

Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS)
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Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: Septembar 2018 **To:** July 2020

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

06.08.2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Young researchers of Serbia reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Tanja Petrović

Executive director of Young researchers of Serbia



Part II. Description of Actions

Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS) is nongovernmental organization working on environmental protection and voluntarism.

During period August 2018 – July 2020 the key areas of action under the YRS Environmental Protection Programme were: protection of nature and biodiversity, water protection and management, environmental policies, sustainable development, and the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. Our activities mainly contribute to SDG 5, 11, 13, 17, 15.

The representatives of YRS participated in several events (seminars, conferences) regarding sustainable transport, climate change and other aspects of sustainable development. Additionally, in cooperation with GIZ team from Serbia in July, a project proposal on strengthening the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Serbia was prepared, but the project did not receive the donor' support.

In cooperation with the Belgrade Open School and other Coalition 27 members, the YRS participated in the development of the methodology for monitoring the implementation of sustainable development goals at the local level in Serbia. Such a complex task of methodology development was implemented as a part of the "SDG 2030 Local Monitor in Serbia" project.

In the beginning of 2020 we continued our full engagement with Global Compact Local Network in Serbia and made short term plan for activities in 2020 where we announced launching 3 years programme "ECO SYSTEM: environmental reforms supporting programme" and initiated further cooperation with network. More information on ECO SYSTEM programme can be found here <http://ekosistem.mis.org.rs/>

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

YRS is following EU integration process of Serbia related to the environment and has participated actively in transposing EU Directives related to Environmental Liability and Precaution of industrial pollution in Serbian legislation. This activity is fully in line with Global Compact Principles. Additionally, cooperation with number of stakeholders and partnerships realized are advancing the UN Global Compact principles on human rights.

In the last 2 years YRS:

- Has implemented around 20 projects (both national and international) focusing on environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as volunteerism;
- Has organized more than a dozen meetings of civil society organizations (CSO) and institutions, roundtables, seminars and training sessions;
- Has influenced development of two strategies, 5 laws and several sub-legal acts in the area of environment and sustainability;

- Has given more than 70 recommendations to the institutions for better implementation of policies in the areas of horizontal legislation, water and protection of nature;
- Has actively participated in the activities of 10 national, regional and international networks.

One of the biggest achievements in reporting period is implementation of 65 international voluntary workcamps in Serbia in collaboration with local authorities, associations, businesses. All workcamps are trying to be organized aligned with some of the SDG such as climate action, sustainable cities and communities, gender equality, etc. Thanks to the workcamps voluntarism is being broadly promoted among young people in Serbia who donated more than 50.000 volunteer working hours and this was very efficient tool for environmental awareness rising.