

Dear All,

On behalf of the 'Youth Bank Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey', a project funded by the European Commission within the Support to Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations and regional network led by the Foundation Ana i Vlade Divac, we take this opportunity to kindly remind you that the Law on Youth (Official Gazzette, no. 50/2011) spells out that, besides the Republic of Serbia, autonomous province and local self-government units as holders of youth policy, all youth policy actors - in particular institutions, association carrying out youth activities, and other actors participating in the implementation of the youth policy, within the scope of their activities and purview, shall support social empowerment of young people in the manner set forth in the Law on Youth and National Youth Strategy 2015-2025.

The Law on Youth regulates measures and activities undertaken by the youth policy actors aimed at improving the social status and position of youth and creating conditions for addressing young people's needs and interests in all the areas of interest for young people.

One of the main issues related to the creating conditions for addressing young people's needs and interests in all the areas of interest for young people is data on youth that could be used for planning of public policies concerning youth, their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Namely, the National Youth Strategy 2015-2025 recognises that there is no systematic approach in the public administration of the Republic of Serbia to acquiring information about the youth, monitoring youth policy implementation indicators and reporting, while surveys fail to segment the youth in accordance with the Law on Youth, or do not recognise the category of youth as such. This lack of systemic and available data on youth makes it difficult to plan, monitor and evaluate public policies and their implementation by the public administration.

Hence, one of the specific goals of the National Youth Strategy 2015-2025 is that the knowledge on young people should be based on relevant data and used for planning in all areas and levels of government. In order to achieve this, the National Youth Strategy 2015-2025 envisages, amongst others, introducing the category of youth in compliance with the Law on Youth (according to the Law on Youth, youth or young people shall mean persons from 15 to and including 30 years of age) in reporting and projections made by different youth policy actors - including statistics offices and other research institutions and organisations. The Strategy, also, envisages adopting a system for the relevant institutions to report about their activities, that recognizes youth categories in accordance with the Law on Youth and assess their compliance with the youth policy goals in their jurisdiction.

Given all this, it is necessary for all the youth policy actors to start sorting out and publish data they produce or acquire in accordance to the Law on Youth. This means that the youth policy actors should sort out and publish their data also specifically for the category of youth or young people from 15 to and including 30 years of age.

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This refers to all the data related to the number of young persons in the Republic of Serbia, number of employed, unemployed and active young persons, number of young persons that are entrepreneurs or owners of business entities, and all other policy areas.

In addition, the data on youth should be kept in open data format, publicly available for all potential users, in accordance with the initiative for open data, and the Open Government Partnership Initiative.

The 'Youth Bank Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey' remains at your disposal for further assistance in achieving the goals of the National Youth Strategy and the Law on Youth.

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