

Young Researchers of Serbia

Report on activities in 2022



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About the Young Researchers of Serbia

VISION: We stand for a world in which natural resources are used sustainably, and a society that is just, solidary and affords everyone equal opportunities and support for development.

MISSION: Our mission is to be a driving force in society which contributes to the environmental protection and improvement, and the sustainable development of communities by using scientific knowledge through educational programmes and volunteering.

VALUES: VALUES: YRS stands for the preservation of freedoms, environmental justice and transparency, equality and solidarity in society and participation of all in defining and implementing the public interest.



About the Young Researchers of Serbia

Values and work principles applied by the organisation's employees:

Sustainable development: We strive to apply the principles of sustainability while working on programmes and within the organisation itself. In the programmes, we promote principles of environmental protection: prevention, precaution and "polluter pays".

Participatory democracy: We advocate greater participation of all citizens in decision-making processes and, through the activities we organise, we promote their informed and direct participation.

Justice: We are committed to the development of a just society in which there is no discrimination, and we apply this in our work.

Integrity: We continuously advocate for a society that is guided by the principles of ethics, morality and honesty. We act responsibly towards society, citizens, partner organisations and colleagues in YRS, guided by the organisation's values, and preserving its integrity and credibility.

Expertise and education: We encourage continuous learning and development, volunteering and activism in the programmes we organise. We also support the development of people employed in our organisation.

Freedom: We strive to have open communication within the organisation, to be transparent in our work, and we uncompromisingly advocate for the preservation of citizen's rights and freedoms.



Team of Young Researchers of Serbia

2022

Management Board: Dragana Randelović - president;
Snežana Jovičić, Aleksandar Ristić, Violeta Orlović i
Bogdan Radić

Executive director: Tanja Petrović

Sector managers: Milka Gvozdenović, Aleksandar Ristić,
Dušica Trnavac Bogdanović and Sanda Plavec

Program and project coordinators: Tijana Ljubenović,
Aleksandra Dimić, Milica Žarković

Communications coordinator: Suzana Todorović

Secretary of the Coalition 27: Milena Antić

Financial administrator: Vera Bukilić Radusin





New strategic plan of YRS

During the period from October 2021 to March 2022, the Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS) carried out a strategic planning process whose purpose was to secure sustainable and growth-oriented action plan of the organisation, both on a programme and organisational level.

The 2022 Annual Activity Report is structured differently compared to the previous reports - the work results shall be presented according to programme strategic objectives.

Realized projects during 2022.





Programme objective 1

Volunteering has been recognised as an important tool for community development, and mechanisms and volunteering programmes have been set in place throughout Serbia that contribute to strengthening society's capacities for sustainable development.

In the year when the world was still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, opportunities for volunteering were significantly different, but they were nevertheless available. By adapting our regular activities and new projects, we managed to preserve the spirit of youth activism and empower the local community.

Voluntary Service of Serbia

Despite the limitations, we managed to preserve the spirit of volunteering and to strengthen the national dimension of volunteering. In a safe manner, we continued to create space for young people to be active, which had proven to be essential in situations like these.

In 2022, our volunteers participated in **79 camps throughout Europe.**

National camps brought together 102 volunteers and welcomed 12 participants from abroad..



Project YOUTH RULES– National youth volunteering program

Duration: June 2022 – December 2022.

Donor: Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia

Project role: YRS is leading organisation

OBJECTIVE: Encouraging youth activism and improving conditions for volunteering among the youth and for the youth.

RESULTS:

30 volunteering camps organised, with participation of more than 500 volunteers.

30 participants participated at training for camp leaders.

Two major volunteering actions carried out at the nature reserve Obedska bara, with participation of more than 200 volunteers.

135 " Šta nam teško" volunteering projects carried out throughout Serbia, with participation of more than 1,000 volunteers.

Project ImProve Your Impact

Duration: January 2020 – October 2022.

Donor: European Union

Project role: YRS is partner organisation

OBJECTIVE: A contribution to measuring the impact and recognising the importance of volunteering/youth activities on the youth capacity building.

RESULTS:

ImProve app developed - a tool for tracking competence development of the beneficiaries of volunteering and other youth programmes.

The ImProve app is used not only to measure competence, but also to collect important data necessary for tracking and improving the work of organisations, advocacy and fundraising.

Expanded network of individuals and organisations that promote the use of e-manual and app.

The app was recognised as a tool for tracking development through volunteering, measuring the impact of volunteering on the development of youth and enabling better recognition by employers.

ROUTE WB6 – ROUTE 6 for the Western Balkans

Duration: jan 2019 – mart. 2022.

