

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

From: August 2020 **To:** July 2022

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

06.08.2022

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 a nongovernmental organization working on environmental protection and advocacy activities, promotion and support of sustainable development and voluntarism.

Key areas of action under the YRS Environmental Protection Programme were following: protection of nature and biodiversity, water protection and management, waste management, environmental policies, circular economy, 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 more than 150 events (seminars, conferences, round tables, trainings) and some of them were connected with SDG and 2030 Green Agenda. Special focus was given on Green Agenda implementation in Western Balkan countries. Below are listed some of the activities where YRS actively participated and contributed:

- Within **Global Compact Network in Serbia**, YRS is a part of SDG working group and gender perspective working group.
- In December 2021, YRS had representatives in **Regional Cooperation Council - Biodiversity Task Force** that is an intergovernmental technical and advisory body of the Regional Working Group on Environment that coordinates regional activities, facilitates the implementation of the Southeast Europe 2020 (SEE 2020) Strategy and creates a framework for more efficient implementation of biodiversity policies in the framework of accession to the European Union.
- In May 2022, YRS took part in **National consultations on the environment**, within **Serbia's preparations for the global conference "Stockholm+50"**, which were organized by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection in Serbia and with the support of the Government of Sweden.
- In March 2022, the virtual meeting was held within a series of subregional consultations in the Europe and Central Asia region as part of **preparations for the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)**, where YRS representative presented key messages and recommendations of feminists and women's right organizations on behalf of the CSO's Western Balkan countries and Turkey.

Since 2020, YRS is implementing long term environmental programmes that also promotes and contributes to the implementation of the SDG goals on local level and national level:

(1) **ECO SYSTEM: Supporting environmental reforms in Serbia** supported by Sida. The programme objective is to enforce the reforms in the environmental sector in Serbia through more active involvement of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in the implementation of the EU acquis and constant cooperation of stakeholders.

(2) **Green Incubator** supported by European Union. The projects main efforts are directed at building up capacities and increasing effectiveness of civil society actors to support and participate in EU integration process.

(3) **Volvox - Stronger involvement of civil society in environmental policy making and monitoring** supported by European Union. The objective is to streamline the transformative power of EU integration process and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans into environment and climate change reforms in Serbia.

Further, as recognized need during COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, YRS implemented an online volunteering project “Volunteers Online” together with the UNICEF Serbia with the support of the USAID and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia. The YRS also joined the initiative of the Alliance of International Volunteer Services to create virtual international camps – creating spaces and activities to connect volunteers from around the world (which was extremely important due to the pandemic travel restrictions).

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

YRS is following EU integration process of Serbia related to the environment. 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 over 10 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 given more than 150 recommendations to the institutions for better implementation of policies.
- Has actively participated in the activities of 10 national, regional and international networks.
- Upgraded YRS e-learning platform that has around 2000 users registered.

One of the biggest achievements when it comes to volunteering programme is: implementation of over 50 national 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 100.000 volunteer working hours and this was very efficient tool for environmental awareness rising.

For more details about YRS work visit:

<https://www.mis.org.rs/en/>

<https://ekosistem.mis.org.rs/en/home/>