**VI-IX Report of the Republic of Serbia**

**on the implementation of the International convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (ICERD)**

**АNNEX 1**

**I Census**

1. According to the 2011 Census, a total of 7,186,862 inhabitants live in RS, 51.3% (3,687,686) of whom are women, and 48.7% men (3,499,176).The ethnic structure did not change significantly during the intercensal period (2002-2011)[[1]](#footnote-1). Serbs dominate with a 83.32% share, a total of 5,988,150 inhabitants, despite the fact that their absolute number reduced by about 225,000 (a relative increase in 0.5 %).After Serbs, the greatest population are Hungarians 253,899, with a 3.53% share (previously 3.91%).

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| Bosnians | 145,278 | 2.02% |
| Roma | 147,604 | 2.05% |
| Croatian | 57.900 | 0.81% |
| Slovaks | 52.750 | 0.83% |
| Montenegrins | 37.524 | 0.54% |
| Vlachs | 35.330 | 0.49% |
| Romanians | 29.332 | 0.41% |
| Yugoslavs | 23.303 | 0.32% |
| Macedonians | 22.755 | 0.32% |
| Religion of Islam | 22.301 | 0.31% |
| Bulgarians | 18.543 | 0.26% |
| Bunjevci | 16.706 | 0.23% |
| Ruthenians | 14.246 | 0.20% |
| Gorani | 7.767 | 0.11% |
| Albanians | 5.809 | 0.08% |
| Ukrainians | 4.903 | 0.07% |
| Slovenians | 4.033 | 0.06% |
| Germans | 4.064 | 0.06% |
| Russians | 3.247 | 0.05% |
| About 300,000 persons, or about 4% of the total population, exercised their constitutionally guaranteed right and the opportunity not to declare their nationality, or provide a response that does not constitute a declaration of nationality. | | |

**II Recommendation contained in paragraph 23**

**Socijal housing**

In all the cases of displacement, Belgrade city consulted the displaced population prior to their displacement. All affected persons, groups and community are granted the right to give full and conscious consent to relocation beforehand. None of the residents suffered damage in terms of their human rights, nor were their right to continuously improve their living conditions harmed. All displaced families had the right to loss compensation, collection and transport of their property affected by eviction. No displacement of informal settlements resulted in an individual or a family becoming homeless. Belgrade city has provided care for 303 displaced Roma families, i.e.1400 persons, since 2014.

Displaced population is provided with access to education (enrolment in schools and kindergartens, transport to schools, free textbooks, additional classes in the settlement), and all the costs are borne by the city of Belgrade. In order to improve the overall quality of life in newly established settlements, the following services have been ensured: administrative, commercial, social protection services(financial social assistance, one-off assistance, free meals for all socially disadvantaged citizens, presence of social services, etc.),identity documents, public transportation, waste disposal, maintenance of settlements and their environment(disinsection, disinfection, pest control),organisation of settlements(installation of children playgrounds, landscaping green areas).

Working age residents in social housing and newly formed settlements are offered a certain number of job positions – both in urban utility companies and in private companies. Motivational workshops are also organised for them where they can obtain practical employment tips, the opportunity to complete the primary school, craft training, course, etc. Together with the United Nations Office for Project Services(UNOPS),the City Center for Social Entrepreneurship Belgrade awarded self-employment grants in the form of equipment for 50 unemployed persons of Roma nationality with the best business plans.

A total of 149 families or 701 persons were taken care of within the largest housing program in Serbia "*Let's Build a Home Together*", implemented by the city of Belgrade with EU and UNOPS in the period 2013-2020. The project included three housing models (social housing, purchase of rural houses and provision of building material for the reconstruction of houses).

The City of Belgrade Master Plan and the City of Belgrade Development Strategy until 2021 recognise social housing as a special form of housing, and socially disadvantaged Roma men and women as one of the most vulnerable social groups that need assistance in ensuring adequate housing conditions.

**IPA project**

IPA 2013 project "*Technical Assistance for the Improvement of Living and Housing Conditions of the Roma Population Currently Living in Informal Settlements in Serbia*”, worth EUR 370,200, started in June 2017, and ended in 19 September 2019. Some of the most important results achieved through this project are: Infrastructure was built in informal Roma settlements, which will improve living conditions for over 5,000 Roma men and women;A total of 185 housing units for about 800 people were built and renovated. Technical documentation was created, which was required for housing improvement projects for more than 70 houses, 300 apartments, and for infrastructure improvement projects for more than 4,000 beneficiaries, i.e. persons belonging to the Roma population;A total of 20 mobile teams were established for the social inclusion of Roma men and women in 20 local self-governments in Serbia.

The grant scheme within this IPA 2013 project, worth EUR 6.5 million, has covered the implementation of nine projects in 11 local self-governments in total. The projects concerned the infrastructure improvement of Roma settlements and the construction of housing units for Roma men and women who lived in inadequate conditions.

The project involved the improvement of the infrastructure of roads, sewage and water supply, and the construction of individual houses and apartments (114 houses and 12 apartments were built, and 62 houses reconstructed). Also, 5.1 kilometers of roads, about 6.1 kilometers of sewerage and about 2.2 kilometers of water supply network were built, the rivers Straževica and Toplica near Prokuplje were regulated, 1 kilometres of gas pipeline was built, 1 kilometers of street lighting, 800 meters of canals were restructured and 4 playgrounds for children were built. The implementation of activities has directly or indirectly improved the living conditions of about 2,100 members of the Roma.

