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Five years of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on SDG 13

December 2020.

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Five years of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on SDG 13

The United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)¹ is the main global forum for reviewing successes, challenges, and lessons learned on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — and for countries to share their Voluntary National Reviews². So far, more than a hundred countries have presented their efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Global implementation analysis

*The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020*³ presents an overview of progress towards the SDGs before the pandemic started, but it also looks at some of the devastating initial impacts of COVID-19 on specific Goals and targets. The report was prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with over 200 experts from more than 40 international agencies using the latest available data and estimates.

The implementation of SDG13 scored low (dangerously high levels of greenhouse gas emissions!)⁴.

Achieving a low-carbon, climate-resilient transition requires a much greater scale of annual investment.

The world remains far from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13 — SDG13 is at the present levels of Nationally Determined Contributions. Global greenhouse gas emissions of developed countries and economies in transition have declined by 6.5 per cent over the period between 2000 and 2018. Meanwhile, the emissions of developing countries are up by 43.2 per cent from 2000 to 2013. The rise is largely attributable to increased industrialization and enhanced economic output measured in terms of GDP. The Paris Agreement has been ratified by 189 parties⁵, and 186 parties (185 countries plus the European Union) have communicated their first nationally determined contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. Three parties have communicated their second nationally determined contributions. In addition, 17 long-term strategies, 18 national adaptation plans, and 2 adaptation communications were submitted by parties. By 2020, parties are expected to update existing nationally determined contributions or communicate new ones, with a view to substantially increasing the ambitiousness of proposed climate action. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has throttled economic activity and disrupted business as usual worldwide, offers an opportunity for countries to reassess priorities and to rebuild their economies to be greener and more resilient to climate change.

Climate change continues to exacerbate the frequency and severity of natural disasters, which affected more than 39 million people in 2018, resulting in deaths, disrupted livelihoods, and economic losses. As of April 2020, 85 countries — slightly

1 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/monitoring-and-progress-hlpf/>

2 *The Voluntary National Reviews aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences by governments, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing the 2030 Agenda. They also seek to strengthen policies and mobilize support and partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.*

3 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/>

4 <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/progress-chart-2020.pdf>

5 *As of 31 March 2020*

over 40 per cent — reported that they have national disaster risk reduction strategies aligned, to some extent, to the Sendai Framework⁶, with six of the countries reporting fully aligned national strategies. In 2018, 55 countries reported that at least some of their local governments had local disaster risk reduction strategies in line to some extent with national strategies. Countries are making vigorous efforts to address the risks of pandemics such as COVID-19 by integrating biohazard risk management into disaster risk reduction strategies at the national and local levels.

In addition, the SDG Tracker presents data across all available indicators from the Our World in Data database, using official statistics from the UN and other international organisations⁷; the data are especially useful where they are unavailable from national sources.

Analysis of implementation in the EU

The European Union (EU) has made a positive and constructive contribution to the development of the 2030 Agenda, remaining committed to incorporating the SDGs throughout its policies and encouraging both EU Member States and EU candidate countries to follow suit.

Between 2014 and 2017, the EU earmarked 20% of its budget for climate action and the allotment is likely to reach at least 25% as of 2021, which attests to the growing importance of climate action in the agenda.

In December 2019, the European Commission announced the European Green Deal⁸, a new EU growth strategy. The European Green Deal aims to transform the European Union into a modern, efficient, and competitive economy where climate and environmental challenges are addressed and turned into opportunities, while using sustainable development in the European Union to make the transition fair and inclusive for all; it contains a roadmap with actions to stop climate change, move to the circular economy⁹, *reduce biodiversity loss, and reduce pollution. Furthermore, it provides the necessary investments and available financing tools. The 2020 European Semester cycle started with the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy*¹⁰. *In 2020, the EU announced monitoring data on progress towards the SDGs¹¹ in the context of the EU; the publication is based on a set of EU SDG indicators*¹².

The overall rating of the progress made towards SDG13 in the EU ‘remains neutral’, meaning that progress has been made over the last few years in some areas, while other have seen negative developments (the trend indicates that the EU will meet its 2030 target that pertains reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but it is lagging behind on its 2020 renewable energy target; average ocean acidity remains on the rise; financial losses due to weather and climate disasters continue to mount).

