



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK



Mreža protiv siromašta Srbija

# WELCOME TO SERBIA

LIVING IN REAL SERBIA TODAY

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Anti Poverty Network Serbia

# ANTI POVERTY NETWORK SERBIA

- Established in 2010 through EC project and with support of EAPN and Poverty Reduction Unit of The Government of Serbia
- 22 member organizations, NGOs representing different sectors and vulnerable groups
- Still unregistered, hosted by SeConS – Development Initiative Group
- Research, analysis, networking and advocacy

# SERBIA – territory and people

- 7,000,000
- 58% urban
- 85% rural territory
- Pannonia plain in the north, mountains in the south
- Administration – decentralized, two autonomous provinces: Vojvodina and Kosovo
- Population: every day less, ageing, brain drain, increasing education, slow increase in life expectancy, 64<sup>th</sup> in HDI – high HDI (like Lybia and Malesia)



# SERBIA – history



- 500 years of Otoman rule
- Authonomy 1830s
- Independence 1860s, constitutional monarchy, domestic royal family
- Increasing influence, military growth, slow modernization
- Bordering large empires
- I World War – The Kingdom of Yugoslavia
- II World War – socialism and Tito
- 1990s – devastation
- 2001 on slow democratization and economic reforms



# SERBIA - culture

- 15% ethnic minority population, 30 ethnic groups – Hungarians, Roma, Bosniaks, Slovaks, Croats, Romanians, Montenegrins
- 5 confessions: Orthodox Christian, Muslim, Catholic Christian, Protestant, Jewish
- Prominent writers, musicians and movie directors
- Sportsmen



# SERBIA – economy and resources

- Industry: Machine building, metallurgy, consumer goods, services, telecommunic.
- Agriculture: Cereals, fruits, vegetables, tobacco, cattle – major exporting sector!
- Exports: Manufactured goods, food and live animals, raw materials
- Competitiveness: 3.9 (moderate)
- Growth: GDP 5,667 USD per capita, compared to 3,240 in 1989 and 1,390 in 1993.
- High indebtedness, high fiscal deficit
- Labor force – qualified, compared to Asia and Africa



# SERBIA – poverty and survival strategies

- Heritage of poverty – ‘old’ and ‘new’ poverty (groups)
- Old and new sources of poverty (gears)
- Measuring poverty in Serbia today
- Poverty and inequality
- Survival strategies: urban, rural, passive, active, informal economy



# SERBIA – economic policy and anti poverty measures

- Dependency, remittances, public sector, pensions
- Entrepreneurship, investments and growth
- Employment support, basic education, health care, social protection
- Importance of EU projects for maintenance of inclusive policies

# Major SIPRU achievements

- **Legal framework:** Support to the development of inclusive laws on education, social welfare, cooperatives, public procurement
- **Intersectoral coordination:** Social Inclusion Working Group 2010, Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, 2011, Joint Body for the support to the inter-ministerial committees for additional educational, medical or social support to children and pupils, 2011
- **Monitoring:** *Monitoring Social Inclusion in Serbia – Overview and Current Situation of Social Inclusion in Serbia Based on Monitoring European and National Indicators, 2010*, First National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, 2011, Introduction of EU-SILC, 2012
- **Policy impact assessments** on active labour market measures, social entrepreneurship, legal capacity, rural development, LTC, pro-poor education measures, etc.
- **Mutual learning:** peer reviews on the local level, activation policies, Roma inclusion...
- **Making donor assistance more social inclusion-oriented:** IPA projects for Roma, Progress project on social experimentation, Tempus project on equal access to higher education...

# SERBIA in eyes of its people



**Preliminary findings from the national consultation  
process in Serbia for the post-2015 Development  
Agenda of the United Nations**

# Consultation process

# How were people in Serbia motivated to take an active part in the consultation process?

- We broadcasted the information through electronic and printed media
- We took part in TV and radio programmes
- We wrote blogs
- We Tweeted
- We launched the web portal
- We established a virtual community on Facebook



# How many people have been consulted?

Individuals

• 10.000

Organizations

• 90

Regions

• 4

# Which groups have been consulted?

- People from urban and rural areas
- Youth and elderly
- Highschool and university students
- Farmers and workers
- Employed and unemployed people
- Experts and activists
- Minority groups
- Vulnerable groups



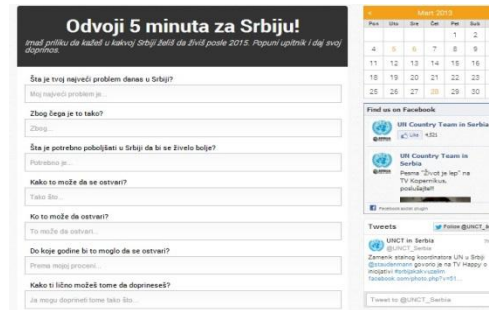
# Where were the consultations organized?

