

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

SeConS Development Initiative Group

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 26th December 2020

To:

25th December 2022

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

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that SeConS Development Initiative Group 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,

Olivera Vukovic

Executive

Director

Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found [here](#).*

In the last two years SeConS has taken numerous actions in order to support the Global Compact. Some of those actions can be classified as business association and labour, while others can be seen as civil society organizations activities. Those activities are:

- Promotion of the GC and its principles through applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact and also by delivering education on topics related to the Global Compact
- Participation in Global Compact global and local events
- Participation in business events with research results
- Joining special initiatives and work streams
- Engage with Global Compact Local Networks

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

- In the area of gender equality, during 2021 SeConS Development Initiative Group completed and published the results of a research on gender equality in the transport sector in Serbia, at the initiative of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia and with the support of the World Bank. For the purpose of conducting the research, a methodology was developed based on four characteristics of the passenger transportation service - availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability. The research, in addition to desk analysis, also included a series of interviews and focus group discussions, as well as survey research on a sample of 2,400 respondents.
- In the same area, SeConS representatives actively participated in the preparation of the 2021 Report for Serbia based on the Gender Equality Index methodology, developed by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). The report was prepared in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia and the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The report was prepared with the professional support of the European Institute for Gender Equality, and based on its methodology, as well as in cooperation with UN Women and with the financial support of the European Union.
- SeConS conducted the research on the same topic in 2022, for the assessment of gender equality in the field of agriculture and rural development for the needs and with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The goal was to point out the forms of gender inequality, their causes and consequences, and to offer recommendations for gender-responsive policies that will enable the transformation of gender relations and structures in the agricultural sector and rural development processes.
- During 2021 and 2022, the Study of women's entrepreneurship was carried out at the initiative of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Serbia, with the support of UN Women, in order to perceive the status of female entrepreneurs in Serbia and the impact of certain programs of support by the Ministry of Economy to women's entrepreneurship. The Study was conducted ten years after the implementation of the Baseline Study of Women's Entrepreneurship, with the aim of perceiving the situation in the area of women's entrepreneurship after ten years, and of identifying changes, achievements, challenges, as well as the potential of women's entrepreneurship that future policies should focus on. The aim was also to make the findings, necessary for the formulation of policies aimed at encouraging women's entrepreneurship, available to the Ministry of Economy. The research on women's entrepreneurship was conducted through three basic components, by employing mixed research methods:
 - 1) Desk analysis;
 - 2) Original research that included two components:
 - a. Quantitative research on a representative sample of active female entrepreneurs, derived from the Serbian Business Registers Agency's records based on the criteria that women are registered entrepreneurs or that they are, at the same time, (co)owners and directors of registered companies;
 - b. Qualitative research, with female entrepreneurs selected from the same survey research sample, formed on the basis of records from the Serbian Business Registers Agency
 - 3) Analysis of the effects of selected support measures for female entrepreneurs, based on data obtained from the Ministry of Economy.
- In the area of human rights, within the "Migration for Development" (PME) programme in Serbia, implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – the German Organization for International Cooperation (GIZ), SeConS conducted a research on Socio-economic position and reintegration of returnees under the readmission agreement in Serbia in 2021. The goal of the programme is to improve the economic and social participation of returnees and the local population in the country. The programme is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, the National Employment Service and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, with the support and services provided by the German Information Centre for Migration, Vocational Training and Career (DIMAK) in cooperation with the local institutions, partners from the private sector and civil society organizations from various cities and municipalities in Serbia.

- As part of the project “Expanding the framework for the fight against human trafficking in Serbia”, the research on human trafficking in Serbia was conducted for the needs of and in cooperation with the organization ASTRA – Anti-Trafficking Action. The research was conducted in the period September 2021 to March 2022, in order to contribute to the improvement and strengthening of the protection system for victims and persons at risk of human trafficking, through the creation of a unique database and recognition of risks, both among the general population and among particularly vulnerable groups. The research was conducted through desk analysis, the survey research on a representative sample of a total of 800 respondents from the general population in Serbia, as well as on an additional sample of 50 Roma respondents, and through interviews with persons at risk of human trafficking and victims of various forms of human trafficking, both in Serbia and abroad.
- Through two phases of the project entitled "Establishment of an information system for the prevention of peer violence" (phase 3 and phase 4), in cooperation with the Citizens' Association "Women's support centre", and with the financial support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia, SeConS presented the results of thematic research on security risks to which young people in Serbia are exposed. Attention was directed to security risks that have so far been under-researched: risks on the Internet, traffic risks, health risks and risks of labour exploitation.
- On the topic of social care, a three-year initiative entitled "Strengthening resilience of older persons and persons with disabilities during COVID-19 and future disasters" is in progress in the Western Balkans region, coordinated by the Red Cross of Serbia and supported by the European Union, the Austrian Development Agency and the Austrian Red Cross. SeConS Development Initiative Group is one of the partners, and the goal is for the elderly, people with disabilities, CSOs and local organizations to be better able to deal with the COVID-19 crisis in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo*.
- During the year 2022, SeConS Development Initiative Group completed the study on "Rapid assessment of the abuse of child labour in the streets in Serbia" within the International Labor Organization MAP16 project - "Measurement, awareness-raising and policy engagement to accelerate action against child labour and forced labour".
- For two years, SeConS representatives participated in several business conferences and business forums where they presented the results of the research, with the aim of involving the business community in solving the problems dealt with by civil society.
- Members of the SeConS team participated in regular meetings of the Global Compact in Serbia.
- Through the platform MONS - Monitoring of social situation in Serbia, SeConS published three issues on the following topics: Youth and security risks, Progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in Serbia, and Long-term care.