6 *The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 aims to reduce existing — and prevent new — disaster risk through clear targets and priorities for action, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

7 <https://sdg-tracker.org/>

8 *European Commission (2019), The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640.*

9 *See also Mihajlov A., A. Mladenović, and F. Jovanović (2019), Circular Economy in Serbia: The Process Started, Belgrade: Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development, available at ambassadors-em.com/en/www-staro-pre-2020/circular-economy-in-serbia and circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/circular-economy-serbia-process-started*

10 *European Commission (2019), Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020, COM(2019) 650*

11 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/11011074/KS-02-20-202-EN-N.pdf>

12 *The 2030 Agenda components that are less relevant to the EU because they centre on other parts of the world (for example, where the targets specifically apply to developing countries) are not taken into account.*

Analysis of SDG13 implementation in Serbia

Article 9 of the Republic of Serbia's Constitution stipulates that the Republic of Serbia regulates and ensures: "sustainable development; environmental protection and improvement systems; protection and improvement of flora and fauna; ...".

Appropriately describing how the SDGs are implemented in Serbia¹³ requires an outline of the country's national strategic documents. This Analysis gives a historical overview of the main documents at different levels that served as the framework for sustainable development.

Year	International level, select key relevant events	Select relevant (strategic) documents
1972	First UN Conference on the Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCHS), Stockholm, Sweden	
1987	Brundtland Report, Our Common Future	
1991	(First Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia)
1992	UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), with the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, and the three Rio Conventions, including the UNFCCC. Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is established	National Report for UNCED, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
1993	Environmental Policy (with the principle of sustainable development) is adopted, Federal Ministry for the Environment, FRY
1996	The FRY's National Report for the Habitat II Committee
1997		The FRY ratifies the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
2000	The UN Millennium Summit in New York. The Millennium Development Goals 2000–2015 are adopted	...
2001	EU Sustainable Development Strategy	
2002	World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	Progress Report on the Implementation of Agenda 21: Serbia on the Path of Sustainable Development
2003	...	RS Poverty Reduction Strategy Waste Management Strategy, with the programme of the Republic of Serbia's EU approximation to the EU, 2003–2008
2005	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014 starts	Serbia's National Strategy for Serbia and Montenegro's Accession to the European Union Local Sustainable Development Strategy is adopted at the General Assembly of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities

¹³ See also *Monitoring izveštaj o stepenu ispunjenosti uslova za sprovođenje Ciljeva održivih razvoja (COR) u Republici Srbiji, Načrt [Monitoring Report on Eligibility for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation in the Republic of Serbia, Draft]*, Belgrade Open School and Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Belgrade, 2020

2006	EU Sustainable Development Strategy	National Millennium Development Goals in the Republic of Serbia ¹⁴ Forestry Development Strategy
2007	EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	...
2008	...	The Republic of Serbia's National Sustainable Development Strategy from 2009 to 2019 Serbia ratifies the Kyoto Protocol
2009	UN Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark	Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (2009–2017)
2010	...	Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia 2010–2020 Waste Management Strategy 2010–2019 National Environmental Protection Programme, for a period of ten years ending with 2019 First National Report on the Implementation of the Climate Change Convention (Initial National Communication) Biodiversity Strategy in the Republic of Serbia 2010–2019
2011	...	National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in Emergencies RS Industry Development Strategy and Policy 2011–2020 RS National Strategy for Environmental Approximation Progress Report on the Implementation of National Sustainable Development Strategy
2012	UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) Rio + 20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	National Report for the Rio + 20 Conference: Study on Green Economy and Sustainable Growth Progress and Prospects in Serbia ¹⁵ National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, 2012–2022 2020 Education Development Strategy in the Republic of Serbia
2013	The UN Commission on Sustainable Development is replaced by the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) ¹⁶	
2014	The EU's 2030 climate and energy targets	Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2014–2024

¹⁴ As of 5 June 2006 The Republic of Serbia becomes the successor state of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro

¹⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/984.serbia.pdf>

¹⁶ The HLPF meets every year as part of ECOSOC meetings and every four years as part of the UN General Assembly meeting.

