



**RES Foundation**  
Partnerships  
for Resilience



**RES FOUNDATION**

# **UN Global Compact**

**COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) for the period 2019 - 2021**

# ABOUT RES FOUNDATION

RES Foundation is a Belgrade based civil society organization established in 2015. We collect, analyze and distribute knowledge for evidence-based policy making in energy and climate change, primarily in Serbia, the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe.

We understand air pollution, energy poverty and the ongoing climate emergency as symptoms of underlying conditions of fossil fuels dependency, inefficient production, distribution and use of energy.

We work towards engaging, facilitating, and leading partners from central and local governments, business, and civil society towards a swift and just energy transition to renewables and energy efficiency in such ways so as to ensure no one is left behind without a ticket to our shared European, climate-neutral future.

# STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

Dear Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that the RES Foundation remains committed to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, the environment, and anticorruption. Since joining the UN Global Compact in 2016, RES Foundation has incorporated these principles into both its international procedures and external engagements. Furthermore, a right to clean environment has fueled the RES Foundation's mission since its establishment.

We are proud to submit our second Communication on Engagement (COE) for the period **2019 - 2021** in which we have described our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles. We also commit to continue reporting on our progress every two years in line with the Global Compact COE guidelines.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stevan Vujasinović', is written over a horizontal line.

Stevan Vujasinović,

Executive director of RES Foundation

# DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN SUPPORT OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT AND ITS TEN PRINCIPLES

## Human Rights

In its operations, RES Foundations maintains highest respect for human rights. Two of the most prominent areas advanced by RES Foundation in this regard, include the right to adequate housing and gender equality.

One of the main elements of adequate housing, includes access to energy services, namely heating. Since its establishment, energy poverty has been one of the three main program areas around which the organization work has revolved. The most comprehensive analysis published on energy poverty in Serbia has been the work of the RES Foundation. The results published were supported by evidence from the nationwide research it has conducted. The need to address energy poverty more systematically was further advocated in numerous public appearances, including most recently in the national Parliament.

Advancing gender equality has also been of particular importance. RES Foundation acts as a principal advocate for introducing gender aspects to the energy policies of the countries in the Western Balkans. Energy policies in the region remain largely gender-blind, despite the specific energy needs of women. RES Foundation also continuously provides a platform for many successful women in the energy sector to share their experiences and engage more women into joining the industry in which men have traditionally prevailed.

### Measurement of Outcomes

Published report "[Everything you wanted to know about energy poverty in Serbia 2021](#)".

Completed nation-wide research on energy poverty and energy consumption in Serbia, as well as research on three specific cities. Each segment of these reports was additionally analyzed through gender lenses and specific gender needs.

Production of [four videos](#) dedicated to streamlining gender aspects of energy policies.

A panel discussion named "Woman of good energy", which brought together nine distinguished women from Serbia which are professionally engaged in the energy sector.

## Labor

Achieving gender equality and fostering inclusivity are important objectives of the RES Foundation. The team has, throughout the years, had gender balanced composition and has been open for internships and hiring of students with no previous working experience. Furthermore, businesses have responded differently to the outbreak of Covid19 pandemic. Employees of RES Foundation have been given flexibility and were free to choose their working environment.

### Measurement of Outcomes

Out of ten employees who have worked full time for RES Foundation in the last two years, we had perfect gender balance of 5 men and 5 women.

## Environment

Two other program areas (outside energy poverty) of RES Foundation which are inherently tied to the question of environmental protection include air pollution and energy transition.

Air pollution is perceived by many as the leading environmental problem facing Serbia today, while energy transition is the most costly and comprehensive policy issue facing Serbia in the process of negotiating its membership with the EU. RES Foundation has been one of the earliest stakeholders to recognize these problems and has tirelessly advocated for enactment of policies which would enable change. In the last two years, RES Foundation has published a series of articles, reports and newsletters covering extensively these and other related policy areas in Serbia. The team has also addressed these issues on its numerous public appearances and during a two-day dedicated conference attended by different groups of stakeholders, including the private sector.

Finding solutions to these complicated problems requires coalition-building and partnerships. This is especially the case with particulate pollution which dominantly comes from household stoves on biomass and coal. RES Foundation has been managing a regional Western Balkans project aimed at addressing this issue by producing a comprehensive knowledge-platform, an A-Z to publicly funded support programs for a future mass change-out scheme for some 3 million household devices in the region. The project brought together CSOs from the region, decision-makers, private sector/industry, IFIs and donor organizations. The WB6 region is home to an estimated 3 million of such inefficient stoves. Even when new, these devices are inefficient and consume disproportionally high amounts of fuel and emit large quantities of polluting substances. Aside from raising awareness and advocating for replacement schemes with decision-makers, this project aims to produce a catalogue of efficient and more environmentally friendly heating devices. The intention is to ultimately revolutionize this market through standardization and the development of more environmentally friendly technologies.

Another initiative which promotes greater environmental sustainability (and responsibility) led by RES Foundation is the Network of Good Energy. Established in 2016, it is an informal network of advanced, forward-looking local self-governments. The objective of the Network, among others, is to bring together local decision-makers and energy managers and to enable them to share positive experiences regarding energy efficiency, as well as to provide a platform for capacity building. Especially important is the role of two energy efficiency experts from RES Foundation who continue to provide technical assistance mainly to local authorities.

RES Foundation is also a member of other important international initiatives. It is a certified supporter of the Covenant of Mayors and a member of Right to Energy Coalition. Most recently it has also partnered up with an international organization Energy Cities and co-hosted a two-day webinar on retrofits, renewable energy and energy communities.

### Measurement of Outcomes

Series of articles, reports and newsletters, including "[Energy transition in Serbia: Cohesion or collision?](#)", "[Out of pace or out of the race?](#)" and others published.

Organization of "[How to win the Balkan Air-pollution dodgeball](#)" conference and setup of its dedicated [website](#).

Established partnerships with the private sector, such as manufacturers of stoves and heat pumps.

Participation in international networks such as the [Right to Energy Coalition](#) and [Covenant of Mayors](#).

Continued managing of the "[Network of Good Energy](#)".

## Anti-corruption

RES Foundation is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity throughout its activities. It maintains a strong stance against corruption and bribery. As an organization that manages multiple grants from different international funders, due diligence is given to conducting our activities with full transparency.

RES Foundation submits regular narrative and financial reports to each funder and is audited annually, documenting all transactions and reimbursements.

### Measurement of Outcomes

Timely narrative and financial reports to donors.



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