in cultural activities, involvement in different types of media, entertainment and sports activities to extra-curriculum educational activities. Therefore, this paper will address the issue of the quality of leisure time through the aforementioned activities. Considering that leisure activities have a significant impact on the social and emotional development of young people, it is necessary to take all possible steps to prevent leisure programs from becoming means of indoctrinating young people or excluding them from other aspects of social life.

How do young people organize their free time? Almost one half of high school students (47%) spend their free time in non-structured gatherings with their peers. 45,8 % of high school students spend their free time gladly watching television, phoning with their mobile phones (32,8%) or using the computer (28,6%). Every fifth high school student practices sport, and some, albeit small in number, spend their free time reading books and attending cultural events. And even smaller number undertakes some creative, artistic activities.

The typical ways of spending free time are similar among university students[52]. The most common activity is listening to music (78%), socializing (73%), going out (55%) and watching TV programs (45%). Next is reading books, doing house work, and cultural activities. The lowest interest is shown for memberships in youth and student organizations and activities in the so-called Cultural-Artistic Societies.

This structure of free time can be characterized as inappropriate and poor and the available free time that young people have, must be used to promote values through a rich supply of different content, for example, in the field of culture, sports, education etc. From the youth perspective the biggest obstacle for spending free time in a quality way is lack of money, and this reason is more important to students (an answer of 65% of students) in comparison to secondary school children (35%).

<u>Cultural consumption and youth creativity.</u> Cultural consumption and youth creativity are an integral part of the free time of young people. Research done in Serbia as well as in

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[52] Provincial Secretariat of Sport and Youth (2007): Ways of Spending Leisure Time of the Youth in the AP of Vojvodina, Novi Sad.

other countries in the region[53] (Croatia, Macedonia) indicates that high culture contexts (going to theaters, museums and art galleries, concerts of classical music etc.) are amongst the most unpopular activities. According to research of the Institute of Psychology[54] around 50% of secondary school children in Serbia have almost never gone to a theater or visited a museum. The 15% that do go, do it as a part of school organized activities. With older age groups the trend is even more unfavorable. Young people make up only 3-4% of the total number of visitors and public in theaters, museums, classical music and jazz concerts. Forms of different creative and artistic work amongst young people are even rarer – only 2.5% of young people.

The most common form of cultural consumption is watching TV (95% of young people, for 2-3h, daily), followed by listening to music. Next in line is going to cinemas (a decreasing trend, as TV and video entertainment is attracting more and more former cinema goers) and popular music concerts. In a certain way, going to sports events and sport gambling clubs (widespread among young men) and using computers (gaming, surfing the internet, chat etc.) can be considered as cultural consumption.

Reading habits are another issue. Statistics suggest that young people rarely read books or newspapers, and 37.6% of secondary school children are not members of any library. During the summer vacation most of the secondary school children have not read a single book.

The general profile of cultural consumption of young people in Serbia can be relatively clearly differentiated, and the main sources of differentiation are the socio-economic status i.e. the financial situation of the parents, place of living and origin (the cultural offer in rural areas is significantly smaller to that of urban areas), the level of education and academic results, age and gender. A certain connection exists between cultural consumption of young people and the choice of profession (young workers show a greater interest in manual activities whereas young experts have a far complex range of interests).

Sports and recreation. Sport represents all forms of physical activities through free or organized participation of individuals with the aim of increasing physical fitness and mental health, education, social cohesion and achieving results in competitions organized on all levels[55].

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[53] Ilišin, Vlasta editor (2006): Youth Between Desires and Possibilities: the Condition, Problems and Needs of Young People in the Zagreb District, Institute for Social Research, Zagreb.
Ilišin, Vlasta and Radin, Furio editors (2002): The Youth In Front of the Third Millennium, Institute for Social Research, Zagreb.
Ilišin, Vlasta (2006): Youth participation in Local Authorities in Croatia: (from below 29 years old to above 29 years old), Zagreb.
Ilišin, Vlasta (Ed.). 2005. Croatian Youth and European Integration, Institute for Social Research, Zagreb.
Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, Strasbourg, 2003.
Mihailović, S and associates (2004): Youth Lost in Transition, Belgrade.
Mihailović, S. and Popadić, D. (2003): Serbian Youth and the Challenges of Tomorrow, Belgrade.
Mihailović, S and associates (2005): Five Years of Transition in Serbia, Belgrade.
[54] Institute of Psychology (2007): Everyday Life of Youth in Serbia, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Institute of Psychology, Belgrade, Preliminary Report.
[55] The Council of Europe, 2001.

In the transition from childhood to adolescence the role of sport (it ceases to be a spontaneous and creative activity) as well as its function in psychological development changes. Sport becomes a means of socialization in a certain age group. At the same time, there is a transitional period accompanied with the danger[56] of a sudden decrease of interest in sports activities. In the case that sport is perceived as competitive, physically challenging, and time consuming, young people may feel inadequate and loose interest. This is a danger in all population categories, and girls and women of all ages and all socio-economic backgrounds represent especially vulnerable categories, since gender stereotypes discourage interest in sport. The statistics from the fall of 2007 in Serbian secondary schools[57] make a good illustration of the large difference in sports activities between boys and girls.

The research information of the Institute of Psychology shows that during secondary school a relatively small number of young people in Serbia practice sports, in an organized or recreational form (61%)[58]. According to the research done by the Provincial Secretariat of Sport and Youth, in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, the participation of young people in sports activities is even less favorable: 50% of elementary school children do sports, and only 30% of secondary school and university students[59]. World facts and figures show that the highest decrease of sports activities happens in the time of transfer from secondary school to university[60].

In Serbia, programs of university physical education were cancelled in 1998. University students do not have their own facilities for physical exercise and sport competitions, and even faculties of sport do not have all necessary teaching facilities. The system of organized extracurricular and competitive activities is not arranged properly on the relation school-local self government-state, and the behavior of different institutions that deal with sports activities is unadjusted. Most sport shows dedicated to school youth are conducted without order and they are not followed adequately by media, marketing agencies and public companies.

At the same time, there is a trend in Serbia of very early sport "professionalism" – children of a very young age become members of professional sport clubs and become very early confronted with sport selection and organized training. Practicing professional sport, is a prestigious activity available to the chosen few, instead of having a mass and playful character. Thus, the socio-economic family status is a criteria for practicing sport.

The most frequent reason of young people for not engaging in sports activities is lack of time (46%). The traditionally most popular sports among young people are football, basketball, and volleyball, followed by tennis, swimming and weightlifting. The practice of renting school gymnasiums and playgrounds is widespread, thus, becoming unavailable for recreational and free sports activities.

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[56] SportScotland Research Unit, 2002, www.sportscotland.org.uk.
[57] Institute of Psychology: Everyday Life of Youth in Serbia: Snap of Time Budget, 2007, Belgrade.
[58] Institute of Psychology: Everyday Life of Youth in Serbia: Snap of Time Budget, 2007, Belgrade.
[59] Provincial Secretariat of Sport and Youth (2007): Ways of Spending Leisure Time of the Youth in the AP of Vojvodina, Provincial Department, Novi Sad.
[60] General Household Survey: UK Sport Participation, 1999.

Overall, the foundations for the development of sport would be: sport is recognized among young people as a value and an activity that increases the quality of life; it keeps people in good mental and physical health and condition; it is a means of preventing illness, especially addictions and social exclusion; it contributes to both the development of a sense of cooperation as well as a competitive spirit. Developments and trends in sports that have a negative influence on individual development: early selection, elitism and segregation of a significant number of children and young people: the use of sports as a means of personal affirmation; inaccessibility, fun passions which lead to violence and intolerance.

3.7. Formal and non-formal education as a professional, personal and social accomplishment of young people

> **Youth represents a period of intensively gaining knowledge and skills within different forms of formal and non-formal education.**

Viewed from a social perspective, the level of development of the educational system is an indicator of the whole social, cultural and economical development of a certain country. At the same time, to achieve an increased development of the country and its successful integration into the international community, it is necessary to have a high level of literacy, education and a population capable to work. Therefore, education of youth represents a state priority.

Notwithstanding a high amount of statutory regulations and numerous strategies dealing with the issue of education, the question is being raised as to the reasons for considering this issue in this Strategy as well. Although the reasons can be seen as numerous, three particular reasons have been highlighted in the consultative process, from the existing documents, research and experience:

(1) During the consultative process, as well as in their everyday life, young people have given the highest priority to this issue, especially since education represents the basis and the cornerstone of self-determination during development and life.
(2) By the manner in which young people have stressed this issue it is clear that the present statutory regulations are perceived as not adequately tackling the issue, not having the expected direct results in terms of youth education.
(3) As a result of the long-term isolation of the country, it is unlikely that young people were able to get a realistic picture of the numerous changes that have happened and are continuously happening in the European education area.

In 2007, in Serbia, the total public expenditure on education was only 3.5 percent of the GDP[61] which is significantly lower than the recommended 6 percent budget-appropriation-standard in OECD countries.

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[61] Report on the Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Serbia.

Despite 60-year-old constitutional and statutory guarantees of compulsory and free elementary education available to all, 3.4 percent of the population in Serbia is illiterate and 22.3 percent have not even finished elementary school[62]. The level of illiteracy among the youth amounts even to 0.6 percent, and the percentage of people without completed elementary school is 4.7.

The rate of graduation from elementary school in the 2000-2006 perio3 was between 92 to 99 percent whereas the rate of continuing education after elementary school was between 97 to 99 percent[63]. On the other hand, it can be estimated that both rates are in fact lower, especially bearing in mind the inexistence of statistical data concerning the number of citizens that are not registered and therefore do not realize their right to education. Finishing elementary school represents a Millennium Development Goal[64], and the realization of this goal is of especial interest to young people.

Most of the countries that have a developed educational system and that introduced compulsory primary (elementary) education have an intention to make secondary education compulsory as well. Furthermore, they have showed an intention to increase their efforts in tertiary education and adult education. Based on the 2002 state census, the educational structure of the population between 15 and 30 years of age is as following:
5% has not completed elementary school; 33% has completed elementary school; 14% has a degree from a two- to three-year long professional school; 31% has finished a four-year long professional secondary school; 9% are high school graduates; 2% has completed higher education, 3% has graduated from university, and for the remaining 3% of young people there is no adequate data.

The drop-out rate[65] in secondary education was 2.3% in the 2005/2006 school year.

When considering the transfer from secondary to higher education, gross enrollment rates are very high (in the 2006/2007 school year the rate was 64.7%). Although a significant number of young people gets accepted at universities, the study time is prolonged and only a small amount graduates in due time (in 2006 only 21.7%). However, it should be emphasized that the average length of studying shows a declining trend, from 6.46% (in 1997) to 5.64% (in 2006), although (?) the percentage of those who finish their studies in time is increasing (from 2002).

The aforementioned facts clearly show the need of a higher participation of young people at all levels of education, as well as the necessity of developing the right conditions and mechanisms that would influence the return of those who have dropped out of school. This observation becomes especially significant if we take into account the substantial number of young people living in very difficult conditions and to whom education is

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[62] Census 2002, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.
[63] Statistical yearbook 2007, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.
[64] Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia 2006.
[65] The drop-out rate is calculated by deducting the number of students at the end of a school year from the number of students at the beginning of the school year.

inaccessible or barely accessible; or those who are exposed to different types of discrimination during their study period[66].

Moreover, it is very important to assess the quality of the achieved educational results. International and national student assessments[67] indicate that the quality of the acquired knowledge and skills at the end of primary education in Serbia are inadequate i.e. there is a far higher level of reproductive knowledge in comparison to knowledge that enables further learning and makes young people able to effectively manage themselves in everyday situations. Research shows that young people enter secondary school without being adequately prepared to continue education and effectively participate in modern society. It is necessary to determine the general and professional competences that young people should have at the end of each education level.

Serbia's determination to upgrade the quality of its educational system is recognized through its participation in international students' assessments and through the formation of relevant institutions and mechanisms for evaluating the quality of education and training.

Young people are confronted with numerous changes influencing their everyday lives. The biggest impact of these changes is in the sphere of work and requires a fast and flexible adaptation of the education system to the conditions of transition. In our society non-formal and informal education is considered as compensatory. European documents[68] and recommendations are directing us to a complementary relationship between formal and non-formal education.

Various learning needs of young people demand the broadening of educational possibilities. Identification, support, an effective quality control and the tracking of different forms of non-formal educational programs represent the right direction towards satisfying these needs of young people.

The process of forming a new educational area in Europe is underway and recommendations and lessons learned from previous experiences represent a good foundation for the understanding of educational activities within this Strategy. First of all, it is about affirming the concept of life-long learning, linking formal and non-formal forms of education and developing as well as accrediting quality programs in formal and non-formal learning.

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[66] The analysis of the statistical indicators and relevant research on the problems encountered during education by groups of young people that are under the risk of social exclusion is explained in chapter 3.4. Life chances of all groups of young people and the risks of social exclusion and inequality.

[67] Janjatović, D, D. Malinić, O. Tošić (2005): Students' Results in the TIMSS-2003 Research in the World and in Serbia; Pavlović Babić, D. (2007): the Preliminary Report on Students' Results in Serbia on OECD&PISA 2006 Testing, the Institute of Psychology, Belgrade, www.pisaserbia.org; Havelka, N. and associates (1990): The Effects of Primary Education, Belgrade, Institute of Psychology.

[68] Council of Europe and European Commission: Pathways Toward validation and Education, Training & Learning in the Youth Field, 2004.

Recognition of the Council of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the recognition of the value of the non-formal and informal learning within the European youth field; Official Journal of the European Union C168/1, 2006.

Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on key competences for life-long learning; Official Journal of the European Union C 394/10 and Annex L 394/13, 2006.

In the Republic of Serbia every young person, despite its social background, living conditions and/or its gender, should have an equal chance and stimulating conditions to educate himself/herself qualitatively and to contribute to the development of a knowledge-based society.

3.8. Youth Employment, Self-employment and Entrepreneurship

> **The unemployment rate, which is significantly higher than average among the active working population, show a specifically bad picture of the situation of young people.**

The question of employment of young people is of paramount importance in any society. Participants in the consultative process of the development of this Strategy have specifically addressed this issue, and in the outcome of the consultative process special attention has been given to the problem of regional differences. The analysis of the current situation in this field includes a few important aspects: young people in the labor market, type of employment, informal employment, the effect of education on employment, career guidance and professional counselling of young people, active measures and programs of employment, development of entrepreneurship and wage policy.