2015	<p>2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals are adopted by the UN General Assembly in New York</p> <p>COP21 climate conference in Paris (Paris Agreement)</p> <p>Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Japan</p>	<p>RS 2025 Energy Development Strategy with projections</p> <p>Adopted document: Status and EU acquis transposition and implementation plans for Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change¹⁷</p> <p>Adopted document: Nationally determined contributions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (NDC)¹⁸</p> <p>(A draft of the first national plan for climate change adaptation is produced)</p>
2016	...	<p>The Republic of Serbia's Initial Biennial Update Report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</p> <p>Public programme of financial management reform 2016–2020</p>
2017	...	<p>Paris Agreement is ratified</p> <p>The Republic of Serbia's Second Report to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</p> <p>RS 2034 Water Resources Management Strategy</p>
2018	EU strategy for climate neutrality by 2050 ¹⁹ in accordance with the Paris Agreement	National Programme for the Adoption of the EU Acquis 2018–2021 (third revision, 2018)
2019	EU resolution on the European Green Deal	<p>Economic Reform Programme (ERP) 2019–2021</p> <p>RS 2030 Sustainable Urban Development Strategy</p> <p>The Republic of Serbia's Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>
2020	<p>EU Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020²⁰</p> <p>UN Decade for Action on Sustainable Development 2020–2030</p>	<p>Negotiating position for Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change is submitted to the EU²¹</p> <p>National plan to reduce emissions of major pollutants from old large combustion plants²²</p> <p>Industry Development Strategy 2021–2030²³</p> <p>(RS Draft Low-Carbon Development Strategy / Climate Change Strategy)</p>
...		
2030	... the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals expire	

17 http://www.pregovarackagrupa27.gov.rs/?wpfb_dl=69

18 For Serbia www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Serbia%20First/Republic_of_Serbia.pdf

19 COM (2018) 773

20 COM(2019) 650

21 LIMITE document

22 ekologija.gov.rs/nacionalni-plan-za-smanjeње-emisija-glavnih-zagađujućih-materija-koje-potiču-iz-starih-velikih-postrojenja-za-sagorevanje/

23 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/35/1/reg>

The Republic of Serbia has not capitalized on its decades-long efforts in sustainable development; it should be noted that the **Republic of Serbia is going into 2021 with a dozen relevant strategic documents in force that fail to provide a legally rounded out basis for ensuring the country's development in line with sustainable development principles:**

1. **Document on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Serbia)** ²⁴
2. **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources 2012–2022**²⁵
3. National Programme for the Adoption of the EU Acquis 2018–2021 (third revision, 2018)²⁶
4. Negotiating position for Chapter 27: Environment and Climate Change is submitted to the EU²⁷
5. Nationally determined contributions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (NDC)²⁸
6. Economic Reform Programme (ERP) 2019–2021²⁹
7. RS 2030 Sustainable Urban Development Strategy³⁰
8. RS 2034 Water Resources Management Strategy³¹
9. Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy 2014–2024
10. RS 2030 Energy Development Strategy with projections³²
11. Industry Development Strategy 2021–2030³³
12. **(RS Draft Low-Carbon Development Strategy / Climate Change Strategy)**³⁴

European integration remains Serbia's strategic goal and key foreign policy priority. The past years have seen the issue of the Republic of Serbia's accession to the EU regaining importance³⁵. As an EU candidate country, Serbia seeks alignment with EU policies and actions. Environmental and climate change policies are yet to receive adequate attention; a certain level of preparation has been achieved pertaining to the environment and climate change; limited progress has been noted in energy (although the legal framework is advanced and EU directives have been transposed, the implementation and enforcement are at very early stages). The negotiating position for Chapter 27 (Environment and Climate Change) is to be submitted to the European Commission in January 2020. Serbia intends to implement the Paris Agreement and develop its National Climate and Energy Plan in line with the requirements under the Energy Community Treaty³⁶.

The analysis continues to **focus only on SDG13 — the potential to overcome the dormant stage in relation to this SDG in Serbia through the legal framework.**

The future **RS Low-Carbon Development Strategy / Climate Change Strategy** is of key importance as the country's umbrella document for climate change issues (Serbia has been *promising* the EU to adopt the strategy for several years now, considering the strategy is crucial for the country's EU integration; the last promise was that the document would be adopted by the end of 2020). Furthermore, this directly affects SDG 13.2.1.