IPA 2016 project "*EU Support to Roma Inculcation–Strengthening of Local Communities towards Roma Inclusion*", worth EUR 4.2 million, started in December 2017, and will continue for 36 months. The overall objective of the project is to improve Roma status in local communities through the implementation of the strategic measures defined in the Roma Inclusion Strategy 2016–2025. So far, the following activities have been implemented through the project:The Memorandum of Understanding was signed with 10 local self-government units (Aranđelovac,Bečej,Vršac, Doljevac, Lebane, Loznica, Mladenovac, Pirot, Smederevska Palanka and Surdulica), and local action plans were created;A total of 10 mobile teams and 10 local multi-sectoral policy coordination bodies were established;The presented Guide for the preparation, budgeting and monitoring of the Local Action Plan for Roma Inclusion was created:A total of 36 contracts were signed for the projects which will be funded from the grant scheme;Contracts were signed with 11 selected local self-government units for the development of urban plans for informal Roma settlements.

IPA 2014 project "*Technical Assistance for the Improvement of Social and Economic Living Conditions of the Roma Population*” worth EUR 2.7 million, started on 4 March 2019 and will continue for 24 months. The project consists of only three elements: 1. Development of necessary technical documentation for the sustainable improvement of housing conditions in 100 informal Roma settlements in Serbia; 2. Building capacities of local self-governments and relevant representatives of national institutions for the successful utilisation of EU pre-accession funds and achieving sustainability of project results; 3. Supporting capacity-building of mobile teams and improving local mechanisms for Roma inclusion. The following activities will be implemented though the project: Updating data in 100 informal Roma settlements through cooperation with the representatives of local self-governments and mobile teams, need analyses and assessment;Updating the national FIS database with data on informal Roma settlements;Selection of 100 informal settlements and creation of urban and technical documentation necessary for the improvement of housing conditions and social inclusion of Roma men and women in local self-governments, which may be used to apply for means from future funds;Providing support to local self-governments in the preparation of concepts and projects for applying for future IPA grants, and for building capacities of local and national staff in achieving sustainability of project results, through training, exchange of experience and presentation of good international and local practices; Cooperation with local self-governments where mobile teams have already been established, supporting the establishment of new mobile teams, and further improvement of local mechanisms for the inclusion of Roma men and women.

IPA 2018 project "*European Union Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion*", worth EUR 20 million, started in December 2019 and will continue for 36 months. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the strengthening of social inclusion. End beneficiaries are 500 families from vulnerable groups in 20 LSGUs. The following vulnerable groups are included with the project: Roma, women who are victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities, children and young people without parental care. The project will be financed through grants in 20 LSGUs.

IPA 2014 "*Improvement of living conditions of IDPs and returnees under the Readmission Agreement in Serbia and support for sustainable return to AP Kosovo*" includes 21 LSGUs and envisages assistance in the form of housing, income generation, development of business plans, training for starting an independent activity and support to local self-governments in developing and implementing local action plans.

**III Economic, social and cultural rights**

In the last four years, MYS has, through public competitions, funded a total of 43 projects worth RSD 56.8 million, which include more than 1,700 young Roma, and which aim at encouraging development and improving entrepreneurial, personal, social and work skills. Also, within the four-year project "Stimulating Youth Employment", which was implemented by GIZand the MYS as the main partner, which ended in 2019, 1422 young people were employed (35% girls) and 191 members of the Roma national minority, while 265 Roma and returnees attended specific vocational training.

**IV Information**

Financing of the media content in one or more national minority languages in the privately owned media is implemented by project co-financing. MCI announces annual Competitions for Co-Financing of the Projects in the Field of Public Information in the Languages of National Minorities.

In order to monitor the implementation of projects and assess the effects of project co-financing on the quality of information of persons belonging to national minorities, MCI prepares annual reports on the competition dedicated to information of persons belonging to national minorities. In the reporting period, a total of 229 projects in 18 languages​of national minorities were co-financed, totalling RSD 106,430,600.00. The National Councils of National Minorities provide opinions on the projects that were submitted to the competition.

The Ministry pays particular attention to multicultural and multilingual projects that contribute to the sensitization of the majority population to cultural, linguistic and religious specificities of persons belonging to national minorities, overcoming existing misperceptions and enhancing interethnic tolerance. In the reporting period, 30 multilingual and multicultural projects were co-financed, totalling RSD 13,569,400.00.

Part of the budget is also provided for the projects of organization of professional and scientific gatherings dealing with topics of interest to persons belonging to minorities and the promotion of media and journalistic professionalism, i.e. strengthening the professional capacity of media employees to report on the hazards of discrimination. In the period 2017-2019, six such projects were financed from the budget MCI in the amount of RSD 3,353,000.00.

1. Considering that annual population assessments are made by gender and age alone, more recent data on the ethnic structure will only be available after the publication of the final results of the 2021 Census of Population, Households and Dwellings [↑](#footnote-ref-1)