<u>Young people in the labor market.</u> The rate of active young people in the labor market is low. According to the information gathered by the Labor Force Survey[69] in 2006, the rate of active young people from 15 to 24 years of age was 37.4%, of which women represented 30.1%. Despite a small increase in comparison to 2005, when it was 35.8%, this rate is still far lower than the rate in the EU-25 labor market, where 45.1% of young people actively participate in the labor market. The reasons for the low rate of active young people is the postponement of employment due to education, the low rate of participation of women, the lack of appropriate qualifications and inappropriate education for those who did not obtain it during their study time or who dropped out of school, and still are not integrated in the labor market, as well as those living in rural areas[70].

On the other hand, when we examine young people through different generations, from teenagers to young adults, the situation changes significantly. In the group below 19-years of age only one fifth are active in the labor market, in the 20-24 years age group 53.6% of young people are active, and 75.1% in the age group of 25 to 29. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the rate of working young people aged between 15 and 29 is just 49.5%, in comparison to 63.6% of the total work force.

The unemployment rate among young people, which is significantly higher than that of the average population, gives an exceptionally bad picture of the situation of young people. Moreover, in 2006 the employment rate of young people (15-29) was only 30.1%, whereas the employment rate of women was especially low with 23.4%. The

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[69] Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2006), Bulletin "Labor Force Survey".
[70] ILO (2007), "Situation Analysis of Youth Employment in the Republic of Serbia", draft.

employment rate among the active employable population of Serbia was 49.9%. This tendency is accompanied by a disturbing unemployment rate of young people, which in 2006 was 39.2% while at the same time 44.4% of young women were unemployed. On account of the discrepancy between the educational system and the labor market, it is very difficult for young people to find a job, despite their acquired level of education. Furthermore, the majority of young people are long-term unemployed, and almost 4/5 of young people wait for employment for more than a year. Also, there is the high inflow of young people looking for their first job on the labor market, which basically results in an increase of the national unemployment rate.

Forms of employment The majority of young people finds their first job with an employer, thus, as high as 79% of young people are working for pay, while a significantly smaller number opts for self-employment (11%) and the rest helps their household members either in agricultural production or in shops. Viewed from a gender perspective, the situation is somewhat different, since a higher percentage of young women, in search of a secure job, choose to work for pay, while a very small amount of women has shown a tendency towards self-employment (5.6%).

Informal employment A big number of young people are active in the informal labor market. In 2005 the informal employment rate of young people was as high as 52.1% while the total informal employment rate was 26.7% among those working for pay. The main characteristic of young people in the informal labor market is a low level of education, as much as 86.4% lack any formal education and 65.8% have only finished elementary school. The lowest informal employment rate is among young people with higher education (15.9%)[71]. The high level of participation of young people in the informal labor market is in connection with low wages, poor career prospects and the slower development of quality working skills.

The influence of education on employment Education or more precisely, the profile of education is one of the decisive factors determining the future status of young people in the labor market. Being inadequately qualified represents the main reason for youth unemployment in Serbia today. Figures from the NEO (National Employment Office) show that in 2006 30% of all unemployed young people were unqualified or half-qualified i.e. persons with no professional skills, 62% have a third or forth degree of secondary school, while 8.6% of young people with higher education have inadequate educational profiles for which there is a little demand in the labor market. The qualification structure of unemployed young women is somewhat more unfavorable. 55% of unemployed young people are young unemployed women, 30.4% of them are without any qualifications, 59.3% of women have finished secondary school and 10.3% of young unemployed women have higher education.

Therefore, not only the level but also the profile and quality of education have an influence on better chances of young people to get employed. High level of education prevents, but not significantly, the transfer of persons from the status of unemployed to inactive. Thus, 12.7% of young people with higher education do not participate in the

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[71] World Bank (2006), Serbia: Labor Market Assessment, Report No. 36576-YU, p. 40.

labor force, while only 11% of young people with other forms of education are not involved in the labor market[72].

An analysis of the influence of education on youth employment[73] indicates an increasing gap between the level of education and skills, since the restructured corporate sector, as well as the sector of small and medium enterprises, in their effort to survive in the market, will demand knowledge that the educational system will not be able to supply if it does not react to the needs of modern economy. Therefore, the reform of the education system must be adjusted to the demand for work on the level of the national economy, as well as regional labor markets, and the education programs must be made flexible.

The concept of the socially responsible business represents only one of the possible ways for solving the problems of unemployment and informal labor of young people, as well as for upgrading the quality of the established working relation. Part of the business sector, as well as certain business associations, have already conducted different activities (such as organized visits to the business societies, seminars, etc) aimed at the development of know-how and consolidated knowledge. Since knowledge and skills are necessary for young people, it is important to encourage further cooperation with the companies and business associations that foster socially responsible business and stimulate young people to prepare themselves for the world of labor.

Employers should also become familiar with the opportunity to cooperate with the most talented young people who are the leaders of the social and economical prosperity of the country; at the same time, the needs of young people for professional advancement should be fulfilled.

Career guidance and occupational counselling of young people should consist of providing help to young people in schools and faculties concerning their choice of vocational training or profession, further education, employment, orientation toward training programs and additional education.

Therefore, an effective employment policy is only possible through a tight cooperation between the educational system and the institutions of the labor market. During 2006 43.8% of the total number of unemployed young people have been advised by occupational counsellors, assessing employment details and making individual employment plans. When referring to other measures of active job-seeking, most young people are seeking jobs through job seekers centres - 72.8%, by undergoing trainings for active job seeking – 64.1% and at job fairs – 52.1%, while only 12.7% of young people undertake trainings of self-effectiveness.

Active measures and programs of employment. In 2006, 7245 young people participated in various programs of training and additional education (including functional elementary education of adults, programs for apprentices, trainees and volunteers, trainings, pre-

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[72] Ibid.
[73] Aranderenko, M. (2006) "The Review of Issues Relating to the Transition from School to Work in Serbia", unpublished material, November 2006

qualification and additional qualification, financial aid for undergraduate jobseekers, trainings in virtual companies). Despite the small number of persons participating in a functional adult elementary education program, 83.1% were persons below the age of 30. Due to the basic purpose of the apprentices', trainees' and volunteers' programs, the highest number of young people below 30 years are participating in these programs, 66.2% in the trainee subsidies program, 81.1% and 67.2% in the trainee-volunteer and practitioner-volunteer programs, respectfully.

The participation of young people in training programs (foreign languages, computer skills) comes to nearly half of all participants, whereas the number of young people undertaking a virtual company training program is somewhat higher – 63.7%. Financial aid for undergraduates has been granted to 78% of young people, whereas 46.8% of young people took part in the pre-qualification and additional qualification programs. The negative fact that almost half of the total number of users of the pre-qualification and additional qualification programs are young people is an additional sign that the reform of the educational system should be quickened.

During 2006, a new tax incentive policy towards employers has been introduced with the aim of increasing youth employment. The Revised Compulsory Social Security Funding Act (Official Gazette of Serbia No. 62/06.) introduced tax reliefs for these categories of young people below 30 years of age: unemployed persons who get a first job as trainees, persons who were already employed and who were registered within NEO continuously at least three months before the new employment and persons with disabilities. According to the NEO's figures in the September-December period of 2006, due to the incentive measures, a total of 2438 persons below 30 years of age found employment, 738 trainees got their first job and 23 persons with disabilities were employed. Due to the significant budget effect, the implementation of this active measure demands a careful allocation of resources.

However, not all active measures and programs for employment of youth are sufficiently present on the regional labor markets. Almost 20-30% of all measures and programmes are conducted in Belgrade. The approach of developing and introducing active measures and programs for employment on the regional labor markets is vertical, i.e. most of the active measures are introduced in Belgrade at first, and later on the experience is transferred to other regions as well. Therefore, the request of young people to incorporate active measures and programs for employment at local self-government level, especially where there are no adequate secondary schools or where the percentage of youth unemployment is significantly higher than national average, is completely justifiable.

Development of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial skills of young people are underdeveloped as well as their participation in self-employment programs; this is caused by the lack of appropriate educational programs in secondary schools (excluding the new curriculum introduced in the pilot classes) that would influence the development of youth entrepreneurship. Therefore, it is necessary to create special programs for young people that would promote youth entrepreneurship. In 2006, the participation of young people in regional employment programs and subsidies for self-employment programs amounted to

approximately 2/5 of all beneficiaries, which is below average for the group of programs intending to develop youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that young people show a clear interest for setting up their own business, especially since a significant number of young people underwent the training for entrepreneurs organized by the Serbian Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship – 86.6% of the total number of participants were young people. Youth innovations should be encouraged through special national and local programs and support should be given to those projects that in a long-term sustainable way boost employment and local economic development.

<u>Wage policy.</u> The minimum wage in the Republic of Serbia is uniquely determined, twice annually, in an agreement set up between the respective social partners – the Government, the Union of Employers and the representatives of trade unions ("Nezavisnost" Trade Union Confederation, the Association of Free and Independent Trade Unions, and the Confederation Of Autonomous Trade Unions Of Serbia). The minimum wage is around 40% of the average net wage determined on the national level. Due to the fact that only a small percentage of employees notify the authorities of having a smaller average wage than the minimum wage[74], there is no risk that the minimum wage will have a negative effect on the employment of low qualified and non-qualified workers, which make up a significant number of unemployed young people. The same analysis shows that this very low minimum wage in comparison to the average wage deprives of its mandatory effects, therefore, making it a factor with no significant influence on the rate of employment i.e. the total number of employed persons, as well as on the employment of low productive non-qualified workers and young people.

Furthermore, the lack of work experience and the high percentage of young people working in the informal sector, with low wages, despite the achieved level of education, are the main factors differentiating wages of young people from the rest of the labor force. Taking into account the individual socio-economic characteristics of employed young people helps us in explaining the gap between wages reaching around 16%[75].

3.9. Youth safety

Young people are among the most common victims but also commiters of crime

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia has guaranteed to all citizens the right to personal freedom and safety. Safety is a basic condition for the personal development of youth. The stabilization and democratization of the political situation from the year 2000 until today significantly improved the safety of all citizens. Although an analysis of the present state shows that the youth safety is still not on a satisfactory level. The most important challenges, risks, and threats for the safety of youth represent crime, violence and traffic accidents.

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[74] World Bank (2006), Serbia: Labor Market Assessment, Report No. 36576-YU, p. 32.
[75] World Bank (2006), Serbia: Labor Market Assessment, Report No. 36576-YU, pp. 41-42.

Crime - Crime is an inevitable associate of each society, through all the periods of its development. Young people are among the most common perpetrators but also victims of crimes. Factors leading to crime are, among others, a high percentage of unemployment, easy access to fire arms as well as a flawed system of values[76]. Young people, as perpetrators (usually male) or victims (usually female), are represented in all fields of crime, especially in drug and sex trafficking and acts of violence. For example, more than 90% of identified victims of sex trafficking in the Republic of Serbia are younger than 30 years of age, they are mainly female and more and more of them are Serbian nationals as of lately.

A problem that needs special attention is juvenile crime. Although the phenomenon of juvenile crime is decreasing in the last few years, the use of aggression while committing a crime is not uncommon among minors. Only minors above the age of 14 are criminally responsible, younger persons fall under the responsibility of social care centers. The realization of educational measures and sentences anticipated by law demands a partnership and coordination among social, educational and health services and other institutions of the community. Because of the lack of appropriate interdisciplinary cooperation, and due to an undeveloped system for following the established educational measures and verdicts, courts rarely reach these measures[77].

Prerequisites for the adequate implementation of the provisions of the Law on Juvenile Delinquents and Criminal Defence of Minors are still not created, since in the part that refers to upbringing biddings and measures toward juveniles, not all necessary sublegal acts are adopted yet.

Violence – During the last few years, economic, social and political stabilization led to a general decrease in violence against youth. Nevertheless, although there is no general research, many people think that in the Republic of Serbia different kinds of violence are widespread among youth and against youth. Young people are prone to violence in the family, in partnership relations, at school, in the media, at different institutions for placement, care and upbringing, in the community and at work, both from older people responsible for upbringing and educating youth, including the family, as well as from their peers. Young people are often victims of violence because of their sexual or political orientation, because of belonging to an ethnic, religious or national group. Also, new technologies such as mobile phones and internet create new forms of violence. Violence against youth is most commonly hidden, because of many reasons. Young people do not report incidents of violence because of fear, shame, because they consider it as "normal", or due to a lack of trust in the actions of responsible institutions.

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[76] According to the data of the Ministry of internal affairs from November 2007, there are around 1,075,000 registered fire arms in the Republic of Serbia, which are owned by around 700,000 citizens. According to the Ministry, out of these 23,328 fire arms are owned by 17,966 persons between 18 and 30 years of age. Also, according to data supplied by UNDP for the year 2005, there are around 900,000 unregistered fire arms in the Republic of Serbia. Source of the research: "Living with heritage". Available at http://www.seesac.org/reports/SerbianSurvey_bcs.pdf.

[77] In year 2006, only 116 sentences and special obligations were reached, which represents only 0,7% of reached measures. Data are based on the analysis of the centers for social work about social and family- law protection.

Family violence in the Republic of Serbia has been a taboo for a long time which was not spoken about publicly. Nevertheless, in the last few years this subject has been gaining attention of the public and the state institutions. Measures for preventing family violence and the protection of children and youth from molesting and abuse are defined in adequate laws (Family law, Criminal Code). A General Protocol for the Protection of Children from Molesting and Abuse, as well as several special protocols, were adopted. The procedure for the adoption of the National Strategy for the Prevention and the Protection from Violence has been initiated. However, the state has still not set up a system for collecting statistical data about perpetrators and victims of family violence, which makes it hard to show tendencies. Also, research on that subject shows that family violence is a general and widespread appearance with tendencies of growth[78]. Further, research and official data show that the perpetrators are mostly men, while the victims are mostly women. In addition, a significant number of victims are children and youth[79].

Violence also occurs at school and in institutions for residential accommodation of youth. Violence among peers is more and more common. Around 65% of students are victims of violence among peers at least once in three months, while 44% of students remember having personally experienced violence during their school years[80]. It is also necessary to point out problems of mass fights in school facilities and theirs surrounding[81]. Young people living in institutions for residential accommodation are also exposed to violence. Although the first steps towards decentralization and humanization of living conditions were made in a course of the last couple of years, the present state of certain institutions for residential accommodation is still unsatisfactory with regard to infrastructural, material, technical and personnel capacities. Young people are held in those institutions for too long, they are isolated from the local society, with minimal chances of integration in the society.