24 <http://www.civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/upload/DNI,%20srp.pdf>

25 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2012/33/1>

26 <https://www.mei.gov.rs/srl/dokumenta/nacionalna-dokumenta/npaa>

27 The document will carry the LIMITE marking until Chapter 27 is opened for negotiations with the EU (for non, consult http://www.pregovarackagrupa27.gov.rs/?wpfb_dl=69)

28 https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Serbia%20First/Republic_of_Serbia.pdf

29 mfin.gov.rs/UserFiles/File/strategije/2019/Program%20ekonomskih%20reformi%202019%20-%202021.pdf

30 <http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2019/47/1/reg>

31 <https://www.paragraf.rs/propisi/strategija-upravljanja-vodama-u-srbiji-do-2034.html>

32 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/ostalo/2015/101/1/reg>

33 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SIGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/strategija/2020/35/1/reg>

34 <http://www.klimatskastrategija.eu/>

35 <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/tekst/330296/envopske-integracije.php>, as on 12.09.2020.

36 An integral part of EU accession; Serbia has already made certain commitments through the Regional Energy Agreement. Serbia 2019 Progress Report, European Commission (2019)

The **National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources** — which is established by law and important not only for sustainable use of natural resources, but also as a space to lay out sustainable growth and development — should be updated. The updates should be in alignment with the Law on the Planning System of the Republic of Serbia³⁷. **In 2018, the professional association Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development launched the Initiative to Update the National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources³⁸; the relevant bodies failed to respond.**

The document on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Voluntary National Review of the Republic of Serbia) — which was adopted by the Government and discussed by the Assembly committees³⁹ and which states that it relies on the previous National Strategy for Sustainable Development — **defines six development priorities for the Republic of Serbia, noting that the intention was to view the SDGs horizontally.** The RS government identified six strategic *pathways to sustainability*:

1. **Connect, partner, and integrate Serbia in Europe and the world**
2. **Achieve a faster, inclusive, and sustainable growth, based on economic, scientific, and innovation resources**
3. **Render efficient and effective public services**, mainly through improving public administration capacity in order to transform it into a service to the citizens, as well as activities that will enable **exercising rights to a healthy environment**, better social protection, and modern and functional healthcare
4. **Promote human rights and security**, where Serbia seeks to reduce unequal opportunities, eradicate poverty, increase inclusivity, and achieve full gender equality. Commitment to human and minority rights — together with other reforms in this area — is set to contribute to achieving the principles of social justice and building social cohesion **with the ultimate goal of integrating every individual's right to sustainable development into the sustainable development concept**,
5. **Education for the twenty-first century**, with the government placing an emphasis on creating an educational system in line with the needs of society and the desired future, while increasing accessibility to everyone who needs education.
6. **Transformative digitalization**, which is identified as the most powerful driver of innovation, competitiveness, and growth, spurring all reform processes and forming the core of the entire society's development.

The document — although subtitled SDG13 — does not actually depict the implementation of this specific SDG in Serbia; *only some* views on the goal from the perspective of youth and local government are laid out. **In 2019, the professional association Ambassadors of Sustainable Development and the Environment produced its Shadow Report⁴⁰ on the document, analysing whether environmental and gender equality issues had been considered horizontally. The association presented the report at the same UN session in New York⁴¹ where the Government of Serbia previously presented the official document. The report demonstrated that the document had failed to consider these issues as horizontal. The relevant bodies ‘took note of the Shadow Report’; no public information is available regarding the further process and the document.** If the document is confirmed to be the ‘successor of the national sustainable development strategy’, it should be updated and the issues should be appropriately laid down.