Donor: NORAD, Norwegian Agency for
Development Cooperation

Project role: YRS is partner organisation

OBJECTIVE: Cross-border volunteering as a mechanism to shorten the social and ethical distance between the youth in the region and to enhance prosocial and European values for encouraging reconciliation, stability and prosperity in the WB6 region.

RESULTS:

Reform of the volunteering policy.

Establishing a Regional Volunteering Service and the regional volunteering programme ROUTE WB6.

Scaling the regional volunteering programme ROUTE WB6.

C.L.I.C. – Empowering a community of long-term volunteers

Duration: 2023 –2026.

Donor: European Union

Project role: YRS is partner organisation

OBJECTIVE: Empowering organisations that provide support to volunteers in long-term projects of the European Solidarity Corps with the aim of multiplying the effect that the programme has on inclusion, environmental protection and spreading European values.

Through three work plans in the following three years, the project shall:

- Equip organisations with new research and tools so as to better support youth volunteering through a holistic approach.
- Define new patterns and ways of engagement in the local community.
- Test and analyse volunteers' initiatives in the local community through their support.

Planned results: Specific propositions for empowering ESC programmes that will inspire decision-makers. The project is devised in such a way that the results and propositions shall be presented before designing the next cycle of the ESC programme.



Programme objective 2

Empowered civil society, with greater influence and competence to take part in the decision-making processes in an informed manner and to implement activities aimed at environmental protection and community development.

Programme ECO SYSTEM: Support for reforms in environmental protection

Duration: 2020. – 2024.

Donor: Sweden (Sida)

Project role: YRS is leading organisation

OBJECTIVE: Enforce the reforms in the environmental sector in Serbia through the more active involvement of CSOs in the implementation of EU acquis and constant cooperation of stakeholders

RESULTS:

13 projects supported on behalf of 12 networks that operate in the environmental protection field and that include more than 200 members in total.

We encourage activism, engagement and advocacy of civil society organisations when it comes to support to the implementation of environmental protection reforms.

Continued campaign to raise awareness of the public of environmental protection that reached more than 3 million people in Serbia.

Three Shadow Reports of Coalition 27 on Serbia's progress on Chapter 27 published and promoted. These reports include more than 500 recommendations and comments on improving policies, practices and finance management.

Project GREEN INCUBATOR

Duration: January 2021 – December 2023.

Donor: European Union

Project role: YRS is leading organisation

OBJECTIVE: Developing a competent civil society that contributes to the reform processes and Serbia's integration with the EU.

RESULTS:

During the three years of the project, a consortium made up of four organisations achieved the following results:

At least 100 CSOs and more than 60 informal groups empowered to work on the application, advocacy and communication of environmental standards and benefits for the local communities.

Citizens' involvement and participation of several interested parties in environmental matters and possibilities in at least 40 local communities.

Increased transparency and availability of information on the environment on a local and national level.

Established inter-sector dialogue between CSOs and decision-makers on the possibilities for cooperation and joint solution of challenges in environmental protection and local development.

Recommendations designed and promoted for development of circular economy on a local level.

Project Volvox - Stronger participation of civil society in the development and monitoring of the environmental protection policy

Duration: January 2020 – December 2022.

Donor: European Union

Project role: YRS is partner organisation

OBJECTIVE: To focus the transformative power of the European integrations process and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans on environmental protection and climate change reforms in Serbia.

RESULTS:

Impact on the processes of developing policies, primarily of the Environmental Protection Strategy of RS.

A communication campaign was carried out which included a survey on the state of environmental protection in Serbia and the citizens' vision of how the environment should look like, as well as two research projects on the effectiveness of participation of CSOs and citizens in developing and monitoring public policies on environmental protection from the perspective of the expert community and the public sector and on the effectiveness of participation of CSOs and informal groups in the processes of making decisions on the environment.

A database of cases/legal casefiles of impact assessment (IA) and strategic impact assessment (SIA) is under development.

Project Together for environment (TEP)

Duration: September 2022 – September 2027.

Donor: USAID/Belgrade Open School

Project role: YRS is partner organisation

OBJECTIVE: Building, enhancing and strengthening capacities of protected areas managers, improving sustainable mechanisms for financing such areas and including the business sector and citizens in topics of environmental preservation, biodiversity protection and clean air.

RESULTS:

The project started in September 2022, and in its early stages it focused on structure setup, drawing up documents and planning, given that it is a five-year project and includes multiple partners.

The project is carried out by a consortium of six civil society organisations: Belgrade Open School (BOS) as the leading partner, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the international organization The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Young Researchers of Serbia (YRS), AmCham in Serbia and ENECA organisation.



Programme objective 3

Increased personal responsibility and competences of citizens in relation to the environment as a result of innovative educational programs.

E-learning platform

Položi našu obuku
o upravljanju vodama!

Na sajtu obuke.mis.org.rs možeš da
se registruješ i odabereš obuke iz
različitih oblasti koje se tiču zaštite
životne sredine.