Violence among youth is also frequent in public. In recent years, the violence of sports fans is becoming more and more common on the territory of the Republic of Serbia[82]. Behavior like this is becoming more extreme concerning the extent, form and tools used, and hate speech is commonly heard in stadiums. The problem of fights in bars and other public spaces visited by youth is also emphasized, in this context the use of firearms is not uncommon. This situation is facilitated by extended and illegal opening hours of bars and unefficient control by the responsible services.

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[78] "Violence in partnership relations and health" Autonomous women's center and WHO, Belgrade, 2005, available at http://www.womenngo.org.yu/publikacije-azc/istrazivanje-zdravlje.pdf; "Research of violence in family", Society of judges for legal offences, Belgrade, 2005, available at http://www.usudprek.org.yu/pdf/naspor.pdf, „Research offences with elements of family violence for the territory of the Republic of Serbia in the year 2004", Society of judges for legal offences, Belgrade 2005, available at http://www.usudprek.org.yu/pdf/izvestaj.pdf. According to data from the Ministry of internal affairs, in 2006 compared to 2005, there was a higher percentage of registered incidents of family violence of 35,8%. From January to August 2007, there were 108 incidents of family violence, in other words, 15% less than in the same period of the previous year (127).

[79] According to data for the year 2004, 24,7% of victims of family violence were younger than 30 years of age. Source: Research of offences with elements of family violence for the territory of the Republic of Serbia in the year 2004, page 32. According to data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 186 reported incidents of family violence committed against 206 juvenile persons in 2006.

[80] UNICEF, 2007.

[81] For example, only in the year 2006, different kinds of violent behavior at schools and in the vicinity of schools injured, 40 students heavily (Belgrade - 24), while 331 students suffered light physical injuries (Belgrade - 127). Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs.

[82] During 2006, according to data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 159 cases of breaches of peace during sports events in which 13 persons suffered severe injuries, while 146 suffered slight injuries. During the first 10 months of 2007 there were 87 cases of breaches of peace in which 23 persons suffered severe, while 172 persons suffered slight injuries.

It is especially important to emphasize the problem of extreme forms of discrimination and intolerance[83]. Dimensions of this problem could be anticipated by the time it was known that around 90% of extreme cases of discrimination and intolerance are never reported, because of the fear of revenge, lack of trust in responsible institutions or because of the fear of stigmatization[84]. Numerous reports and studies show that hate-driven incidents as well as hate speech are very present in our society[85]. According international organizations and NGOs in the Republic of Serbia, among the most endangered groups are Roma people, lesbian and gay population, minority religious groups, HIV positive, as well as other minority, marginalized and socially vulnerable groups[86].

Traffic accidents are one of the leading causes of death among youth both in the member countries of the OECD as well as in Serbia[87]. In addition to this, statistical data shows that Serbia is one of the leading countries in Europe when it comes to the rate of accidents in relation to the number of citizens and motor vehicles[88]. Young people in Serbia are part of and are responsible for two thirds of all recorded traffic accidents[89]. This situation is due to undeveloped road infrastructures, inadequate legal regulation, outdated driving school systems and insufficient driving culture. The safety problem can be attributed to the tendency of fast driving, non-use of seat-belts as well as driving under the influence of alcohol.

Traffic safety is now seen as a problem of youth health. This should be solved through the simultaneous implementation of preventive and control measures to be enforced by the police and the courts.

Continuous reform of the security sector presents one of the key prerequisites for the development of safe living conditions for young people. It also presents the prerequisite for the overall democratization and international integration of the state and the society, and related to that – for the increase of the overall quality of life of all citizens, including youth. During the last few years, huge effort have been undertaken to advance the reform and democratization of this sector, which has become the guaranty of safety, freedom and

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[83] One of the reasons is the nonexistence of a "hate crime" category in our legislation. The OSCE Ministerial Council encouraged all member states to collect and preserve statistical data about "hate crimes" and combat their occurrence Details at: http://www.osce.org/documents/mcs/2006/06/19330_en.pdf (link not valid!)

[84] „Combating Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: an Overview of Statistics, Legislations and National Initiatives", page 23.

[85] Some of the recent studies are: "Challenges and Responses to Hate Motivated Incidents in the OSCE Region: for the period January-June 2006", available at http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2006/10/21496_en.pdf; „Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region, incidents and responses: annual report for 2006", available at http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2005/09/16251_452_en.pdf; „Combating Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: an Overview of Statistics, Legislations and National Initiatives", available at http://www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2005/09/16251_452_en.pdf; "Political Violence in Serbia from October 2006 to April 2007", Youth Initiative for Human Rights, 2007, available at http://www.yihr.org/uploads/publications/bhs/17.pdf; "Hate motivated speech against the lesbian and gay population in electronic media", LABRIS, 2007, available at http://www.labris.org.yu/images/npublikacije/govor-mrznje.pdf; "Research about violence against LGBTTIQ population in Serbia", LABRIS, Belgrade, 2006, available at http://www.labris.org.yu/images/npublikacije/istrazivanje_web.pdf; Report of Human Rights Watch about violence against minorities for 2005 "Dangerous Indifference: violence against minorities in Serbia", available at http://hrw.org/reports/2005/serbia1005.

[86] Ibid.

[87] http://www.amss.org.yu/un/makeroadssafe.html, National Statistical Office.

[88] Source: Eurostat / EC. Health in Europe. Data 1998-2003. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities 2005, page 101. Available at URL: www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat.

[89] During the period of January to October 2007, there were 3.109 reported incidents of violence against against means of public transport committed by young people. Source: Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

rights of all citizens. However, in order to improve work in this area and increase the level of trust of all citizens in the work of the security system, it is i.a. necessary to finish initiated reforms in the segment of democratic civic control of the armed forces. It especially refers to the police, judicial system and the private security agencies that are of crucial importance for the personal and collective safety of young people.

3.10. Youth health – health-conscious behavior, risk factors and prevention of health disorders

> **Youth health represents multiple values and is the basis for sustainable development of every society, it depends on efforts made for its preservation and improvement.**

An understanding and stimulation of youth health as the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not only an absence of illnesses and inabilities[90], emphasizes the unbreakable bond between the individual way of life and the investment in preconditions of health, which involve appropriate social and economic requirements and surrounding, as well as stable ecosystem (sentence too long and evolved). Especially during adolescence[91] the physical, mental and social maturation is connected to specific health needs and priorities. Nevertheless, young people are usually considered healthy as health statistics in Serbia show the lowest morbidity and mortality rate among this age group[92]. Due to this, our analysis is based on health instead of illness[93]. Besides healthy and risky behavior, the capacity of the health system to recognize, respond adequately and timely to health issues of youth, is also analyzed.

Appropriate diet, physical activity and nutritional misbalance. Studies show that the young Serbian population tends to exercise insufficient control of personal health and displays high-risk behavior[94][95]. Appropriate diet, physical activity and prevention of disorders, especially obesity, represent health challenges of the 21st century in the European region[96], and especially in the Republic of Serbia, taking into consideration the irregular nutritional regime, increased availability of "fast food" products, along with the decrease of possibilities for organized physical activities.

Personal hygiene, dental hygiene and insuffient dental hygiene. Daily personal hygiene is a powerful tool for the prevention of infectious diseases and its promotion has been one

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[90] Constitution of WHO.
[91] Adolescence refers to the first subgroup of young people, defined in the part "Who are the young people in Serbia", i.e. to the period between 15 and 19 years of age.
[92] Strategy for youth development and health in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2006.
[93] Research on the health of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2007.
[94] UNICEF, MICS-2005.
[95] European Agency for Reconstruction, Research about the abuse of psychoactive substances among adolescents in Serbia in 2005, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2006.
[96] The challenge of obesity in the WHO European Region and the strategies for response. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe 2007.

of the public health achievements of the 20th century. Unfortunately, daily personal hygiene, such as taking a shower or brushing the teeth, has decreased among the youth in the Republic of Serbia during 2006, in comparison with the year 2000, and is less frequent among the poor population. Only 34% of those poorest are bathing or taking a shower more than three times a week.

Sexual behavior, teenage pregnancy and abortions. According to the results of numerous studies the frequency of sexual activity among young people in the Republic of Serbia is increasing. That is displayed by the increasing extent of sexually active persons among the youth, and the increased frequency of sexual activity among younger adolescents (up tp the age of 15). According the research from 2006, 29% of young people aged between 15 and 19 have had sexual relations (significantly more male than female). Regarding students, around three fourths of male students are sexually active, and more than one half of female students between the age of 19 and 21[97]. It is assessed that each year there are around 50 pregnancies among 1000 girls from the age of 15 to 19. Analyzing the model of reproductive behavior of citizens of the Republic of Serbia, among adolescents is remarked an unsatisfactory trend of preserving relatively high rates of specific fertility (number of pregnant women in population of 1000 females of certain age), compared to older age groups. During the last five decades, this rate has shown a decrease in the groups of older adolescents, in the group of girls up to the age of 16 it has remained stable, while in the group of girls up to the age of 15 it has increased. With regard to the total number of childbirths, according to official statistics, 7,3% are women younger than 20 years of age. The rate of childbirths among women between the age of 15 and 19 is 17,4 out of 1000 women of this age group.

There is no reliable data concerning the number of abortions. Abortion, with regard to women who have not given birth before, carries the risk of future miscarriages and premature births, as well as infertility, and development of the private health sector negatively influenced on the registration of those patients. Studies among the youth population point to the high rate of abortions, and show that 40% of young women were at least once pregnant, from which 20% had one or more abortions. It is estimated that there are six to seven thousand adolescent girls who are subjected to this kind of medical treatment each year. According to findings of smaller, more in-depth studies one out of six girls from Belgrade under 19 years of age, who started her sexual activity during adolescence, experienced an unplanned pregnancy. Nevertheless, according to official data of the National Statistical Office the rate of abortions is 4,33 out of a 1000 women in this age group.

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS. There is a growing awareness that young people are those who could change the course and direction of epidemics of STDs. At the same time, young people are those who best accept programs for the prevention of spreading HIV and they are successful both in participation and promotion of the prevention actions. Significant efforts were made with regard to organizing preventive activities related to the control of HIV/AIDS during the last few years, and it is encouraging that a larger number of people is using condoms during sexual intercourse in

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[97] Strategy for youth development and health in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, Ministry of health, 2006.

a relationship shorter then 6 months, compared with the last decade[98][99]. Unfortunately, there is still a significantly low rate of voluntary HIV testing (2,7 out of a 1000 citizens). For these reasons, the dimension of the STD problem among youth in the republic of Serbia can only be estimated, which is also due to inadequate registration of these diseases. Routine controls show that some of the STD, such as gonorrhea, are on average 3 to 4 times more present in the age group of 20 to 29 years of age, than in other age groups (in the year 2006, the incidence of gonorrhea in this group was 3,93, while on average it was 0,91). A similar observation was made concerning chlamydia infections, whose incidence of 63,91 in the age group between 20 and 29 years of age, was significantly higher than republic average (29,24)[100]. Studies show that these health disorders among sexually active adolescents are far more present[101]. In such a way, according to one research, chlamydia infections of genital organs in a group of 300 sexually active girls of the age of 19 were present in 30% of cases. Under the risk of STDs are especially young people who do not have regular sexual partners, who are having commercial sex and/or have sexual intercourse under the influence of alcohol and other PAS (psycho-active substances), when unsafe sex is practiced commonly. According to a research done by UNICEF in the Republic of Serbia (MICS-2005), as much as 60% of young women from 15 to 24 years of age state that they had sexual intercourse with irregular partners during the last year, confirming the presence of risky behavior.

Mental health and disorders of mental health. Clinical experience and results of studies in the Republic of Serbia point to significant psychological suffering of the youth population, which is commonly related to the period of adolescence[102]. Young people display certain, age-specific, psychopathology[103]. Research shows that one third of the high school population shows signs of psychological suffering and mental problems. Similar data was obtained from a study made among the student population. Girls and adolescents in urban societies are more endangered. The most common psychopathologic manifestations are depression and behavioral disorders. According to data from the National Statistical Office, in 1990 there were 99 registered cases of suicide of young people between the age of 15 and 29, followed by an increase of cases until its culmination in 1997 (192), followed by decreasing tendencies until 2005 (106 cases). However, in the year 2006, as much as 120 cases of suicide were registered. Behavioral disorders and delinquency also have an increasing trend and they occur in variable forms.

Use (abuse) of psychoactive substances and dependency. The level of recognition and prevention of different health risks of the youth population is not satisfactory. Although the number of young smokers decreased by 7% from 2000 to 2006[104], frequent consumption of alcohol (25%) exceeds the average of countries of the European

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[98] Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2005, Belgrade, UNICEF, 2007.
[99] Research of health in the Republic of Serbia – 2006, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2007.
[100] Data basis for the year 2006 of the Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut".
[101] Strategy for youth development and health in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2006.
[102] Strategy for youth development and health in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2006.
[103] Strategy for development of mental health protection, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2007.
[104] Research of health in the Republic of Serbia – 2006, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2007.

Union[105]. Almost every fifth young person in the Republic of Serbia states that some of his/her friends consume narcotics, and a significantly higher number of young people was in a situation to try narcotics. Addictions rank 15th place as a reason for hospitalization of students, although, they are first place by the number of days spent in hospital in 2006[106]. When we talk about psychoactive substances it is important to mention that there is specific legislation aimed at prohibiting the selling of psychoactive substances to minors (including alcohol and tobacco, and other substances are generally prohibited), which needs to be fully implemented. The prevention of trade and the arrest of responsibles also play a great role in decreasing the availability of those substances.