- At Universities
- In ordinary people houses
- In schools
- At the Social Welfare Institutions
- In conference rooms
- In Roma settlements
- In „Svratiste“
- On the streets of various cities
- In various villages



# How were the consultations conducted ?

- Through on-line surveys
- Through field research
- Through workshops
- Through focus group discussions
- Through public debates
- Through social networks
- Through review of secondary resources such as applied public opinion research



# Some groups contributed through creative expression...



# This is what the people of Serbia have told us...

*„There are smart and intelligent people here, but they cannot express themselves, the darkness has swallowed us all. The only way out of the darkness is through education, that is, if we are able to achieve something in that area. Still, that process will take 10-20 years...”*

*“In this country, not a single institution functions. I’ll sign to that! And that is the problem.”*

*“The problem is that I’ll never get a decent job unless I sign a deal stating that I won’t get pregnant in the next few years.”*

# Preliminary results

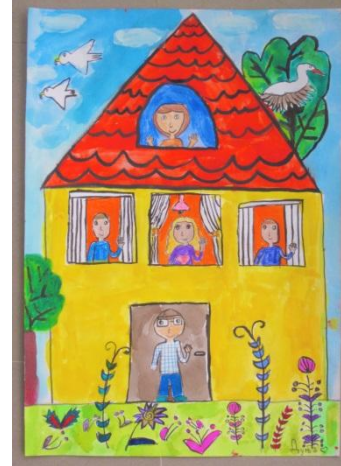
# 1. More jobs and decent employment

- Better job opportunities
- More sustainable employment
- Higher rates of formal employment
- Better payed jobs
- Higher labour standards
- Better protection of labour rights



## 2. Higher living standard and better protection of vulnerable people

- Eradicate poverty
- Better support to people who cannot work
- Decent housing conditions
- Better social inclusion of marginalized into society



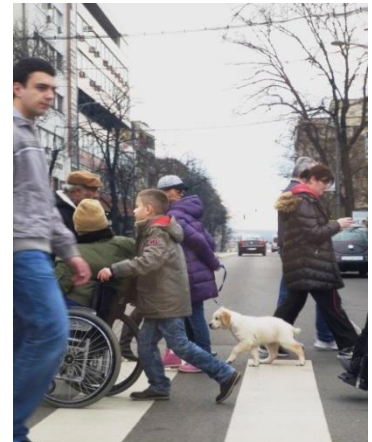
# 3. Efficient and effective state

- Honest and responsive government
- Strong state with efficient institutions
- The rule of law
- Eradication of corruption and organized crime
- Non-discriminatory state and institutions
- State which guarantees human rights to all



# 4. Development of a culture of responsibility, tolerance and solidarity

- Each individual should respect laws
- To behave responsibly in the community
- Cultivating values of mutual respect and tolerance
- More solidarity
- Respect for differences
- Respect rights of others and nondiscrimination



# 5. Better education system and more educated people

- Education accessible to all
- Quality education
- Education for better employment
- Education aimed at increasing a culture of mutual respect, responsibility and solidarity
- Education for sustainable development



# 6. Better healthcare

- Better access to healthcare for all
- Quality healthcare
- Improvement of public health
- Improvement of the reproductive health
- Improvement of health of women
- Better healthcare for better population trends



# Two additional important priorities selected by some groups

7. Equality between men and women

8. Healthy environment

# Environmental protection

- Major concerns of citizens:
  - Air pollution in big cities
  - Poor quality of water
  - Poor solid waste management in many local communities

Food safety concerns have been raised after an aflatoxin problem was identified

# Who should achieve these objectives?

- The state
- Individuals
- Various social groups
- With the support of a responsible and more competent media



# And how can you contribute?

- „There is NO way that I can contribute“
- “By doing my job professionally”
- Acting responsible
- Through civic activism

# Vision of Serbia

A regulated and economically welfare state, with a culture that is dominated by mutual understanding, tolerance and solidarity.