Programme of online trainings of Young Researchers of Serbia (<https://obuke.mis.org.rs/>) was launched in 2013.

During 2020, the platform was upgraded, and seven new courses were added.

By the end of 2022, more than 1,800 users were registered on the platform.



Danube Art Master 2022

In 2022, YRS was the national coordinator of the "Danube Art Master" competition for the 12th time.

The competition was jointly organised by the Global Water Partnership Central and Eastern Europe (GWP CEE) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), with the aim of encouraging children to have a closer look at their local rivers, to reflect on the importance of the environment, and to create original artworks to present the beautiful nature of their regions.

Results of the competition

- o 35 artworks
- o 130 participants aged 6-18
- o 14 schools from Serbia



Educational activities through the ECO-SYSTEM programme



In cooperation with organisations that received support through the ECO-SYSTEM programme, in 2022, we organised:

- 8 round tables
- 3 conferences
- 12 forums/public lectures
- 27 different trainings for children and youth
- 7 environmental camps for youth
- 3 seminars/workshops for journalists
- 1 teacher training
- ... and so forth.

The map shows places where the educational activities as part of the ECO-SYSTEM programme took place.

Various educational events

In 2022, YRS organised more than 30 educational events (workshops and trainings) and participated in more than 50 educational and promotional events.



Nacionalne konsultacije
Stokholm+50
sa
Organizacijama
civilnog društva





MIS donors
and networks

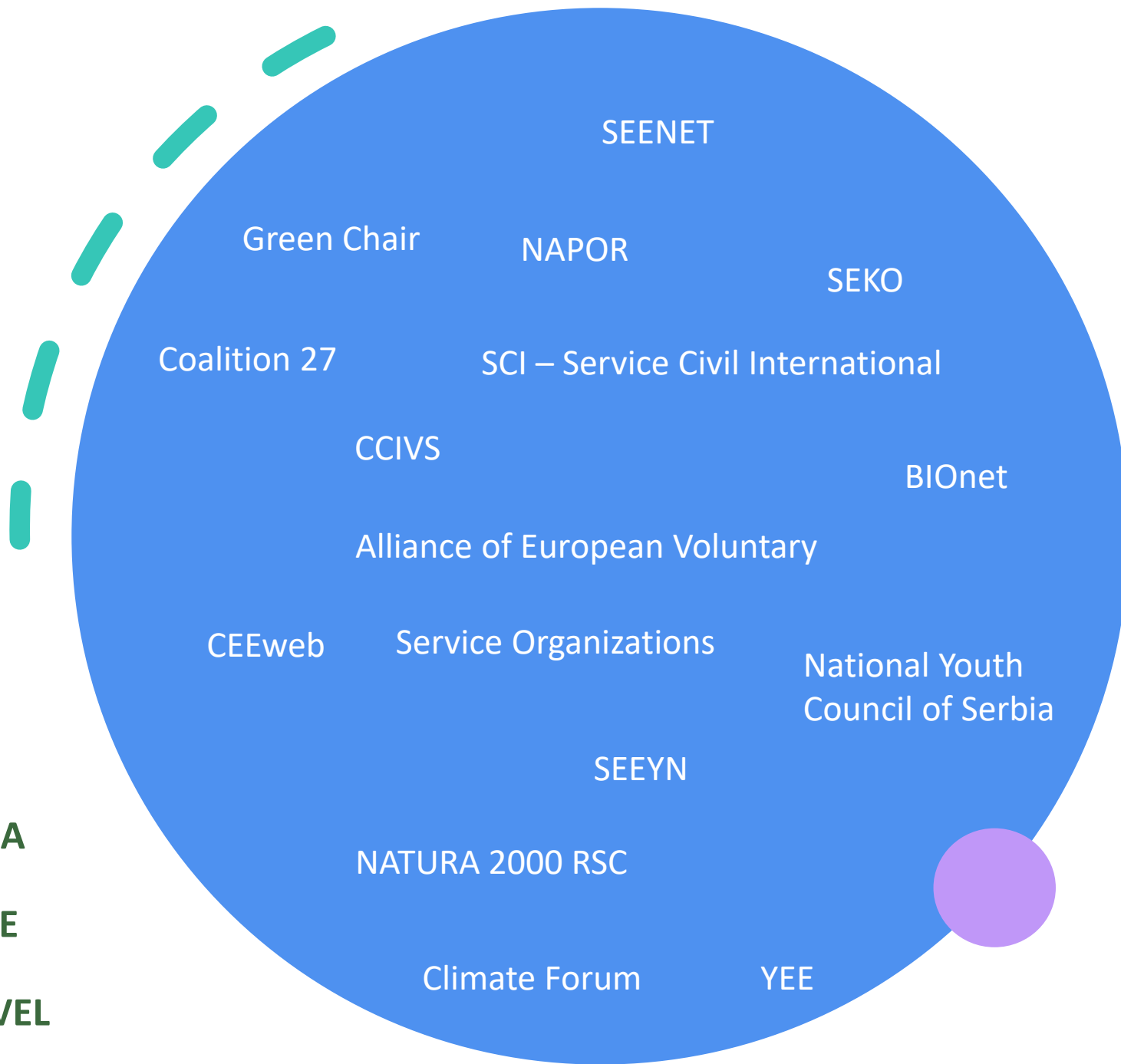
YRS DONORS in 2022



#EY
ЗА ТЕБЕ



IN 2022, YRS WAS A MEMBER OF THE NETWORKS AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL





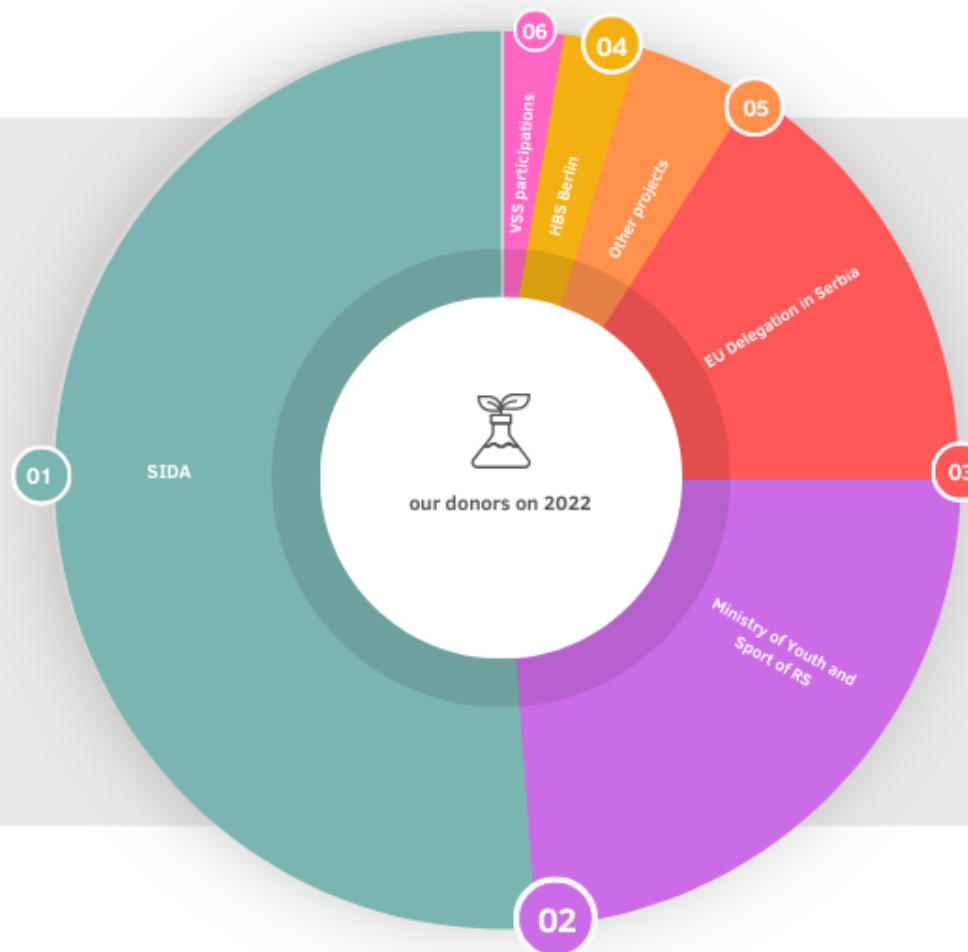
Development of YRS

Improved policies and practices

- A Policy and Code of Conduct have been developed for the protection, prevention and prohibition of sexual harassment.
- Improved practices of applying the methodology for granting grants to citizens' associations and informal groups
- Internal trainings were held for the application of SEAH and prevention of corruption.



01	Swedish International Development Agency - SIDA	51,2%
02	Ministry of Youth and Sport of RS	25,6%
03	EU Delegation in Serbia	18,6%
04	HBS Berlin	1.2%
05	Other projects	2.9%
06	VSS participations of volunteers	0.5%



Total

85,937,583.60 RSD

Digital YRS

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obuke.mis.org.rs
arhusnbg.mis.org.rs
kampovi.mis.org.rs
ekosistem.mis.org.rs



www.mis.org.rs
Facebook over 21K followers
Instagram over 10K followers



www.mis.org.rs
YRS E-LEARNING
Updated and improved e-learning platform
13 courses
> 1800 participants