Health care system. Although the health care system represents only one of the determinants of health, its influence on improvement and preservation of health, as well as on removal of consequences of health disturbance is great. Potential effects of that influence are even bigger if the health care system manages through public advocacy to integrate components of health preservation into all other sectors of society and if it manages to achieve as close as possible a cooperation with those sectors. Concerning the availability of primary health care, in the year 2006 almost every second person younger than 19 years of age stated that it had a pediatrician or general physician, this percentage is significantly lower among the poor. Although only 7% of all persons stated that they had specific health problems during the last month, it is surprising that 46 % of them did not use health services considering it was a minor health disturbance, so they treated themselves[107]. On average, adolescent girls go to a gynecologist for routine health checks when they are 16,5 years old, even though, at the age of 15 to19 only 18% do this. From those who went to see a gynecologist 8% did it because of a pregnancy, while only 3,4% did it in order to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Nevertheless, looking at disabled women in the age group of 21 to 29, only 9,8% had complete gynecological examinations, which may indicate the low awareness of the importance of control of reproductive health among young people with disabilities, as well as potential barriers which decrease the availability and use of health care of this delicate population group[108]. Before the adoption of the Strategy for the Development and Health of Youth, there were no specific documents, and especially legislation related to the health of youth which, due to general resource deficiency, lead to unclear responsibilities and insufficiently defined competency, not only in a health care system, but also in others parts of the society. The exception is the rule book on detail instructions for conducting health care activities in health institutions and other forms of health services[109], in part this is related to health protection of school children. In a county central office, in municipalities with at least 7.000 school children of the age of 10 to 18 years, consultancy for youth may be organized consisting of: one pediatrician and one nurse, along with one psychologist and a gynecologist with a specialization in obstetrics working part-time, and if needed a medical doctor of another specialisation and a social worker. The Strategy for Youth Development and Health in the Republic of Serbia emphasizes the need to provide

[105] Research about abuse of psychoactive substances among adolescents in Serbia in 2005, Belgrade, Ministry of Health, 2006.

[106] Data basis for the year 2006 of the Institute for Public Health of the Republic of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut".

[107] Bjeloglav D, Daiv H, Krstić G, Matković G. Questionnaire about the standard of living in the year 2003 – 2003 (? Year seems to be wrong). Life in Serbia according to the results of the research, Belgrade: Strategic Marketing , 2007.

[108] Anđelić S. Women with disabilities and health protection, Belgrade, available at www.izkruga.org.

[109] Rule book on detail instructions for conducting health care activities in health institutions and other forms of health services ("Official Bulletin of the Republic of Serbia", No. 43/06).

comprehensive health services for young people that are: trustful and of high-quality, based on the needs of young people, conducted by motivated, friendly and professional health workers and counselors in safe surroundings for youth, and in whose planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation young people play the key role.

3.11. Youth, environment and sustainable development

Young people have both the interest and the obligation to deal with the issues of environment and sustainable development, since they have to live with the consequences of that what was left to them by previous generations and they have to think about future generations.

Problems related to the environment and sustainable development became very complex and they require special attention, especially referring to youth. Young people possess the talent for the development of new forms of action, adopting knowledge, raising awareness and changing the attitude, which enables them to respond successfully to challenges in the environment and sustainable development. Basic results of the upbringing and the education of youth should be directed toward achieving higher standards of living for present and future generations, through enabling the society in general to accept the new living philosophy based on ecological ethics and the concept of sustainable development. Taking into consideration the role of young people in this field, it is important to bear in mind that the key problem is insufficient linking between the sectors of the environment, health and education, as well as the problems of poverty and lack of multidisciplinary approach[110].

The general condition of the environment in the Republic of Serbia is not of a satisfying level. This concerns the situation of water and water resources, the condition of biodiversity, as well as the condition of forests, terrain and air. Additionally, the disposal of droppings and chemicals is inadequate. Condition of the environment additionally influences negatively on the factors of the environment in the Republic of Serbia in numerous sectors.

In the field of environmental policy, there is also an insufficient cooperation between (?) the environmental protection policy and other sectors: lack of institutional capacities to respond to existing problems, inefficient system of monitoring and reporting about the environment, insufficient number of regulations, inadequacy of existing regulations, as well as inefficient implementation of the regulations. There is also the problem of the low level of investments in this field, as well as the lack of economic incentives and awareness level (insufficient education and information) concerning environmental problems and sustainable development is extremely low.

Educational situation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development

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[110] World Youth Report 2003, Chapter five: "Youth and the environment, Report of the Secretary-General".

The national program for environmental protection emphasizes two principles: 1) principle of raising awareness about the importance of environmental protection, in which is promoted the significance of education, in order to increase the level of the problems by public, and 2) principle of public information and participation, which says that data about the condition are public[111]. One of the national priorities is the adoption of the Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Serbia. In the information society era, knowledge is the key isntrument for development. It is necessary to complement the educational curricula and programs on all levels of education with subjects related to environmental protection and sustainable development, and to prepare and train teachers in these areas.

Priority goals and direct measures that should contribute to the development of an education system for environmental protection and sustainable development refer to providing more favorable conditions for economic-financial, institutional and technical support in the process of reforms. More than 20 faculties have established departments or groups for elaborating topics related to the environment on the level of undergraduate and postgraduate studies. There are 21 accredited training programs in the area of ecology and 19 in the area biology to improve the knowledge of teachers. However, the general remark is that in the Republic of Serbia formal forms of education in the field of environmental protection are insufficiently developed.

Further, non-formal education and other forms of raising awareness are also insufficiently coordinated and not available to all classes of the population. The national program for environmental protection suggests the introduction of small subsidies for non-governmental organizations that participate in environmental education and conduct activities to raise awareness.

Education on sustainable development is the imperative in our time and a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. Efforts in sustainable development education should result in: raising awareness, obtaining knowledge and building attitudes that are necessary for the acceptance of sustainable life styles, sustainable production and consumption and sustainable management of the environment. The Republic of Serbia, as a member of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), has worked on the implementation of the Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) during the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development[112]. A working group for the implementation of the UNECE Regional Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, i.e. for the preparation of the Action Plan with the participation of representatives of the state, business and private sector, was formed. The implementation of that Action Plan will contribute to the fulfillment of obligations arising from the joint statement on education for sustainable development by the Ministers of Education and of the Environment of the UNECE Region adopted at the joint session on education for

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[111] National Report on Environmental Protection (Proposal), 2007.
[112] United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, proclaimed in General Assembly resolution A/RES/57/254, 2002.

sustainable development during the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"[113].

Information of youth about the state of the environment
In the field of informing, there are two basic aspects: the issue of information about the state of the environmental, both on the local and global level, and the availability of information related to risks for youth health, which refer to their environment. The promotion of healthy life-styles is one of the priority tasks of information. In order to fulfill these tasks successfully, it is necessary to solve problems of assessment and monitoring concerning the state of the environment, and to provide better access to and gathering of information[114].

Approach to information, as well as public participation in decision-making processes has significantly improved in recent years. The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia as well as numerous laws that came into force between 2004 and 2005 declare the obligation of relevant bodies to publish information, recognize citizens' rights to information and participation in decision-making processes.

By establishing an Agency for Environmental Protection, the information flow on the environment situation was improved at all levels (local and national, between different sectors). However, the compatibility of data and reporting standards in the field of environmental protection has not been ensured yet. It is therefore not possible to create a complete picture of the state of the environment. The media and information communication technologies play a significant role in this process.

The influence of the environment on youth health
The environment is one of the most important determinants that define youth health[115]. At the end of the eighties processes of evaluation and monitoring of the influences of the environment on the health of the population, especially on children and youth, were started in Europe. Ahead of Serbia lies a long way of developing connections and creating capacities for a modern multisectoral approach in this field. The data base of the Environment and Health Information System in Europe (ENHIS) has 29 indicators for the environment and health, some of these refer explicitly to children and youth as the most sensitive part of the population. In the Republic of Serbia, about 70% of these indicators are followed, although the irregular reporting of our country to the World Health Organisation (WHO) caused that in international presentation and exchange of data there were only five indicators of the environment and health at the time. Four recognized environmental risks for youth health are: lack of accessibility to clean drinking water and sanitation, injuries related to traffic, polluted air and dangerous chemicals and professional risks.

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[113] Economic and Social Council, Implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development: First phase (2007), Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007.
[114] It is especially important to ratify the 1998 Arhus Convention (UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, usually known as the Aarhus Convention). The Law on ratification was adopted by the Government on December 28, 2007.
[115] Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Youth Declaration, Budapest, Hungary, 23-25 June 2005

Out of the abovementioned risks, one of the biggest problems in the Republic of Serbia is air pollution caused by industrial emission or traffic. The exposure to a high concentration of atmospheric/troposheric ozone, RM_{10} and RM_{25}, sumphoroxide, nitrogen, oxides, heavy metals and the like is of extreme danger. Young people exposed to a high concentration of lead have shown behavioral changes, slower intellectual development as well as many other psychological and neurological symptoms, such as learning problems and a lack of concentration[116]. Air quality in closed rooms influences youth health a lot. According to the Strategy for Youth Health and Development adopted by the Government in 2006, a large number of young people are exposed smoke, either as active smokers (24% of the student population smokes) or through the exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke (97,4% of young people). Well-known health risks caused by smoking constitute a problem that can be reduced by implementing high-quality legislative and legal measures.

Young people outdoors (water, air, food) are especially exposed to dangerous chemicals, but we cannot forget their exposure in the working environment as well. Since young persons can start working at the age of 15 (when his/her development is still in process), it is very important to strictly follow legislation prohibiting the work of minors at workplaces with the special risk. We also have to think about the work of children and youth in rural households, that can also be risky for their health.

Young people and sudden life-threatening natural disasters
Numerous natural distasters (earthquakes, floods, storms, snow avalanches, fires, traffic accidents, production and use of dangerous materials, accidental pollution of the air, water and terain, contagious diseases and ohers) refer to the need for young people to be aware of environmental health risks and to take measures and activities for their removing or overcoming.

4. SPECIFIC GOALS AND MEASURES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

The Strategy has defined eleven objectives, that are elaborated in this chapter through the specific goals and measures that lead to their achievement. At the end of each part that refers to the objective are mentioned the institutions that are in charge for the realization of these objectives.

In the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy the activities, expected results, indicators of the accomplishment of the results, jurisdictions, deadlines, financial means, forms of monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy implementation and the possibilities for its further improvement will be defined.

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[116] The average annual concentration of lead in the period of 1995 to 2005 in all ten placed in Belgrade where air-pollution from the traffic had been monitored was higher than regular (Environment in Serbia, Report based on indicators, Agency for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, 2007).

4.1. To encourage young people to participate actively in society
Specific goal
4.1.1. To motivate, educate and support young people concerning their active participation in society

Measures
4.1.1.1. Supporting initiatives whose aim is systematic and organized education of youth and general population about children rights, human rights and obligations, citizens' rights and obligations and the importance of active participation in society;
4.1.1.2. Establishing support mechanisms for programs, institutions and organizations whose aim is to promote active citizenship and education about active participation;
4.1.1.3. Establishing and strengthening existing networks of educators for children;
4.1.1.4. Providing possibilities for opening youth centres (and supporting their work) that would be in charge of gathering, socializing, creative acting and non-formal education of youth. Youth centers will also be the informative centres that would support young people in the creation and realization of their own activities and organizations;
4.1.1.5. Supporting the initiatives that provide the participation of young people in politics.

Specific goal
4.1.2. To improve the quality and equal dissemination of programs that contribute to a more active youth participation in society

Measures
4.1.2.1. Defining measures that support institutional development at the local level, which will be responsible for the development and assessment of the youth policy and local action plans for youth in cooperation with the youth organizations and representatives of young people (establishing the youth offices);
4.1.2.2. Defining active measures for the cooperation with the local authorities in order to provide quality offers for young people (especially from smaller regions), so that young people are offered to develop and express their potentials, find jobs and secure a stable future;
4.1.2.3. Supporting initiatives whose aim is to strengthen cooperation and understanding between pupils, students, professors, parents and representatives of local self government, and creating the space for democratic conversation in educational institutions.

Specific goal
4.1.3. To develop and improve quality standards of youth work and mechanisms for its monitoring and improvement

Measures

4.1.3.1. Establishing a permanent consultative process with youth organizations in order to identify best-practice examples for the promotion of youth activism, and establishing mechanisms for efficient transmission of the lessons learnt;

4.1.3.2. Developing and implementing the quality standards in youth work, mechanisms for its independent monitoring, ways for continuous development of youth work;

4.1.3.3. Developing and implementing the standards of education, improvement and training of professionals and volunteers working with young people;

4.1.3.4. Developing and implementing the standards of the profession "youth worker".

Specific goal

4.1.4 To establish mechanisms for encouraging, organizing and assessing voluntary youth work

Measures

4.1.4.1. Supporting the development of regulations that define issues related to voluntarism and voluntary work, in order to provide a minimum of rights guaranteed by the state for volunteers and volunteer organizations;

4.1.4.2. Supporting the establishment of mechanisms for the assessment of voluntary youth work, through the recognition of knowledge, skills and working experience obtained through voluntary work, in order to provide benefits to volunteers;

4.1.4.3. Creating the mechanisms and defining the standards for the support of voluntary work, with the aim of providing quality and sustainability of this type of social engagement;

4.1.4.4. Encouraging the promotion of the system of values of voluntarism, with the aim to point out the social need for voluntary programs and advantages of voluntary work;

4.1.4.5. Providing conditions for voluntarism in all areas of social life;

4.1.4.6. Encouraging and supporting all types of voluntarism among pupils and students, with the aim of providing conditions for volunteering in schools and at faculties.

Specific goal

4.1.5 To form support programs to achieve youth mobility

Measures

4.1.5.1. Forming a National Youth Agency as an independent body that will establish a partnership with the European Union program for young people (Youth in Action) and other partnerships with relevant international programs for youth cooperation;

4.1.5.2. Providing for the participation of youth organizations and relevant state institutions in the structures and programs for youth within the European and international institutions, as well as providing for the membership of young people and youth organizations in international organizations;

4.1.5.3. Establishing a regular cooperation with the state bodies dealing with youth in South Eastern European (SEE) countries, in order to give active support and motivate young people for their participation in activities within the region and in cross-boarder cooperation;

4.1.5.4. Establishing a cooperation with transportation companies in order to enter into new agreements concerning discounts and low fares for youth for all types of national and local public transport;

4.1.5.5. Facilitating travel abroad for all young people (e.g. simplifying and abolishing visa requirements);

4.1.5.6 Supporting the organization of regional, national and international conferences, seminars, trainings and other meetings that promote cross-cultural dialogue and cultural diversity, and give active support to young people (especially from vulnerable groups) to participate in them.