The claim that the **Sustainable Development Goals are not included in the Republic of Serbia's key national documents** is also supported by the analysis of the synergy of Nationally

37 <https://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/skupstina/zakon/2018/30/1/reg>

38 <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2018/10/14/env-net-initiative-to-update-national-strategy-on-sustainable-development-by-applying-circular-economy-concept/>

39 Presented at the UN HLPF in New York in 2019

40 <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/files/Shadow-Report.pdf>

41 <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/2019/08/15/serbia-and-agenda-2030-shadow-report-to-voluntary-national-report-presented-by-easd-president-in-un-new-york/>

Determined Contributions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (NDC)⁴² and the implementation of the SDGs for Serbia, which was conducted by the Stockholm Environment Institute and which notes⁴³ that many issues that Serbia reports on internationally are not tied in at all with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The analysis so far suggests that in the Republic of Serbia intends to monitor the implementation of the SDGs using three sources that are not systemically connected:

Monitoring the implementation of SDGs/SDG13		
Statistical indicators based on UN indicators ⁴⁴	Indicators based on a set of EU indicators⁴⁵ ; in essence, this is monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Republic of Serbia ⁴⁶	Monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁴⁷

According to statistical indicators:

SDG 13 monitoring indicators		Monitoring of indicators for RS (analysis done in Sep 2020) ⁴⁸
13.1.1 ⁴⁹	The numbers of deaths, missing persons, and persons directly affected by disasters per 100,000 inhabitants	
13.1.2 ⁵⁰	The number of countries adopting and implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	
13.1.3 ⁵¹	<i>The share of local governments that are adopting and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies at the local level in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</i>	
13.2.1	The number of countries that have submitted their communications on establishing or operationalizing integrated policies/strategies/plans to increase their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and that promote resilience to climate change and low greenhouse gas emission development in ways that do not jeopardize food production (including the national adaptation plan, nationally determined contributions, national communications, biennial update reports, etc.)	
13.3.1	The number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning into primary, secondary, and tertiary curricula	
13.3.2	The number of countries that have submitted their communications on institutional, systemic, and individual capacity building to implement adaptation, mitigation, and technology transfer and development activities	
13.a.1	The amount of US dollars mobilized annually from 2020 to 2025 in order to meet the USD 100 billion commitment	
13.b.1	The number of least developed countries and small island developing countries receiving specialized support, as well as the specific support — including finance, technology, and capacity building — for capacity building mechanisms for effective climate planning and management, together with emphasis on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities	

The value of indicators has not been determined according to the official national statistics monitoring the implementation of SDG13

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating a global response to climate change

Considering that values are still unavailable for these indicators, it is worth noting that they can be determined descriptively. One of the possibilities is presented in a detailed Analysis⁵², while this report only gives illustrative examples (below)

42 For Serbia www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Serbia%20First/Republic_of_Serbia.pdf

43 <https://klimalog.die-gdi.de/ndc/#NDCExplorer/worldMap?NDC??income???catIncome>

44 <http://sdg.indikator.rs/sr-Latn/> ; <http://sdg.indikator.rs/sr-latn/area/climate-action/>

45 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

46 indicator.sepa.gov.rs/nacionalna-lista-indikatora/pravilnik-o-nacionalnoj-listi-indikatora-zastite-zivotne-sredine

47 <https://unfccc.int/>

48 <http://sdg.indikator.rs/sr-latn/area/climate-action/?subarea=SDGUN1301&indicator=>

49 See also indicators 1.5.1 and 11.5.1

50 See also indicators 1.5.3 and 11.b.1

51 See also indicators 1.5.4 and 11.b.2

52 In Serbian, the State of Affairs pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action — in relation to the targets — with reference to the situation in Serbia, to be posted at www.ambassadors-enn.com