Specific goal
4.1.6 To develop civil society by supporting youth voluntarism and activism

Measures
4.1.6.1. Organizing the educational activities for the improvement of cooperation, exchange of best-practice examples and communication between three sectors (civil, state and private);

4.1.6.2. Supporting the actions, programs and initiatives for encouraging and realizing youth creativity, work and responsibility;

4.1.6.3. Empowering young vulnerable groups to actively participate in society through programs that support active achievement of human rights;

4.1.6.4. Stimulating educational programs dedicated to youth that will encourage youth initiatives and leadership;

4.1.6.5. Starting initiatives for introducing tax incentives for donors that invest in the development of activism, voluntarism and socially responsible business directed towards youth;

4.1.6.6. Supporting the actions, programs and initiatives that promote tolerance, a culture of nonviolence and gender equality among youth.

Specific goal
4.1.7 To increase the participation of young women in high-level decision-making

Measures
4.1.7.1. Decreasing gender stereotypes in the educational system;

4.1.7.2. Removing gender stereotypes in the media and promote gender equality;

4.1.7.3. Supporting affirmative measures and create social conditions for equal chances for promotion to the top levels of decision-making.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Youth and Sports, local community, youth organizations, business organizations in local environment, Ministry of Education, NGOs, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health.

4.2. To develop youth cooperation and provide conditions for participation in decision-making processes through a sustainable institutional framework, based on the needs of young people, and in partnership with youth

Specific goal
4.2.1. To define the term "youth organization" and set working standards

Measures
4.2.1.1. Initiating a consultative process with the aim to define the term "youth organization" and criteria for differentiating organizations whose members are young people from organizations that work for youth and with youth, as well as the concepts of national, regional and local youth organization;
4.2.1.2. Supporting the adoption process of the new law on citizens' associations and providing financial means for its implementation (it will be the basis for defining and more quality work of youth organizations in the light of defined criteria);
4.2.1.3. Developing the quality standards of acting, as well as principles of youth organizing through the consultative process, and supporting its implementation;
4.2.1.4. Adopting the law that will deal with youth issues.

Specific goal
4.2.2 To develop institutional support with regard to the formation, financing and activities of youth organizations and program activities of those organizations working for young people

Measures
4.2.2.1. Creating the mechanisms for continuous encouragemen and financial support of young people at local community level, for the organization and realization of their activities;
4.2.2.2. Establishing youth offices on the national and local level, and defining their scope of work;
4.2.2.3. Giving institutional support to youth organizations by financing capacity-building measures and activities dedicated to youth;
4.2.2.4. Enabling the use of state-owned properties for the needs of young people and youth activism through active intersectoral cooperation;
4.2.2.5. Promoting the creation/establishment of educational institutions that are needed by youth organizations, and defining the criteria and possibilities for the free use of school facilities on behalf of youth organizations if the facilities are not used otherwise;
4.2.2.6. Supporting initiatives of youth organizations related to international cooperation and merging of international funds and institutions as an important aspect of integration and exchange of knowledge and experiences;
4.2.2.7. Standardizing and improving the work of student parliaments and other forms of pupil/student/youth organizing.

Specific goal
4.2.3. To adopt a co-management concept concerning processes and concepts as the basis for cooperation of local and national authorities with youth

Measures
4.2.3.1. Adopting and implementing the educational programs on all levels - from local to state authorities - and among young people, regarding the importance, advantages, possibilities and forms of active youth participation in common bodies and organs;
4.2.3.2. Supporting the concrete measures to actively include youth representatives in decision-making organs and bodies at all levels dealing with youth issues and in all institutions, based on the principle of co-deciding;
4.2.3.3. Starting an initiative for the legal regulation of a codetermination concept;
4.2.3.4. Implementing the co-decision principle within the state bodies, especially within the commissions that make financial decisions concerning youth organizations and their programs;
4.2.3.5. Supporting initiatives whose aim is to change the attitude and approach of older persons towards active youth participation, mainly in decision-making processes, and to shift the focus from "listening to young people" to their "full active participation".

Specific goal
4.2.4. To promote the importance of cooperation between youth organizations, networking and trust-building

Measures
4.2.4.1. Defining forms, models and ways of cooperation between youth organizations on all levels, from local to national;
4.2.4.2. Financially supporting youth initiatives and organizations for establishing youth representation at all levels of the co-decision process;
4.2.4.3. Establishing a permanent dialogue of all institutions and organizations by defining efficient mechanisms for the communication and cooperation between ministries, business societies, media and citizens' associations;
4.2.4.4. Starting an initiative for the improvement of existing legal frameworks for the work of student parliaments in order to more precisely define the role and obligations of the parliament, as well as to provide voting rights for representatives of the parliaments in all decision-making processes.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Youth and Sports, Citizens' Associations, local self-government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth.

4.3. To improve the dissemination of information to young people at all levels and in all fields

Specific goal
4.3.1. To provide comprehensive and evidence-based information to young people about possibilities and perspectives at the local and national level

Measures
4.3.1.1. Developing youth portal that would be the central youth information point for all areas which are included in this Strategy;
4.3.1.2. Establishing youth office at the national level;
4.3.1.3. Establishing youth office at the local level.

Specific goal
4.3.2. To make available relevant information about the rights of young people, as well as about possibilities and options for young people

Measures
4.3.2.1. Supporting initiatives whose aim is to educate and inform young people about their rights and obligations;
4.3.2.2. Establishing cooperation with the educational institutions and organizations of pupils and students in order to increase the level of information about voluntarism;
4.3.2.3. Establishing an information system for young people about the possibilities to travel, study, participate in exchanges, competitions, different events, etc;
4.3.2.4. Providing the approach to the information directly related to youth, and enabling the retracing information in the situations of co-management or youth participation in the consultative process.

Specific goal
4.3.3. To enrich the program schemes of media companies with content of educational character that is suitable for youth

Measures
4.3.3.1. Encouraging the production and export of high-quality programs for youth, as well as implementation and improvement of measures to prevent the broadcasting of unsuitable programs;
4.3.3.2. Developing the information programs or introduction of blocks in existing information programs dedicated for information of interest to youth;
4.3.3.3. Encouraging the volunteering of young people in media companies, especially in those companies that use national frequencies;
4.3.3.4. Improving the information flow concerning activities conducted by various institutions and stakeholders related to formal and non-formal education of youth;
4.3.3.5. Networking data from the information systems of different sectors that are dealing with formal and non-formal education of youth;

4.3.3.6 Making available information about the quality of work of educational institutions to the wider community;

4.3.3.7. Adopting and implementing the codex on broadcasting programs containing elements of violence, pornography and other socially unacceptable behaviors.

Specific goal
4.3.4. To increase the level of PC literacy among youth

Measures
4.3.4.1. Increasing the availability of training for all categories of young people, especially from vulnerable groups, through voucher financing of education for information technologies;

4.3.4.2. Increasing the availability of internet and cable television to all young people;

4.4.4.3. Providing internet access in all schools and other educational and cultural institutions.

Specific goal
4.3.5. To increase the level of information of young people about the choice of profession, employment possibilities and labor market perspectives

Measures
4.3.5.1. Developing the career counseling at all educational levels, with the support of professional teams;

4.3.5.2. Developing implementing the career guiding and counseling system for youth at all education levels with the support of professional teams, and especially through the work of the youth offices;

4.3.5.3. Bringing closer to youth in all environments the services of the Center for Information and Professional Counseling within the National Employment Office;

4.3.5.4. Providing information for young people about the situation and the perspectives on the national and local labor markets;

4.3.5.5. Providing more efficient counseling services in the work with youth.

Specific goal
4.3.6. To build global electronic networking among youth organizations which promote sustainable development

Measures
4.3.6.1. Supporting, both financial and logistic, and encouraging youth NGOs.

Specific goal
4.3.7. To develop informative programs which are dedicated to youth

Measures

4.3.7.1. Establishing concrete forms of cooperation with media and providing the place for young people in decision-making processes about program content.

Institutions in charge

Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, National Employment Office, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Local Self-Government, Citizens' Associations, media.

4.4. To provide equal chances for all young people in society, and especially for who live under difficult conditions

Specific goal

4.4.1. To establish a functional cross-sectoral cooperation in order to ensure a holistic approach in estimation and satisfaction of the needs of vulnerable young people

Measures

4.4.1.1. Adjusting the laws, adopting the protocols on cooperation;

4.4.1.2. Introducing the professional standards for providing services that refer to assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation of the needs of vulnerable young people in cooperation with institutions and social services.

Specific goal

4.4.2. To reduce the number of young people in residential accommodation and to improve the offer and the quality of services to those young people who stay in the institutions

Measures

4.4.2.1. Developing social services for young people that arise from the institutional protection system ("House on the half way", "Housing with the support");

4.4.2.2. Adopting the mid-term plans for the transformation of institutions for the residential accommodation of young people in the direction of development of the services in the community;

4.4.2.3 Supporting the process of decreasing accommodation capacities within the institutions;

4.4.2.4. Implementing the basic structural and functional standards for residential accommodation;

4.4.2.5. Providing the continuous education of employees within the institutions for residential accommodation.

Specific goal
4.4.3 To develop local community services to support the life of young people in their families and natural environment

Measures
4.4.3.1. Developing the different forms of foster care for different groups of young people (young people without parental care, disabled youth, young offenders);
4.4.3.2. Developing the different local social services that support those remaining in their family (household help, daily centers, resting places, etc);
4.4.3.3. Defining the basic standards for local social services;
4.4.3.4. Developing the outreach programs and youth shelters for those living on the street.

Specific goal
4.4.4 To reduce prejudices towards vulnerable young people

Measures
4.4.4.1. Organizing the campaigns to reduce prejudices against vulnerable young people;
4.4.4.2. Organizing the different forms of education and improvement in the field of multiculturalism and social justice for representatives of offices and institutions that are getting in touch with vulnerable young people;
4.4.4.3. Including young people, especially those from vulnerable groups, in the creation and realization of media campaigns and educational programs.

Specific goal
4.4.5 To include vulnerable young people in active and productive community life

Measures
4.4.5.1. Ensuring the accessibility to social, health and other services in constructor, organizational and program sense for vulnerable young people;
4.4.5.2. Providing the development and use of all technical facilities in television programs, movies, theatre, sport, tourist and other contents for uninterrupted consuming by vulnerable groups of young people;
4.4.5.3. Encouraging and promoting the participation of vulnerable young people in sports, paralympic sports and common activities;
4.4.5.4. Providing support for vulnerable young people to receive personal documents and realize their human rights.

Specific goal
4.4.6 To create conditions (space, equipment and staff) for making sports more massive and accessible to vulnerable young people

Measures
4.4.6.1. Establishing special funds for the support of recreational sport: purposeful construction of spaces and equipping of existing space, making them more massive;
4.4.6.2. Developing promotional and free activities of sports clubs and centers;
4.4.6.3. Organizing the public promotions, awarding of grants and specific awards to individuals and programs dealing with vulnerable groups.

Specific goal
4.4.7. To ensure the realization of the right to education for all young people, by providing equal opportunities for learning and development

Measures
4.4.7.1. Providing the realization of individual support measures with regard to formal and non-formal education for vulnerable young people, in order to achieve a maximum of academic and social development in line with the concept of the inclusive society;
4.4.7.2. Defining an adequate legal framework for system solutions that support inclusive education;
4.4.7.3. Defining additional measures for the inclusion of vulnerable young people in the education system;
4.4.7.4. Supporting programs of non-formal education dedicated to vulnerable young people;
4.4.7.5. Building a legal framework for the allocation of certain budget parts and donors' funds to increase the capacity of providing educational services in undeveloped regions.

Specific goal
4.4.8. To increase the availability of cultural contents to vulnerable young people

Measures
4.4.8.1. Maintaining existing state subsidies and expand state subsidies for vulnerable young people (especially ethnic minority groups, young people from poor families, high school students);
4.4.8.2. Planning and consistently implementing of subsidizing for the guest cultural offer up the country on the local level;
4.4.8.3. Establishing a system of voucherisation and volunteering in the cultural institutions;
4.4.8.4. Defining and adjusting goals from the field of culture in strategic documents (on different levels); defining goals in order to increase accessibility of cultural contents for young people.

Specific goal
4.4.9. To increase the employability of vulnerable young people

Measures

4.4.9.1 Developing the professional guidance and counseling system for vulnerable young people in all environments;

4.4.9.2. Encouraging the employability of vulnerable young people.

Specific goal

4.4.10. To protect the health of vulnerable young people and to develop mechanisms for their participation in programs of health improvement

Measures

4.4.10.1. Developing the health protection programs for vulnerable young people;

4.4.10.2. Encouraging and implementing programs in the field, especially in places where vulnerable young people spend most of their time;

4.4.10.3. Establishing mechanisms for continuous monitoring of the health of vulnerable young people.

Specific goal

4.4.11. Support in solving housing problems to enable youth to become independent and start a family

Measures

4.4.11.1. Supporting the adoption of a law that regulates social housing;

4.4.11.2. Supporting the establishment of a National Agency for Social Housing;

4.4.11.3. Developing and improving the network of municipal agencies for social housing;

4.4.11.4. Developing the national strategy in the field of social housing, with a priority on solving housing problems of youth;

4.4.11.5. Formulating state programs for building municipal rent-controlled apartments;

4.4.11.6. Providing financial support to build municipal rent-controlled apartments in line with the programs, from the national and local budget, as well as from specialized international financial institutions;

4.4.11.7. Adopting the municipal strategy for social housing and action plans that precisely define local housing needs and solutions, in line with developmental policies of the local self-governments;

4.4.11.8. Supporting the adoption of regulations for the protection of tenants, especially for households of young people;

4.4.11.9. Formulating state programs for building apartments for sale under non-profitable and low-profitable conditions;

4.4.11.10. Providing financial support to build apartments for sale under non-profitable and low-profitable conditions in line with the programs, from the national and local budget, as well as from specialized international financial institutions;

4.4.11.11. Complementing all subsidized building and sale programs with the existing system of insurance of mortgage credits;

4.4.11.12. Providing the fiscal stimulation instruments for buying the first apartment, especially for young families.

Specific goal
4.4.12. To create an atmosphere and surroundings where all young people, and especially vulnerable young people, can enjoy personal and collective safety

Measures
4.4.12.1. Condemning and sanctioning hate speech in public;
4.4.12.2. Promoting the public culture of communication that does not encourage the atmosphere of fear and intolerance;
4.4.12.3. Promoting the tolerance among youth and integration of vulnerable young people in the community;
4.4.12.4. Encouraging citizens' responsibility among youth through educational and media activities.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Local Self-Government, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Spatial Planning, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Society, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Finance, National Investment Plan, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, National Employment Office, National Mortgage Insurance Corporation, all educational institutions and the non-governmental sector dealing with education.

4.5. To encourage and to evaluate extraordinary results and achievements of youth in different fields

Specific goal
4.5.1. To encourage the development of young researchers, scientists, sportsmen, artists and innovators with the aim of faster economic growth and prosperity

Measures
4.5.1.1. Creating the stimulative educational surroundings for gifted pupils and students;
4.5.1.2. Providing higher investments in research and development, as well as encouraging innovative approaches among youth;
4.5.1.3. Reorganizing the existing or establishing new centers for talents, and giving support to the most talented young people in the country;
4.5.1.4. Developing new and supporting the existing scholarship funds for young scientists, artists and talents.

Specific goal
4.5.2. To promote scientific-research work among youth

Measures
4.5.2.1. Establishing a system of continuous promotion of the research work of young people;
4.5.2.2. Establishing a system of continuous awarding of the work and results of young researchers within the competitions based on publicly announced criteria;
4.5.2.3. Encouraging a thematic specialization of scientific projects.

Specific goal
4.5.3. To support and encourage the creativity of young people in the fields of culture and art

Measures
4.5.3.1. Providing conditions for cultural and artistic exchange on all levels (local, national and especially international);
4.5.3.2. Promoting the cultural and artistic productions of youth, especially of subcultural and alternative groups and movements;
4.5.3.3. Organizing the open calls for youth creativity on all levels and in all fields;
4.5.3.4. Adopting the regulations for pensions and social and health insurance for young people who achieve extraordinary results.

Specific goal
4.5.4. To create conditions for top-level achievements in sports

Measures
4.5.4.1. Establishing working groups within the Council for Sport;
4.5.4.2. Professionally enabling and improving the performance of executives of the national federations (programmatic and business staff);
4.5.4.3. Horizontal and vertical linking of the national sports federations with the sport vision in the Republic of Serbia.

Specific goal
4.5.5. To systematically follow-up on the situation, problems, needs and attitudes of young people

Measures
4.5.5.1. Encouraging research on problems, needs and attitudes of young people at state level;

4.5.5.2. Encouraging local authorities to initiate research on problems, needs and attitudes of young people in the local community that would serve as a basis for future work with and for youth, as well as for the development of local action plans for youth;

4.5.5.3. Encouraging research on the life of young people, especially during transition from one education phase to another (transition from high school to university and later to professional life);

4.5.5.4. Encouraging research on the life-styles of young people waiting/searching for their first job;

4.5.5.5. Encouraging a research analysis about the availability and inclusion of young people within the secondary education;

4.5.5.6. Examining the educational needs of young people in formal and non-formal education;

4.5.5.7. Encouraging continuous surveys and researches of students' achievements.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Local Self-Government, scientific-research institutions, youth organizations.

4. 6. To improve options for quality leisure time of youth

Specific goal
4.6.1. To establish a system of analysis and follow-up of the key needs of young people and give support to intervention programs and coordinate key actors in the field of leisure time at national, regional and local level

Measures
4.6.1.1. Defining responsibilities of the youth welfare office in the field of leisure time; researching needs and demands, planning programs dedicated to youth based on systemized data about the existing offer; identifying roles of different actors and their coordination in the realization and financing of activities; selecting and promoting specific activities;

4.6.1.2. Increasing the number and diversity of leisure time programs offered to young people at community level (educational, sports, media literacy, culture, ecological and humanitarian activities, workshops for creative expression, entertainment, etc);

4.6.1.3. Encouraging and developing programs for exchange, cooperation and competitions that involve common activities and travelling of young people locally, nationally and internationally, including organizing and financing these travels;

4.6.1.4. Providing spatial conditions on the local level for the work of youth clubs and realization of different initiatives and activities directed toward youth;

4.6.1.5. Informing young people about already existing possibilities regarding leisure time through the youth welfare offices, media, portals, catalogues;

4.6.1.6. Improving the transport and travel connections to artistic, cultural, sports or other events of interest to young people;

4.6.1.7. Bringing well-known artists, creators from the field of culture and sportsmen among youth in different environments;

4.6.1.8. Encouraging research and monitoring of cultural values and activities among youth.

Specific goal

4.6.2. To provide support and conditions for self-organizing of young people

Measures

4.6.2.1. Preparing the institutional framework for the support of initiatives and promotion of non-formal and subcultural groups of young people, in line with the general principles defined in this Strategy;

4.6.2.2. Encouraging voluntarism of youth at the local level;

4.6.2.3. Encouraging cooperation of youth in the local community, within the country and abroad.

Specific goal

4.6.3. To promote active youth participation in the creation and implementation of cultural policies on all levels

Measures

4.6.3.1. Inciting programs and projects dealing with cultural policies to be realized especially in smaller and poorer regions;

4.6.3.2. Organizing the volunteering in cultural institutions for educational purposes.

Specific goal

4.6.4. To increase the availability of cultural contents, especially to young people from smaller and poorer regions

Measures

4.6.4.1. Increasing the extent and quality of production for youth and about youth;

4.6.4.2. Providing subsidies for guest performances in different regions;

4.6.4.3. Providing subsidies for cultural offers and productions in minority languages for young members of minority groups;

4.6.4.4. Standardizing benefits and subsidies for young people aimed at a better availability of cultural contents;

4.6.4.5. Establishing funds on the local level and providing means from the national budget for the promotion of cultural contents in smaller and poorer regions.

Specific goal
4.6.5. To provide conditions for young people to practice sports activities in the local community

Measures
4.6.5.1. Providing municipal participation in the development of school sport and sports for all;
4.6.5.2. Providing the availability of the sport stadiums and objects that are the state property, but whose user is the unit of local self government, by approving their use for recreational activities of young people; providing subsidies for young people regarding the use of these objects.

Specific goal
4.6.6. To support youth participation in sports and recreational activities at all ages and levels

Measures
4.6.6.1. Encouraging the implementation of programs for the improvement of sports for all, in other words – for practicing sports by youth;
4.6.6.2. Inciting recreative sports and sports activities and events with the humanitarian character or those that promote the recreative practicing sports;
4.6.6.3. Encouraging sport organizations to develop sections for the recreative practicing sport;
4.6.6.4. Promoting and popularizing the new sports and sports that are underdeveloped in the Republic of Serbia;
4.6.6.5. Defining ways of financing sports federations, both professional and amateur;
4.6.6.6. Giving support and monitoring the implementation of actions that serve for the activation of the individual in recreative exercising within the working environment and during leisure time.

Specific goal
4.6.7. To institutionalize and develop school sport

Measures
4.6.7.1. Supporting the introduction of programs for regular physical exercise of students;
4.6.7.2. Providing licensing and implementation of training, as well as defining criteria for people who conduct sports training (teachers, professors, trainers), both with regard to school sport and sports clubs.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Citizens' Associations, Local Self-Government, scientific-research institutions, radio-diffuse institutes of the Republic of Serbia, institutions in charge for local culture, Association for School Sport and Olympic Education.

4.7. To develop an open, efficient and just system of formal and non-formal education that is available to all young people and that is in line with the world trends in education, as well as with the national context

Specific goal
4.7.1. To increase the inclusion of young people within all types of formal and non-formal education

Measures
4.7.1.1. Analyzing the situation related to the inclusion of young people with regard to high school education in order to define an adequate enrollment policy;
4.7.1.2. Analyzing the participation of youth in different forms of non-formal education;
4.7.1.3. Examining the educational needs of young people;
4.7.1.4. Providing better vertical and horizontal youth mobility within the system of secondary and tertiary education;
4.7.1.5. Increasing capacities of pupils' and students' dormitories and services;
4.7.1.6. Providing scholarships for secondary and tertiary education for students from poor families that were successful during their previous studies;
4.7.1.7. Improving the accessibility of educational institutions and student centers for young disabled persons (physical access and access to services);

Specific goal
4.7.2. To increase the level of participation of young people in decision-making processes in the area of education

Measures
4.7.2.1. Creating the regulation that enables the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes in the area of education;
4.7.2.2. Establishing sustainable mechanisms of cross-sectoral cooperation in the field of formal and non-formal education;
4.7.2.3. Establishing mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes in the area of education on the local level;
4.7.2.4. Affirming the projects directed to enabling young people to actively participate in decision-making processes in the area of education;
4.7.2.5. Including the parents, pupils, students and the local community in monitoring and evaluating achievements of educational institutions;
4.7.2.6. Promoting and securing youth participation in decision-making processes of educational institutions (pupil and student parliaments);
4.7.2.7. Establishing mechanisms for assessing the satisfaction level of educational services among youth;
4.7.2.8. Enabling young people to actively participate in the creation and realization of extra-curricular activities.

Specific goal

4.7.3. To ensure the quality of formal and non-formal education of youth through standardization

Measures

4.7.3.1 Defining and developing standards for the formal education system (quality of educational institutions, tutorial staff, ways of managing and financing), educational processes, goals, i.e. educational outcomes, general and professional competences;

4.7.3.2. Defining and developing quality standards for non-formal education (programs, working conditions, educational and learning processes, key competences, staff);

4.7.3.3. Developing the national guidelines referring to indicators for the quality of education, procedures and instruments;

4.7.3.4. Establishing an accreditation system for training organizations as well as for non-formal education programs;

4.7.3.5. Developing the evaluation and self-evaluation systems in formal and non-formal education;

4.7.3.6. Providing possibilities for assessing achievements of students from vulnerable groups, that are in line with their abilities;

4.7.3.7. Modernizing the curricula and programs in order to provide functional, computer and technological literacy;

4.7.3.8. Applying pedagogic methods that encourage active youth participation in educational processes, as well as development of learning with understanding;

4.7.3.9. Improving the system of professional development for all kinds of teachers;

4.7.3.10. Improving the equipment of schools and faculties with teaching materials, and especially with lecturing means necessary for the implementation of the inclusive approach in education;

4.7.3.11. Improving the pupil and student standard (approach to modern technologies, student loans, living conditions in dormitories);

4.7.3.12. Continuous assessing the student achievements.

Specific goal

4.7.4. To provide mechanisms and incentives for increasing the efficiency in formal and non-formal education of youth

Measures

4.7.4.1. Increasing the percentage of the appropriation of funds (?) for education in general public expenditures on all levels;

4.7.4.2. Improving the finance planning and managing system on all levels of education;

4.7.4.3. Providing the rationalization of the network of institutions in secondary education, in line with the needs of business, labor market and local communities, as well as in accordance with the wishes and possibilities of young people;

4.7.4.4. Encouraging and supporting the development of a certification system, especially in non-formal education;

4.7.4.5. Encouraging the further development of mechanisms oriented at encouraging students to finish their studies in a certain timeframe;

4.7.4.6. Encouraging the use of different forms of horizontal learning;
4.7.4.7. Enriching the integral information system in education with data assessing progress toward the achievement of goals defined in the Millennium Development Goals.

Specific goal
4.7.5. To continuously harmonize the development of a system of education and training with actual and envisaged requirements from the labor market

Measures
4.7.5.1. Supporting the development of a national framework of qualifications and its permanent improvement;
4.7.5.2. Adjusting the offers in the field of formal and non-formal forms of education with labor market requirements and youth wishes;
4.7.5.3. Continuous adjusting the educational profiles in professional secondary schools with the labor market requirements, with due respect to particularities of each municipality and the principles of sustainable development;
4.7.5.4. Modernizing and developing the professional practice and practical teaching, both in high schools and educational institutions, and in companies/business societies;
4.7.5.5. Providing a satisfying balance between general and professional education, theoretic and practical education, in order to enable young people to gain necessary knowledge, skills and competences;
4.7.5.6. Encouraging and supporting of the introduction of modular teaching in secondary education.

Specific goal
4.7.6. To stimulate program development in non-formal learning and education, and higher professionalism concerning the work with young people in the Republic of Serbia

Measures
4.7.6.1 Affirming and supporting the youth projects and programs with a clear non-formal component;
4.7.6.2. Developing the professional standards for work with young people and recognition of these standards by the Ministry of Youth and Sports;
4.7.6.3. Defining models and mechanisms to finance non-formal education programs;
4.7.6.4. Defining elements and capacities for the realization of non-formal education;
4.7.6.5. Strengthening the capacities of youth organizations and organizations dealing with youth for the creation and realization of different training programs for youth;
4.7.6.6. Supporting the youth participation at domestic and international events and seminars through non-formal education and youth work.

Specific goal
4.7.7. To empower young people to actively, responsibly and efficiently pursue their occupational careers

Measures

4.7.7.1. Establishing career guidance and occupational counseling centers within educational and other institutions;

4.7.7.2. Supporting the development of professional staff in the areas of carrier guidance and occupational counseling;

4.7.7.3. Supporting activities aimed at the promotion of carrier guidance and occupational counseling;

4.7.7.4. Introducing information about i.a. carrier guidance and occupational counseling, situation of and perspectives on the labor market, entrepreneurship, working ethics, programs for volunteering, working practice and apprenticeship and concept of life-long learning into educational and extracurricular activities.

Institutions in charge

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Finance, National Employment Office, Chamber of Commerce, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Citizens' Associations, Local Self-Government, National Council for Education, National Council for High Education, Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, Union of Employers, Institute for the assessment of education and pedagogic quality, Institute for the improvement of education and pedagogy.

4.8. To stimulate all forms of employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship among youth

Specific goal

4.8.1. To improve the perspectives of youth on the labor market and to create conditions for more frequent and quality employment of young people

Measures

4.8.1.1. Providing access to carrier guidance and occupational counseling for young people of all regions;

4.8.1.2. Improving the quality and diversity of education on all levels, establishment of a system of life-long learning available to all (young people from all regions, unemployed and employed youth, through higher and more quality investments) and affirmation of work ethic among youth;

4.8.1.3. Promoting the possible work practice such as internships, apprenticeships and voluntary work, in order to avoid long-term unemployment of youth and to obtain necessary experience for establishing the quality working relation;

4.8.1.4. Strengthening technical and human capacities with regard to inspections in order to timely recognize and avoid irregularities in working habits of young people (preventing the illegal employment, law infringement regarding certain forms of youth

employment and all types of discrimination and mobbing), and improvement of the cooperation between labor inspections and tax inspections, in order to prevent illegal employment of young people.