SDG13 monitoring indicators	Descriptive state of affairs determined by the Analysis
13.1.2 ⁵³ The number of countries adopting and implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	Score for the adoption and implementation of national strategies in line with the Sendai Framework 0.68 (Serbia, 2017) ⁵⁴
13.1.3 ⁵⁵ <i>The share of local governments that are adopting and implementing disaster risk reduction strategies at the local level in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</i>	The number of local governments adopting disaster risk reduction strategies, from 2017 to 2018 (The number of local governments adopting and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the national strategy) 174 (Serbia, 2018) ⁵⁶
13.2.1 The number of countries that have submitted their communications on establishing or operationalizing integrated policies/strategies/plans to increase their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and that promote resilience to climate change and low greenhouse gas emission development in ways that do not jeopardize food production (including the national adaptation plan, nationally determined contributions, national communications, biennial update reports, etc.)	Indirect indicators that are monitored are data on national carbon dioxide emissions, emissions per capita, and measures according to the intensity of carbon development ⁵⁷ .
13.3.1 The number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning into primary, secondary, and tertiary curricula	The integration of mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning into primary, secondary, and tertiary curricula is at very early stages
13.3.2 The number of countries that have submitted their communications on institutional, systemic, and individual capacity building to implement adaptation, mitigation, and technology transfer and development activities	The information on whether Serbia has submitted its communications on institutional, systemic, and individual capacity building to implement climate adaptation and mitigation, as well as technology transfer and development activities, can be identified mainly by checking klimatskepromene.rs and pregovarakgrupa27.gov.rs
13.a.1 The amount of US dollars mobilized annually from 2020 to 2025 in order to meet the USD 100 billion commitment	This outcome is monitored globally ⁵⁸ ; it is indirectly reflected at the national level.
13.b.1 The number of least developed countries and small island developing countries receiving specialized support, as well as the specific support — including finance, technology, and capacity building — for capacity building mechanisms for effective climate planning and management, together with emphasis on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities	Serbia is not among these countries. The Analysis indicates that it would be useful to monitor how much funds the country manages to use from the Green Climate Fund ⁵⁹ . The data show that Serbia (Sep 2020) ⁶⁰ has three projects financed by the Fund with USD 39.1 million (and two activities with USD 2 million)

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating a global response to climate change

The indicators based on a set of EU indicators⁶¹ in the Republic of Serbia are in essence monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency⁶², which submits the collected data to the European Environment Agency. These data are largely compiled in the Initial and Second National Communications on the Implementation of the Climate Change Convention⁶³ (for example, greenhouse gas emissions).

53 See also indicators 1.5.3 and 11.b.1

54 ourworldindata.org/grapher/countries-with-legislative-regulatory-provisions-for-managing-disaster-risk?region=Europe

55 See also indicators 1.5.4 and 11.b.2

56 <https://sdg-tracker.org/climate-change>

57 <https://sdg-tracker.org/climate-change>

58 <https://sdg-tracker.org/climate-change>

59 <https://www.greenclimate.fund/>

60 <https://www.greenclimate.fund/countries/serbia>

61 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

62 indicator.sepa.gov.rs/nacionalna-lista-indikatora/pravilnik-o-nacionalnoj-listi-indikatora-zastite-zivotne-sredine

63 <https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/publikacije/>

According to the implementation indicators for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it represents also the monitoring framework⁶⁴; Serbia as a non-Annex I country has the obligation to submit⁶⁵ biennial updated reports every two years and national reviews every four years; it has no obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but like all other parties, it is expected to provide data on greenhouse gas emissions and elimination as well as data on the activities it undertakes to implement the Convention and the activities aimed at integrating climate change issues into the broader country development planning process. So far, ⁶⁶Serbia has submitted the following to the Convention Secretariat: Initial National Communication (INC) of the Republic of Serbia (2010), Second National Communication (2017)⁶⁷, and Initial Biennial Update Report⁶⁸ (2016). In Serbia, the implementation of SDG13 is stagnant and still facing challenges⁶⁹.

Conclusions, with a focus on the state of affairs in Serbia

The 2030 Agenda is a global strategy for the planet with 17 goals that includes three dimensions of sustainable development — economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection and improvement. The seventeen SDGs are in keeping with 169 targets and more than 231 indicators.

By definition, this analysis is focused on SDG13: Climate Action. Sustainable Development Goal 13 has five targets, and it is currently monitored using seven indicators (eight, counting local-level implementation). In 2020, the EU established a set of indicators for SDGs in line with the UN SDG indicators. For SDG13, the EU has six indicators — or nine, counting additional indicators of other targets that supplement the monitoring of this target.

The implementation of SDG13 must involve a parallel examination of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement (the processes within the UNFCCC).

The world remains far from achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13 — SDG13 is at the present levels of Nationally Determined Contributions. The implementation of SDG13 scored low (dangerously high levels of greenhouse gas emissions!).

The overall rating of progress towards SDG13 in the EU ‘remains neutral’ (no progress), meaning that progress has been made over the last few years in some areas (for example, reducing greenhouse gas emissions), while other have seen negative developments (for example, renewable energy).