Specific goal
4.8.2. To provide greater youth participation in active employment policy measures and programs

Measures
4.8.2.1. Encouraging young people to actively seek jobs in order to reduce the unemployment rate of youth, especially youth from vulnerable groups;
4.8.2.2. Establishing a monitoring system for early school leavers, as well as youth without education, providing "second chance" programs to obtain necessary skills for participation in the work life;
4.8.2.3. Introducing and improving the system of obligatory evidence in the field of work with the special accent on the inclusion of the people registered within the youth cooperatives, private employment agencies and other intermediaries in obtaining the job, adjustment and linking of all evidences with the integral system of evidence of the National Employment Office;
4.8.2.3. Enabling young people to take part in additional education and training programs in order to gain new knowledge and skills, as well as to overcome the gap between knowledge obtained during education and labor market needs;
4.8.2.4. Improving the existing as well as development of new and more efficient measures and programs for an active youth employment policy, assessment of their efficiency and increase of participants related to these results;
4.8.2.5. Enabling young people to participate in measures and programs of active employment policy in all regions.

Specific goal
4.8.3. To encourage the start-up of new businesses, to develop self-employment and entrepreneurship among youth in all regions

Measures
4.8.3.1. Encouraging information, carrier guidance and occupational counseling of youth concerning possibilities for self-employment and development of entrepreneurship;
4.8.3.2. Encouraging development of self-employment programs, youth entrepreneurship and cooperatives, especially directed at the development of high-productive and technologically intense sectors (information technologies, industrial and technological parks, etc);
4.8.3.3. Encouraging and fostering local partnerships among local self-government, social partners and citizens' associations to gather young people with the aim of including them in programs and projects directed at the development of the entrepreneur sector;
4.8.3.4. Encouraging development of entrepreneurship in specific economic sectors (e.g. development of eco-tourism, agribusiness, recycling);

4.8.3.5. Introducing new and improving the existing credit schemes in order to increase the interest of young people from all regions in starting-up their own businesses and to raise the employment rate;
4.8.3.6. Developing the system of facilities and subsidies in order to encourage employers to employ young people;
4.8.3.7. Affirming the socialy responsible businesses.

Specific goal
4.8.4. To increase the occupational youth mobility

Measures
4.8.4.1. Establishing an assessment system for the labor market to support the planning of job offers on the national and local labor markets, in line with the needs of economy;
4.8.4.2. Establishing an integral and complete reporting system about free workplaces on the local and regional labor markets for young people; encouraging the inclusion of young people in programs of training and qualification improvement in order to find employment in other regions and cities;
4.8.4.3. Providing occupational youth mobility for undeveloped regions in order to increase employment and improve local economic growth, by incentive housing policy.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Economy and Regional Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports, National Employment Office, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Local Self-Government, National Statistical Office, Union of employers, unions' associations, Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises, National Mortgage Insurance Corporation.

4.9. To improve the conditions of safety for young people

Specific goal
4.9.1. To strategically improve the regulation of the security sector in order to improve the safety of youth

Measures
4.9.1.1. Adjusting the relevant national legislature in the public and private security sector in accordance with international obligations, adopting the new laws as well as changes and amendments of existing laws;
4.9.1.2. Improving the conduct of employees in the public and private security sector, by defining the procedures in protocols and codexes;
4.9.1.3. Introducing the "hate crime" category in the national legal system;
4.9.1.4. Supporting the adoption of the National Security Strategy;

4.9.1.5. Supporting the adoption of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Criminal Acts;
4.9.1.6. Supporting the adoption of regulations and the Strategy for the Security of Transport.

Specific goal
4.9.2. To institutionally empower the sectors of security and state governance in order to improve the achievement and the protection of human rights and rights of young people

Measures
4.9.2.1. Developing the coordinated multidisciplinary approach and inter-sectoral cooperation in identifying, planning and realizing services for young people, victims and perpetrators;
4.9.2.2. Developing democratic civic control of the security sector;
4.9.2.3. Developing the internal control of the security sector;
4.9.2.4. Providing equal employment possibilities and equal participation of women and men on all levels of decision-making in the security sector;
4.9.2.5. Better informing of recruits about their rights and obligations during military service.

Specific goal
4.9.3. To raise the security culture of young people

Measures
4.9.3.1. Introducing the security culture contents in the curriculum and program of educational institutions;
4.9.3.2. Continuously promoting the security culture through media campaigns and education;
4.9.3.3. Providing information about negative consequences of using firearms and explosives;
4.9.3.4. Introducing new challenges, risks and threats to individual, public and national security of young people;
4.9.3.5. Developing and promoting the tolerance, understanding, gender equality, acceptance of differences and non-violent ways of communication;
4.9.3.6. Developing the security culture in transport among youth;
4.9.3.7. Developing the informatical security culture among youth.

Specific goal
4.9.4. To build mutual confidence between young people and the security sector

Measures
4.9.4.1 Promoting the security sector among youth through media campaigns and through an education and training system;

4.9.4.2. Developing the activities to establish adequate communication and trust between young people and representatives of the security sector;

4.9.4.3. Encouraging young people to report violence in the family, school or on the street, regardless of whether they are victims or eye-witnesses;

4.9.4.4. Organizing the continuous trainings for representatives of the security sector in human rights, communication skills, contemporary methods of collecting evidence and other topics relevant for youth safety.

Specific goal
4.9.5. To create conditions for a more secure and healthier working environment of young people

Measures
4.9.5.1. Improving the youth safety and health at the workplace;

4.9.5.2. Developing the educational programs and definition of procedures for recognizing all forms of violence in the working environment;

4.9.5.3. Developing and defining the preventive and reactive programs and procedures in order to increase youth safety in the working environment.

Specific goal
4.9.6. To create safer school surroundings

Measures
4.9.6.1. Improving the youth protection in school surroundings;

4.9.6.2. Encouraging the development of preventive programs, and improvement of existing programs of prevention and help to victims of violence and crime;

4.9.6.3. Supporting peer education about violence prevention in schools, and peer support to the victims of violence and criminal acts;

4.9.6.4. Organizing the continuous training for pupils, teachers and other staff in schools in the areas of prevention and help to victims of violence and criminal acts;

4.9.6.5. Encouraging efficiency and openness concerning the work of professionals in schools (pedagogues, psychologists and others);

4.9.6.6. Organizing the road safety education;

4.9.6.7. Creating preventive technical measures concerning the risk of traffic accidents near school surroundings.

Specific goal
4.9.7. To increase safety in public places

Measures
4.9.7.1. Consistently and completely implementing the existing regulations in the security sector;

4.9.7.2. Developing and encouraging the initiatives and programs of the local community;

4.9.7.3. Developing and implementing the concept of work of the police in the community;

4.9.7.4. Strengthening of existing measures and development of new preventive security measures in public places where young people gather.

Specific goal

4.9.8. To prevent and fight family violence

Measures

4.9.8.1. Providing for consistent implementation of the regulations concerning family violence;

4.9.8.2. Providing for continuous information of the public, and especially youth, about the problem and consequences of family violence;

4.9.8.3. Providing for continuous training for recognition of violence and help to victims of family violence;

4.9.8.4. Integration of the training for recognition of violence and help to victims of family violence into educational programs of schools, faculties and other educational institutions;

4.9.8.5. Providing for continuous implementation of professional trainings of all persons directly involved in the prevention and fight against family violence.

Specific goal

4.9.9. To develop procedures and services of immediate intervention dedicated to young people - victims of violence and others in acute crisis situations

Measures

4.9.9.1. Introducing the specialized preventive programs concerning behaviour in crisis situations;

4.9.9.2. Introducing the 24-hour duty for immediate intervention within the new organizational model of social work centers;

4.9.2.3 Adopting the Protocol on Cooperation which enables harmonized action of the public sectors in providing services of immediate interventions;

4.9.2.4. Improving the existing programs and development of new programs for the protection of young victims of violence, in line with the process of accreditation and licensing of training programs for social services.

Specific goal

4.9.10. To develop procedures and services of immediate intervention dedicated to young people – perpetrators/those committing violent acts

Measures
4.9.10.1. Introducing the specialized programs directed at those committing violent acts;
4.9.10.2. Organizing the trainings for non-violent communication and conflict resolution;
4.9.10.3. Developing and improving the ability of professionals of all work sectors to deal with those committing acts of violence.

Specific goal
4.9.11. To create conditions for the implementation of diverse procedures and alternative measures for young people who are breaking the law

Measures
4.9.11.1. Providing for consistent and complete implementation of regulations dealing with young people who are breaking the law;
4.9.11.2. Identifying and developing the programs within the local community that enable the implementation of pedagogic guidelines and measures in line with the Law on Juvenile Delinquents and criminal defence of minors.

Specific goal
4.9.12. To support research about violence among youth and against youth

Measures
4.9.12.1. Monitoring of the forms and frequency of violence among youth;
4.9.12.2. Improving the data collection, analysis and reporting system concerning all forms of violence among youth and against youth;
4.9.12.3. Examining the influence of different factors on the appearance and consequences of violence;
4.9.12.4. Continuously monitoring of the effects of conducted preventive programs and activities related to the protection of young people from violence;
4.9.12.5. Including the young researchers in research projects about violence against youth and among youth.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Telecommunication and Informational Society, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Local Self-Government, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Culture, Republic Radio Diffuse Agency, Department for Citizens and Minority Rights, scientific and educational institutions, media, private security sector, Ombudsman, Auto-moto Association of Serbia, youth organizations, citizens' associations dealing with security issues.

4.10. To protect and improve youth health, to reduce risks and leading health disorders and to develop health protection adjusted to young people

Specific goal
4.10.1. To develop healthy life-styles, to protect and improve youth health

Measures
4.10.1.1. Introducing the periodical national and local research in order to monitor youth health, with the active participation of young people, including an analysis of local resources and quality of the existing interventions in the field of youth health protection;
4.10.1.2. Improving knowledge, attitudes and behavior of young people with regard to a healthy life-style; informing young people and conducting continuous training in balanced diet/nutrition, a culture that promotes physical activities and that leads to a healthy life-style of young people;
4.10.1.3. Developing and continuously improving the quality of peer education programs, as well as of standardized trainings and certified peer educators;
4.10.1.4. In partnership with youth, establishing, conducting and institutionalizing health-pedagogic matters, especially health education through life skills and through curricula and programs in all educational institutions;
4.10.1.5. Improving the knowledge of parents, foster parents, teachers within the institutions and other staff that work with this age, regarding the significance of a balanced diet, physical activities and youth health in general;

Specific goal
4.10.2. To protect and improve reproductive health of young people

Measures
4.10.2.1. Improving the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of young people in the field of reproductive health, with respect to gender differences;
4.10.2.2. Developing programs for peer educators that work with young people regarding reproductive health issues;
4.10.2.3. Introducing the reproductive health protection of young people in educational curricula and programs of elementary and secondary schools;
4.10.2.4. Mobilizing parents, media, citizens' associations and local communities to influence public opinion and policy towards reproductive health.

Specific goal
4.10.3. To protect and improve mental health

Measures
4.10.3.1. Improving the knowledge, attitudes and behavior of young people in the field of mental health, with their active participation in the programs of peer education;

4.10.3.2. Informing young people about developmental and psychological difficulties in the field of mental health, as well as about the existing services in this field, that are implemented in cooperation with youth organizations;

4.10.3.3. Providing the possibility for young people to obtain psychological support and help outside of health and psychiatric institutions – in schools, student centers and boarding schools, and outside the institutions, including mobile units of consultation centers for youth and SOS phones;

4.10.3.4. Working on the improvement of mental health and primary intervention of mental disorders of young people through the school system and through all forms of massive communication;

4.10.3.5. Increasing preventive and therapy achievements of primary health care, along with education of the staff concerning mental problems of youth and further development of the consultation centres for youth within the health centers;

4.10.3.6. Empowering specialized units for mental problems of youth in secondary and tertiary institutions.

Specific goal

4.10.4. To protect young people from tobacco, alcohol and other psychoactive substances' abuse, and to prevent health problems

Measures

4.10.4.1. Providing means, mechanisms and ways in order to enable young people to gain knowledge about consequences of tobacco, alcohol and other psychoactive substances' (PAS) abuse, and to adopt skills in the field of prevention;

4.10.4.2. Providing information and training to the parents, so that they can deal with problems appearing in the case of PAS abuse (to give support to young persons in solving the addiction problem);

4.10.4.3. Following-up the appearance of PAS abuse and support joining the ESPAD[117] network of European countries for monitoring and prevention of PAS abuse;

4.10.4.4. Strengthening capacities of the institutions on all levels of protection in order to recognize on time and control the consequences of PAS abuse among youth, along with the organization of programs for damage reduction outside the institutions.

Specific goal

4.10.5. To prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS

Measures

4.10.5.1. Promoting and providing active youth participation in spreading the national reaction to HIV/AIDS;

4.10.5.2. Establishing programs for the intensification of monitoring and protection of young people from STI (sexually transmitted infection) and HIV/AIDS;

4.10.5.3. Establishing and supporting peer and youth groups and citizens' associations so that they contribute to local and national responses to HIV/AIDS;

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[117] ESPAD – *The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs.*

4.10.5.4. Mobilizing parents, media, citizens' associations and institutions of the local community to influence public opinion and policy toward STI, HIV/AIDS;

4.10.5.5. Extending the approaches to health services adjusted to the needs of young people, including testing and counseling, care and support services in the areas of STI and HIV/AIDS.

4.10.5.6. Giving bigger support to young people who live with HIV/AIDS and eliminating all types of discrimination.

Specific goal
4.10.6. To improve the health protection system in order to respond to needs of young people

Measures
4.10.6.1. Public advocating and creating the health service mechanisms so that all young people have equal rights concerning health issues and equal accessibility and availability of health services;

4.10.6.2. Establishing clear mechanisms for the protection of young people from any type of discrimination within the health system;

4.10.6.3. Clear defining and publicly promoting of all rights of youth within the health system, including the forms of youth participation in different bodies and organs in the field of health;

4.10.6.4. Increasing sensitivity and professional competences of health workers so that they can recognize additional needs of especially vulnerable young people;

4.10.6.5. Providing further development of consultation centers for youth that include all areas within the framework of health behavior, risk factors and prevention of disorders in youth health, as well as updating the knowledge of staff of all profiles that work with young people;

4.10.6.6. Providing for the introduction of study programs in the field of youth health in undergraduate and postgraduate education of doctors and other medical workers and collaborators;

4.10.6.7. Giving support to all organized activities that lead to better youth health, and especially to: education for health through life skills, peer education with accrediting and certifying peer educators, other forms of organizing among youth in the field of health protection and help to ill people;

4.10.6.8. Developing the cooperation with institutions and organizations in the field of culture, sport and recreation, where the help to young people in organizing their leisure time represents the extreme contribution to health and promotion of healthy life-styles;

4.10.6.9. Developing the cooperation with the social protection, justice and security system, as well as with the citizens' associations, in different areas related to youth health.

Institutions in charge
Ministry of Health, Local Self-Government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, citizens' associations, University, scientific-research institutions, public health institutions .

4.11. To strengthen young people for initiatives and activities in line with the basic goals of sustainable development and a healthy environment

Specific goals
4.11.1. To develop youth consciousness and behavior in the spirit of sustainable development and environmental protection as well as preserving natural wealth

Measures
4.11.1.1. Organizing different types of educational programs for youth through all aspects of formal and non-formal education, in cooperation with youth;
4.11.1.2. Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources;
4.11.1.3. Establishing regional, as well as international electronic networking (via the internet) in order to support global cooperation;
4.11.1.4. Encouraging the inclusion of youth in youth organizations and other citizens' associations that cultivate the spirit of sustainable development and contribute to environmental protection through scientific-educational, research, sports and other activities;
4.11.1.5. Encouraging the assessment of youth activities in this field by presenting awards for the most successful actions;
4.11.1.6. Improving and encouraging the spreading, linking and conducting of peer education programs in local communities (through standardized trainings and continuous monitoring);
4.11.1.7. Providing support to young people to improve their professional skills in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, both in the country and abroad.

Specific goal
4.11.2. To prevent and reduce environmental health risks for youth

Measures
4.11.2.1 Developing the adequate information systems to monitor basic indicators of pollution and create data bases at national, regional and local level;
4.11.2.2. Raising awareness (through education and information spreading) of environmental health risks (food, water, ambient air), and promote a healthy life-style;
4.11.2.3. Developing the primary health care institutions and prevention programs with experts on environmental health problems caused by pollution or an unhealthy life-style;
4.11.2.4 Improvement of measures to reduce environmental health risks and protect youth life and health.

Specific goals

4.11.3. To provide conditions for active youth participation in decision-making processes regarding environmental protection and sustainable development.

Measures

4.11.3.1. Enabling active youth participation in decision-making processes and negotiations regarding environment on the global and regional level, through youth participation in state councils, national delegations and advisory boards;

4.11.3.2. Establishing regional and international electronic communication and networking (cooperation related to environmental protection issues, transfer of experience and knowledge);

4.11.3.3. Encouraging partnership possibilities of youth organizations, citizens' associations, organizations dealing with youth and international agencies for the development of local and national projects.

Specific goal

4.11.4. To develop system capacities that will enable the implementation of youth policies, the follow-up and adequate reactions to all problems significant for youth in the segment of sustainable development and environmental protection

Measures

4.11.4.1. Defining mechanisms and providing professional, financial and political support for adequate education and timely spreading of information related to the environment and sustainable development;

4.11.4.2. Encouraging development of small business enterprises for the collection of secondary raw material and recycling material as well as business associations specializing in environmental protection and sustainable development;

4.11.4.3. Providing financing of youth projects from the fields of sustainable development and environmental protection from a special fund;

4.11.4.4. Encouraging the thematic dedication of specialized and scientific projects to solve environmental problems (climate change, overuse of natural resources, disorders in balance and loose of biodiversity, problem of genetically modified species);

4.11.4.5. Defining mechanisms and forms that will enable citizens' associations to develop capacities to realize activities directed at sustainable development and environmental problems;

4.11.4.6. Providing efficient implementation of the knowledge of young people about environmental protection;

4.11.4.7. Providing support for the development of competences of teaching staff to include education on environmental protection and sustainable development in teaching and extracurricula activities;

4.11.4.8. Establishing cooperation in the field of education on environmental protection and sustainable development at all levels (educational-pedagogic institutions, faculties, scientific-research institutions), as well as with international organizations, especially with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Institutions in charge

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Telecommunication and Informational Society, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Finance, citizens' associations, Local Self-Government, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Science, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

5. ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan for the implementation of this Strategy will be defined by the Government by 30 September 2008.

6. FINAL CLAUSE

This Strategy includes: Annex 1 (Abbreviations); Annex 2 (Glossary) and Annex 3 (Youth Manifest) that are printed along with the Strategy and form an integral part[118].

This Strategy is to be published in the "Official Bulletin of the Republic of Serbia".

Number :
Belgrade, 9 May 2008.

GOVERNMENT

VICEPRESIDENT

Božidar Đelić

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[118] English version of the Strategy includes Glossary and Youth Manifest, as Annex 1 and Annex 2.

GLOSSARY:

Accreditation: Process of checking if some institution or program meets general standards of quality that are defined in advance. The process is conducted by some "external" body, independent commission or agency.

Active measures on the labor market: All active measures and programs that unemployed persons registered with the National Employment Office have a right to use, and which are directed toward improvement of employment, in other words, creation of the complete, productive job chosen by free will.

Active population, labor force: All employed and unemployed people aged 15-64, capable to work.

Active youth participation: Rights, tools, space and possibilities - and needs-based – support for young people to participate in decision-making processes and activities that contribute to the development of a better society.

Security: In the objective sense, it represents the lack of threat for adopted values, and subjectively – the lack of fear that those values will be endangered.

Security culture: Complex of adopted attitudes, knowledge, skills and rules from the field of security, manifested as behavior, about the need, ways and tools for the protection of personal, social and international values from danger.

Skill: Ability to successfully realize any activity.

Voluntary work: Form of organized work without compensation; helping others for their own well-being or well-being of the entire society.

Life-long learning: Educational process that occurs during the whole life with the aim of personal development, gaining new knowledge and competences, more efficient adjustment to new life conditions, new technologies, acknowledgments and achievements of human society. It includes all forms of learning, and not just formal learning in educational institutions.

Public and private sector: It refers to the economic division by majority ownership.

Socially responsible business: Modern concept of managing a company in order to establish a quality life standard of employees, customers and other actors of the local community without endangering the profitability of the company.

Efficiency of the educational system: Level of success of the education expressed through measuring the results, in the terms of achieved incoming competencies of the students and investments in the education system.

Emission: Release of contagious materials or energy from individual and/or diffuse sources into the environment and its mediums.

Environment: Composite of natural and created values whose complex internal relations make surrounding, in other words, space and living conditions.

Hate crime:
A) Any criminal act, including acts toward people and assets, where the victim, asset or target of the attack was chosen because of their real or apparent relation, connection, joining or membership in a group as defined under B.

B) A group can be based on characteristics common to all members of the group, such as real or apparent race, national or ethnic background, language, skin color, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disabilities, sexual orientation, etc.

Knowledge: Composite of organized information possessed by individual; understanding of information, ideas and relations, and use of information.

European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF): The EQF is a common European reference system which will link different countries' national qualifications systems and frameworks together. In practice, it will function as a translation device making qualifications more readable. Individuals and employers will be able to use the EQF to better understand and compare the qualifications levels of different countries and different education and training systems.

Disability: Disability comes from the interaction of disabled people with the obstacles in the surrounding and obstacles seen in community attitudes, which make harder full and efficient participation of disabled people in the society, based on equality with other members of the society.

Indicators of education quality: Clearly defined indicators which enable the evaluation of the key aspects of the educational system. Indicators which are used most often refer to inclusion, drop-out of the system, students' school achievements.

Initial education: All programs absolved before entering the labor world, in other words before the first employment.

Informatical literacy: Ability of PC use for professional purposes and in everyday life.

Career guidance and professional counseling: Organized system of social and professional efforts on continously helping individuals during their complete career development with regard to orientation and determination, educational and professional activities and with the aim of achieving professional quality and adopting to the needs of the labor market.

Qualification: Official approval of achieved competences, based on successfully finishing a program. The approval is issued by an authorized office, i.e. institution.

Co-management: Common managing of the processes and decisions as the special way of active youth participation that gives equal position to the young people in relation to their senior partners in work on common goals.

Competence: Functionally integrated knowledge and skills that can be used in new situations and different contexts. Competences include the use of practical knowledge, cognitive and manual skills, attitudes and values, as well as motivation.

Concept of democratic citizenship: It encompasses all activities directed at enabling young people and adults to participate in a democratic society using their rights and responsibilities in the society.

Continuous education and training: All programs and education processes that are absolved/attended after the obligatory education (for some categories, after the initial education and training, or after entering the labor world), with the aim of improving knowledge, skills, competences, gaining new competences and further personal and professional development.

Corporate sector: It refers to companies and firms that have special social responsibility.

Cultural values: Form of culture that is desirable from the point of society and social development. The development of cultural values is supported by the creation of diverse cultural offers on the local and national level.

National Framework of Qualifications: Unique description of main qualifications in the national education system. The term "main qualification" refers to general qualification on a certain level regardless of the area in which the qualification was gained. The framework of qualification provides for a simple comparison of different qualifications that exist in the system, horizontal and vertical transiency through the educational system, recognition of gained knowledge and skills and transparency of the educational system, both for individuals and employers, representatives of the labor market and institutions within the educational system.

Non-formal education: All education and learning programs and activities outside the school system. It refers to organized, planed and systematized programs that do not end with the social verification of gained knowledge and achievements in the sense of evaluation of learnt, marks and diplomas.

Non-formal labor market: Labor market on which labor and employment law are not applicable.

Education outcomes: Clear and measurable indicators of learning results achieved by the student, that show what the student knows and is able to do after some period of learning.

Education standards: Clear definition what the student has to know, understand and be able to do after a certain cycle of learning in the education process.

Sustainable development: Harmonized balance between ecology and business, in order to save natural resources of our planet for future generations; intention to create a better world by balancing social, economic and environmental factors.

General competences: Knowledge, skills and abilities that individuals should possess at a certain level of education, regardless of their profession or scientific area.

Vulnerable groups of young people: It refers to all categories of young people that are kept from achieving their rights (e.g. disabled persons, Roma, poor youth, etc).

Disabled persons: Persons with inborn or gained physical, sensor-intellectual or emotional disabilities that because of social and other obstacles do not have possibilities or have fewer opportunities to participate in social activities on the same level as others, regardless of the fact that they can realize the mentioned activities with the use of technical help or support services.

Passive measures on the labor market: Way of financial and other help to unemployed persons registered within the National Employment Office as prescribed by law (unemployment support).

PISA: (Program for International Student Assessment): Is a triennial world-wide test of 15-year-old schoolchildren's scholastic performance, the implementation of which is coordinated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The aim of the PISA study is to test and compare schoolchildren's performance across the world, with a view to improving educational methods and outcomes. Students' achievements are assessed in four areas: mathematics, natural sciences, understanding of a written text and problem-solving.

Security sector: Gathers all actors that have a legitimate right to carry weapons and that are in charge of providing security to individuals, society or the state.

Reform of the security sector: Complex of policies and procedures that strive to provide more efficient and effective human and public security within democratic governance.

Activity rate: Percentage of the working age population (ages 15 to 64) in general population of the same age of the working population.

Employment rate: Percentage of the working age population (ages 15 to 64) who are currently employed.

Inactivity rate: The inactivity rate is the proportion of the population that is not in the labour force.

Unemployment rate: Unemployed workers are those who are currently not working but are willing and able to work for pay, currently available to work, and have actively searched for work.

TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study): International research conducted by the „International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement" in four-year cycles (1995, 1999, 2003, 2007). The results of the TIMSS provide data concerning the success of students in mathematics and natural sciences at the end of their fourth and eight grades compared to students from other countries.

Troposphere ozone: Ozone from the troposphere that plays an important role in urban smog and the "green house" effect.

Know-how: Ability to efficiently use knowledge within a specific context.

Formal education: School and university education based on chosen educational programs that lead to diplomas/certificates (namely national recognition of achieved qualifications, competences and levels of education) and are financed from public funds.

Center for information and professional counseling: Service helping the unemployed, employed people who have a need to change the job as well as pupils and students in career-planning by providing information about professions, possibilities of employment and participation in programs of additional education and training. There is also the possibility for employers to obtain information about quality staff for internships or employment and advice regarding the selection of staff.

Civil society: The totality of voluntary civic and social organizations and institutions that form the basis of a functioning society as opposed to the force-backed structures of a state and commercial institutions.

Democratic civic control of armed forces: It represents the control of public and non-public bodies that use force, both by democratically elected citizens' representatives and the public.

MANIFEST OF THE YOUTH OF SERBIA

We, young people, citizens of the Republic of Serbia are addressing by this Manifest the public institutions, overall public of the Republic of Serbia, but also our peers and those who will come. Being one fifth of the general population, we are bearers of the perspective and protagonists of the achievement of development goals of our country. In order to have a constructive role in the society of tomorrow, we inevitably have to participate today in decision-making processes for the future. We have the core interest for the progress of the Republic of Serbia.

Observing the trends of the modern world, influences of the globalization on the labor market, redistribution of the power among world forces, stronger and stronger pluralism and individuality of young people in the world, as well as fastened technological development;

Maturing in isolation and poverty, surrounded by violence, excluded from the decision-making system that is related to our development, with limited mobility and educational possibilities;

Assured that we represent the vital resource of the society, without whom our society does not have a future;

We are asking for the systematic care of the state through a strategic intergenerational partnership in businesses of building up the society and institutions:
− Development of the Law on Youth and other legislation that refers to young people
− Support to sustainable national youth umbrella organizations,
− Quality implementation of the Strategy in all areas.

As the outcome, we expect to see results in terms of changing the culture of living through higher participation of young people and care for their needs and rights, regardless of gender, race and nationality, religious, political and sexual orientation, social status and disabilities. We believe that this is the best way to sustainable development and the only way for contributing to peace and building up a more human and justifiable community with chances for everyone, where we could work, make decisions, love and create freely.

Young people in the Republic of Serbia can, may and know how, and therefore we expect the availability of the state resources, with the respect of our freedoms, dignity, personal and social development!

> Initiative of the Youth Coalition of Serbia, youth wings of the political parties, youth non-governmental organizations and media in the Republic of Serbia