The Republic of Serbia has not capitalized on its decades-long efforts in sustainable development; it should be noted that the Republic of Serbia is going into 2021 with a dozen relevant strategic documents in force that fail to provide a legally rounded out basis for ensuring the country’s development in line with sustainable development principles: The analysis focuses on SDG13 — the potential to **overcome the dormant stage in relation to this SDG in Serbia through the legal framework.** In Serbia, the implementation of SDG13 is stagnant and still facing challenges.

It is noted that the SDGs are not included in the Republic of Serbia’s key national documents. **Continuing its activities centred on the SDGs, the professional association of Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development developed an initiative to promptly identify and produce/update a strategic document that would serve**

64 <https://unfccc.int/>

65 <http://klimatskepromene.dev2.nbgcreator.com/izvestavanje>

66 <http://klimatskepromene.dev2.nbgcreator.com/projekti>, as on 12.09.2020.

67 www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Drugi-izvestaj-o-promeni-klime-SNC_Srbija.pdf

68 https://www.klimatskepromene.rs/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/E-version_FBUR-srpski-2016.pdf

69 Sachs, J., et al., 2020. *The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19, Sustainable Development Report 2020*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

as a solid framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda and monitoring the SDGs both according to UN and EU indicators.

All 17 SDGs are interconnected, which puts SDG13 in the interconnection matrix. The performance in implementing SDG13 affects the performance of other SDGs and vice versa.

The Analysis' conclusions place an emphasis on the importance of implementing SDG13 together with Goal 4 (Quality Education), as well as with Goal 12. Main matrix co-benefits can be identified as follows:

SDG13: CLIMATE CONSERVATION/CLIMATE ACTION	SDG12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13.2 Integrate climate action into national policies, strategies, and planning (industry, infrastructure, management, and efficient use of natural resources, public procurement, waste management, water, agriculture, food security, etc.)	12.2 Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030. 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have relevant information and awareness about sustainable development and lifestyles that are in harmony with nature. 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor the impact of sustainable development on sustainable tourism creating jobs and promoting local culture and products 12.c Optimize inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market disruptions, etc.
SDG13: CLIMATE CONSERVATION/CLIMATE ACTION	SDG4: QUALITY EDUCATION
13.2 Integrate climate action into national policies, strategies, and planning (...and strategies for education, science, innovation...) 13.3 Improve education, awareness raising, and human and institutional capacities for climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning	4.4 By 2030, significantly increase the number of young people and adults with appropriate skills — including technical and professional skills — for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship (<i>skills for the future</i>) 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all students acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including — among other things — through education for sustainable development and sustainable living, human rights, gender equality, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and cultural diversity, and culture's contribution to sustainable development 4.c By 2030, significantly increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher education in developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing states

Finally, it might be interesting to look back on the results of the UNICEF U-Report survey on climate change from November 2019, on climate change from the perspective of young people. According to 39% of respondents, insufficient recycling in Serbia is the main contributor that further adds to climate change, 24% believe that they include production and industrial pollution, 23% name agriculture and deforestation, while 15% believe that carbon dioxide emissions are the main issue. Clearly these views are based on perception — and not evidence — and they **justify the need to educate young people about climate change⁷⁰ by training them for new skills and raising awareness.** The majority of young respondents in this survey (90%) say that it is important to be educated on climate change, 7% rate it as moderately important, while only 4% think that it is not very important.

70 Currently, the issue of education on and for climate change is considered in the context of education for sustainable development. Serbia accepted the conclusions of the Johannesburg Summit and signed the UNECE Belgrade Declaration, committing to include sustainable development education, as recommended, in all levels and types of educational programmes by 2014. Sustainable development education also represents environmental and climate education, and it is education for the future and for future generations. The issue of climate change education is just starting to emerge as a topic of discussion. We refer to the Climate Package educational material; its adaptation for use in Serbia is underway; information is available at klimatskepromene.rs/ves-ti/klimatski-obrazovni-paket/ rs.unep.org/content/serbia/sr/home/presscenter/articles/2020/klimatski-paket-u-srbiji.html, and ambassadors-emn.com/en/project/adaptation-of-the-innovative-interactive-learning-toolkit-on-climate-change-the-climate-box/



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